

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010
PRESS

**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and
the University of Houston Cynthia Woods
Mitchell Center for the Arts are pleased to
present legendary artist and choreographer
Deborah Hay.**

Lecture on the Performance of Beauty
Deborah Hay

**Saturday, October 2, 2010
CAMH, 5216 Montrose Blvd.
2pm, free admission**

Houston, TX [September 16, 2010]—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) and the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts are pleased to bring legendary choreographer and artist **Deborah Hay** to Houston for a lecture and performance in conjunction with the CAMH exhibition *Dance with Camera*. Hay will present ***Lecture on the Performance of Beauty***, a performance/lecture framed around the question: "Can a formal and stimulating adherence to a prescribed set of hypothetical conditions be seen as choreography even if there is no learned movement?"

Deborah Hay was born in 1941 in Brooklyn. She moved to New York City in the 1960s, where she was a member of a group of experimental artists deeply influenced by Merce Cunningham and John Cage. The group, later known as the Judson Dance Theater, became one of the most radical and explosive forces in 20th-century art, giving birth to Postmodern Dance.

Following her years in New York, Hay moved to Vermont in 1970 where her experience in a quiet community there helped her synthesize ideas of dance into a minimal concept, ethically and aesthetically grounded on the principle that less is more. To this day she makes dances without a linear structure. Instead she creates conditions for a direct experience of all kinds of phenomena. In those phenomena are the interpretive keys to the performance and

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Deborah Hay. Photo by Rino Pizzi

understanding of each dance.

Hay has presented *Lecture on the Performance of Beauty* in London in 2003 and describes the work in the provocative question, "What if every cell in your body has the potential to perceive beauty and surrender beauty, at once, each and every moment?"

Now in her 70s, Hay's career has seen a resurgence over the last decade. She performs and teaches all over the world, writes extensively, and has published several articles and three books, including *Moving Through the Universe in Bare Feet* (Swallow Press, 1975), *Lamb at the Altar: The Story of a Dance* (Duke University Press, 1994), and *My Body, The Buddhist* (Wesleyan University Press, 2000), an introspective series of reflections on the major lessons of life that she has learned from her body while dancing. She runs the Deborah Hay Dance Company in Austin, Texas.

CAMH

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is an idea and a place shaped by the present moment. The Museum exemplifies the dynamic relationship between contemporary art and contemporary society through its exhibitions, public and educational programs, and publications. The CAMH provides the physical and intellectual framework essential to the presentation, interpretation, and advancement of contemporary art; it

CAMH



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is a vibrant forum for artists and all audiences, and for critical, scholarly, and public discourse.

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MITCHELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts cultivates interdisciplinary collaboration in the performing, visual, and literary arts. From our base at the University of Houston, we offer public events, residencies, and courses that fuse artistic disciplines, ignite dialogue, and present new ways of experiencing the arts in contemporary life. The Mitchell Center forms an alliance among five units at the University of Houston: The School of Art, Creative Writing Program, Moores School of Music, School of Theatre & Dance, and the Blaffer Art Museum.

www.mitchellcenterforarts.org

EXHIBITION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Dance with Camera is organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania. The exhibition is curated by Jenelle Porter, ICA Curator. ICA is grateful for primary funding from an Anonymous donor. We acknowledge additional support from Jody and John Arnhold & Babette and Harvey Snyder, and The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through Dance Advance. Further funding has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; The Dietrich Foundation, Inc.; the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art; friends and members of ICA; and the University of Pennsylvania.

Dance with Camera and its related programs are sponsored in part by Sara and Bill Morgan. The exhibitions in the Brown Foundation Gallery have been made possible by the patrons, benefactors and donors to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston's Major Exhibition Fund: Major Patron—Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Faye Sarofim, Michael Zilkha; Patrons—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ballard, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Kempner III, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Leigh and Reggie Smith; Benefactors—City Kitchen Catering, George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation, Jackson Hicks / Jackson and Company, Marley Lott, Beverly and Howard Robinson, Andrew Schirrmeyer, Susan Vaughan Foundation, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Wilson; Donors—Baker

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Deborah Hay: Lecture on the Performance of Beauty is sponsored in part by KUHF FM/Houston Public Radio.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Baker Botts L.L.P., Baker Hughes Foundation, Ruth Dreessen, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Mrs. Louisa Stude Sarofim, and 20K Group, LLC.

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GENERAL SUPPORT

The Museum's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, Inc., the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

Continental Airlines is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Wednesday 11am-7pm, Thursday 11am-9pm, Friday 11am-7pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am-6pm. Admission is always free. For more information, visit www.camh.org or call (713) 284-8250.