



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Maria Hassabi, *PLASTIC*, 2015. Installation view, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, January 31 – March 1, 2015. Photo by Thomas Poravas. Courtesy of the artist.

HIGH LINE ART PRESENTS

MARIA HASSABI *MOVEMENT #2*

A HIGH LINE PERFORMANCE

**JUNE 28, 29, AND 30, 2016 | PERFORMANCE AT 7:00 PM
ON THE HIGH LINE AT WEST 30TH STREET, BETWEEN 11TH AND 12TH AVENUES**

FREE ADMISSION | OPEN TO ALL AGES | NO RSVP REQUIRED

New York, NY (May 31, 2016) – Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art is pleased to announce that artist Maria Hassabi will stage *Movement #2* (2016), a new work commissioned by High Line Art, The Kitchen, and French Institute Alliance Française. Hassabi's performance on the High Line will act as an informal preview for the completed work *STAGED*, which will premiere at The Kitchen in October 2016 as part of the French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF)'s Crossing the Line Festival. The High Line performance will take place June 28, 29, and 30 at 7:00 PM on the High Line at West 30th Street, between 11th and 12th Avenues. *Movement #2* is part of High Line Performances, a series that transforms the High Line into an open-air theater with performances on and around the park.



In her rigorous choreography, Maria Hassabi arranges her own and other dancers' bodies in compositions that move painstakingly slowly, to the point where the slightest movement becomes meaningful, and the viewers' sense of their surroundings becomes heightened. As they make their way around rooms, across floors, down



staircases, and on theater stages, the dancers move almost imperceptibly, blurring the lines between sculpture, still image, and live movement. In their shaking, breathy stillness, the dancers expose the strain and fatigue required to transform the body into its own image.

For the High Line, Hassabi presents a new composition for four dancers, Simon Courchel, Hristoula Harakas, Molly Lieber, and Oisín Monaghan. The artist imagines the work as four concurrent solo performances, rather than as a single, cohesive composition, and underscores this fragmented presentation by separating the dancers over numerous blocks of the park. Thus, viewers encounter each dancer in sequence, connecting their movements through imagination rather than vision. In this way, the performance is necessarily experienced in motion, as visitors move from one end of the park to the other.

“Maria Hassabi’s meticulous and moving compositions seem to stop time itself,” says Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art. “Presented in a location in the park that evokes the extreme forces of change at work in New York City, Hassabi’s performance will cause us all to pause and consider the contrasting and conflicting temporalities we all live within every day.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Maria Hassabi (b. 1973, Cyprus) is a New York-based artist and choreographer. Her projects have been presented at venues including the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2016); Art Sonje, Seoul (2015); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2015); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2014); Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels (2014); steirischer herbst, Graz (2014); Performa, New York (2013, 2009); and the 55th Venice Biennale (2013), among others.

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.

High Line Art is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Major support for High Line Art comes from Donald R. Mullen, Jr. and The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston. High Line Art is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council and from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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

ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Friends of the High Line raises 98% of the High Line’s annual budget. Owned by the City of New York, the High Line is a public park maintained, operated, and programmed by Friends of the High Line, in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

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