



For Immediate Release



Alexandra Bachzetsis, *PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me*, 2016.
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ALEXANDRA BACHZETSIS

PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me; *Private Song*

Two performances exploring cultural norms of gender, body, and movement

June 25–28, 2018, 8pm

On the High Line at 14th St | Free and Open to the Public

New York, NY (June 11, 2018) – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce two performances by artist and choreographer Alexandra Bachzetsis, to take place on the park at 14th Street. *PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me* will be performed June 25 and 27, from 8–9pm; *Private Song* will take place June 26 & 28, from 8–9pm. The performances are organized by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, with Melanie Kress, High Line Art Associate Curator.

Alexandra Bachzetsis is a choreographer and artist trained in theater and visual arts, with an

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early career as a professional dancer. Bachzetsis's involvement in theater and dance comes from a desire to explore the human body—and in particular the female body—through its codifications in mainstream media and the fine arts. Bachzetsis closely examines the gestures seen in television, film, porn, dance, yoga, aerobics, and more, watching how they are coded and then regurgitated off-screen in our daily lives.

For the High Line, Bachzetsis presents and performs two works in a series, on alternating days: the solo work *PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me* and *Private Song*, with Bachzetsis, Sotiris Vasiliou, and Thibault Lac. For the first piece, Bachzetsis stages banal and mutating gestures from myriad gendered references—including Greek Tsifteteli and Greek Zeibekiko dance. The work is inspired by Trisha Brown's prescient 1983 work *Set and Reset*, as well as Marianne Wex's 1979 *Let's Take Back Our Space: "Female" and "Male" Body Language as a Result of Patriarchal Structures*, two works that challenge the relationship between improvisation and choreography, intuition, and socialized or coded gestures. *PRIVATE: Wear a mask when you talk to me* was first presented in 2016 at the Festival DañsFabrik in Brest, France.

Private Song, Bachzetsis's second performance on the High Line, proposes framing as a perceptual strategy for questioning the spectator's relation to moving bodies on stage. Incorporating elements from the first piece, *Private Song* features popular Rebetiko songs from the 1940s and 1950s, and works with wrestling, Hollywood gender models, and the pictorial history of representations of love and battle. *Private Song* premiered at documenta 14 Athens, Greece, and Kassel, Germany, in 2017.

"Alexandra Bachzetsis's performances on the High Line present a remarkable exploration of gender and movement," said Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art. "Inspired by a culture dominated by image and repetition, Bachzetsis's examinations of the body offer a moment where we might find a way out of the norms of gender and sexual identity expression, and where an alternative might be formed."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alexandra Bachzetsis (b. 1974, Zurich, Switzerland) lives and works in Zurich, Switzerland, and Athens, Greece. Bachzetsis's work has been exhibited at institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York (2017); the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (2015, 2013); Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom (2014); the Jumex Museum, Mexico City, Mexico (2014); and Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2008). Her work has been presented at major international exhibitions including documenta 14, Athens, Greece, and Kassel, Germany (2017); dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany (2012); the Biennale of Moving Images, Geneva, Switzerland (2014); and the 5th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany (2008). In 2016, Bachzetsis participated in "The Parliament of Bodies" and "Continuum," Public Programs of documenta 14, in Athens, Greece. Bachzetsis was recently awarded the 2018 Art Prize of the City of Zurich, Switzerland.

ABOUT HIGH LINE ART

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line



Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

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For further information on High Line Art, please visit art.thehighline.org.

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Friends of the High Line raises nearly 100% of the High Line's annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park programmed, maintained, and operated by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

MEDIA CONTACT

Janelle Grace | High Line Art Communications Manager | janelle.grace@thehighline.org
646.774.2536 | janelle.grace@thehighline.org

