

# Serpentine Gallery

## Press Release

### **Serpentine Gallery Poetry Marathon Major names come together for two days of poetry premiers and performances**

17 – 18 October 2009

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The Serpentine Trust is a limited  
company registered in England  
under number 2150221

It is an educational charity, which  
is funded by Arts Council England  
and Westminster City Council  
Registered charity number 298809

VAT Number 466 5881 01

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The Serpentine Gallery Poetry Marathon is an ambitious two-day poetry event taking place during Frieze Art Fair week and featuring unique performances from leading poets, writers, artists, philosophers, scholars and musicians.

An international group of major figures will be brought together to perform in the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2009, designed by architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa of the acclaimed Japanese practice SANAA. The event will include performances of new work, collaborations, discussions and experiments.

The Poetry Marathon will include contributions from Vito Acconci, Etel Adnan, Caroline Bergvall, Kenneth G. Bostock, Boulevard Magenta/Enrique Juncosa, Stuart Brisley, Eleanor Bron, Nathan Cash Davidson, Keren Cytter with Andrew Kerton, Charlie Dark, Tacita Dean, Jimmie Durham, Dominic Eichler, Tracey Emin, Brian Eno, Mark van Eyck, James Fenton, Olivier Garbay, Gilbert & George, John Giorno, Édouard Glissant, Kenneth Goldsmith, Eugen Gomringer, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Alasdair Gray, Tim Griffin, Richard Hell (presented by Barry Schwabsky), Geoffrey Hill, Sue Hubbard (presented by Susan Hiller), Karl Holmqvist, Michael Horovitz, Ranjit Hoskote, Grace Jones, Scott King, August Kleinzahler, Nick Laird, Sean Landers, Monika Lichtenfeld, Liliane Lijn, Sara MacKillop, Tom McCarthy, Jonas Mekas with Edward Eke, Maria Mirabal, Eileen Myles, Daljit Nagra, Christodoulos Panayiotou, Philippe Parreno, Don Paterson, Holly Pester, Olivia Plender, Jeremy Reed, David Robilliard read by Leo D. Burley (one of the original Robilliards), Jacques Roubaud, Gerhard Rühm, Nancy Spero, Mladen Stilinović, The Bow-Wow Shop/Michael Glover, UbuWeb, Agnès Varda, Franz West, Saul Williams, and Cerith Wyn Evans.

There is a long and vivid history of exchange between artists and poets. Guillaume Apollinaire made a literary connection to Cubism with his great work of 'visual poetry' *Calligrammes: Poems of War and Peace 1913-1916*. In the same period, Hugo Ball wrote the *Dada Manifesto* (1916), a movement in which the poet, essayist and performance artist Tristan Tzara was also closely involved. A decade later, in 1924, André Breton, the proponent of 'automatic writing', published *La Révolution surréaliste* (*The Surrealist Revolution*).

*Continued overleaf*

In the 1950s, Abstract Expressionism was an art movement with strong creative connections with writing and poetry of the time, from the work of poets Frank O'Hara and John Ashbery to artist Robert Motherwell's influential essays on the New York School. Later, in the 1960s, the international artistic network Fluxus formed innumerable close links between visual art and the written word.

The *Poetry Marathon* revitalises this historical link between the worlds of art and poetry.

The *Poetry Marathon* is the fourth in the series of Marathons staged in the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion each year. The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion commission was conceived by Serpentine Gallery Director, Julia Peyton-Jones, in 2000. The Marathon series was conceived by Serpentine Gallery Co-director Hans Ulrich Obrist in 2006. The first in the series, the *Interview Marathon* in 2006, involved interviews with leading figures in contemporary culture over 24 hours, conducted by Obrist and architect Rem Koolhaas. This was followed by the *Experiment Marathon*, conceived by Obrist and artist Olafur Eliasson in 2007, which included 50 experiments by speakers across both arts and science, and the *Manifesto Marathon* in 2008.

The Serpentine Gallery Pavilion series is an ongoing programme of temporary structures by internationally acclaimed architects and designers. It is unique worldwide and presents the work of an international architect or design team who, at the time of the Serpentine Gallery's invitation, has not completed a building in England. The Pavilion architects to date are: Frank Gehry, 2008; Olafur Eliasson and Kjetil Thorsen, 2007; Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond, with Arup, 2006; Álvaro Siza and Eduardo Souto de Moura with Cecil Balmond, Arup, 2005; MVRDV with Arup, 2004 (un-realised); Oscar Niemeyer, 2003; Toyo Ito with Arup, 2002; Daniel Libeskind with Arup, 2001; and Zaha Hadid, 2000. Each Pavilion is sited on the Gallery's lawn for three months and the immediacy of the process – a maximum of six months from invitation to completion – provides a peerless model for commissioning architecture.

**Poetry Marathon Tickets:**

**£25/£20 (two day)**

**£15/£10 (one day)**

Available from the Gallery Lobby Desk or

Ticketweb: 08444 77 1000, [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)

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