

Press release

Museum Folkwang

The Human Being on Centre Stage – William Forsythe to present four works at Museum Folkwang

Essen, 7 February 2019 – This year, William Forsythe (born 1949) will be showing four projects at Museum Folkwang. The programme begins on 5 February 2019 with *City of Abstracts* in the museum foyer. This interactive video work places human beings and their relationship with space on centre stage. Over the course of the year, this will be followed by *Human Writes Drawings* (early summer) and the new site-specific work *Aviation* (beginning 29 June). In November, with two dancers, Forsythe will be presenting the participative work *Acquisition/Körperschaft*, which has been specially adapted for Museum Folkwang.

William Forsythe's interventions are informed by his choreographic strategies and concepts, providing visitors with a direct experience with the works.

In the museum foyer, visitors find themselves in an eddy of swirling forms. In the site-specific intervention *City of Abstracts*, their movements are processed and altered in real time by specially developed video software. The visitors are absorbed in a dance of spiralling, elongated and fragmenting bodies. The scene invites audience members to take part in a game between themselves and the computer-generated algorithm, using their own movements. Originally conceived for a public space, this participative work has been exhibited for many years now in major international museums. The work provides a prime example of the dialogue between the visual arts, digital media, installation, sculpture, the moving image, performance art and dance. As a permanent loan, *City of Abstracts* will be on display at Museum Folkwang for an initial period of five years.

As in *City of Abstracts*, in his three following interventions, William Forsythe crosses the boundaries between artistic media. With his *Human Writes Drawings*, Forsythe has succeeded in translating his choreographic engagement with human rights into the medium of drawing. A selection of these large-format works on paper will be exhibited in early summer as part of the new collection display. In summer, Forsythe will install his work *Aviation* in one of the museum courtyards, setting the firmly rooted trees in motion. In November, with two dancers, Forsythe will present the performative and participative work *Acquisition/Körperschaft*, which he adapted specially for Essen. This live project takes place as part of '100 Jahre Bauhaus im Westen', in cooperation with PACT Zollverein.

Museum Folkwang

William Forsythe (born in 1949 in New York and based in Frankfurt and Vermont, USA) is one of the most important contemporary choreographers working today. Since the 1970s, he has not only had a key influence on modern dance, but has also considerably influenced the perspective of contemporary art on the art of movement. His interrogations of space, movement and the body lead to the emergence of choreographic objects and instructions with which Forsythe invites exhibition-goers to actively participate, choreographing their movements through the space of the museum.

Informationen

William Forsythe im Museum Folkwang

Starting 5 February 2019: *City of Abstracts*

Early summer 2019: *Human Writes Drawings*

Starting 29 June 2019: *Aviation*

In November 2019: *Acquisition/Körperschaft* (Performative work in cooperation with PACT Zollverein and '100 Jahre Bauhaus im Westen')



William Forsythe
City of Abstracts
Photo: Museum Folkwang, Tanja Lamers