



## FAENA ART ANNOUNCES RAGNAR KJARTANSSON'S FIRST EXHIBITION IN ARGENTINA AND "AUTO BODY," AN INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM FOR WOMEN ARTISTS WORKING IN VIDEO AND PERFORMANCE



Ragnar Kjartansson, Video Still from *The Visitors*.  
2012. Courtesy of Thyssen Bornemisza Art  
Contemporary.



María José Arjona, Video Still from *Right At The  
Center There Is Silence*. 2011. Courtesy of the artist  
and Mor-Charpentier Gallery.

**Buenos Aires – April 30, 2015** – FAENA ART presents two distinct but related exhibitions, opening to the public on May 31, 2015 at Faena Art Center Buenos Aires (FAC), which demonstrate the power of performing bodies, in both physical and digital forms, to explore temporality and the role of gender in contemporary art and performance. Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson's nine-channel, life-size video installation, *The Visitors* (2012), will occupy the entirety of FAC's Sala Catedral and marks the first time Kjartansson's work has been exhibited in Buenos Aires. Featuring eight individual performers and an eclectic choir performing the same song captured in one continuous take, *The Visitors* is a hymn to the feminine and its melancholic triumph. The exhibition is Ragnar Kjartansson's first in Argentina and also marks the first institutional collaboration between FAENA ART and Thyssen Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21), led by Founder and Chairwoman Francesca von Habsburg.

Opening concurrently in the exhibition space above *The Visitors* is "Auto Body," an exhibition of more than 40 women artists working in video and performance who use the body and performativity as platforms to address political and economic inequalities in the art world and beyond. Following its debut in December 2014 in Miami Beach, the exhibition makes its first international stop in Buenos Aires and incorporates works by 10 Argentine artists selected by three local curators—fostering a dialogue between women curators and artists on both a local and international level. By heightening the presence of women's physical and digital bodies in an exhibition and performance space, "Auto Body" focuses attention on the marked absence of women artists in many areas of the art world.

"We're proud to present *The Visitors* and 'Auto Body' this season at the Faena Art Center—bringing international artists and curators together here in Buenos Aires," says Ximena Caminos, chair of Faena Art and executive director of FAC. "At first glance, a video installation by a male Icelandic artist and a group performance and video exhibition by international women artists may not seem a natural pairing, but both insist on the radical presence and transcendence of the body. Through performance and its subsequent documentation, these artists push for new perceptions of time, space and gender that invite viewers to reflect on the in-between spaces we occupy."

Alan Faena, Principal of Faena Group, notes: “Artistic exchange and fostering creativity have always been central to the Faena identity. These two exhibitions exemplify our mission to catalyze experimentation within and across artistic disciplines, and to foster cross-cultural collaborations among artists across the Americas and around the world.”

FAENA ART serves as a platform for cultural manifestations that are housed in Faena Art Center Buenos Aires and its newly launched sister venue, Faena Forum, opening in Miami Beach in December 2015. Our interest in crossing disciplines and geographical boundaries also includes collaborations with like-minded institutions. Regarding these institutional collaborations, Caminos adds, “Partnering with the Auto Body Traveling Bureau and TBA21 is important to us at FAENA ART, as they both provide real ways of supporting artists from the very first conception of an artwork through the process of creation, exhibition and beyond. As a flexible and agile institution, we can work across a broad spectrum. Auto Body is a new organization that has created an inspiring movement that we are honored to be able to support. TBA21 is of course a well-established commissioning institution that we are happy to partner with to assure that incredible commissions are given the space for new life on an international scale.”

### **Faena Art Center Summer 2015 Programs**

**Ragnar Kjartansson**

*The Visitors*

**May 30 – June 29, 2015**

Co-presented with Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA21), led by Founder and Chairwoman Francesca von Habsburg, renowned Icelandic performance artist Ragnar Kjartansson’s 2012 work *The Visitors* is a nine-channel video installation occupying the entire Sala Catedral of the Faena Art Center. Featuring nine life-sized video tableaux of eight musicians (including the artist) and a ragtag choir performing one song on a variety of instruments, *The Visitors* is shot in one continuous take in a crumbling house on Rokeby Farm in Upstate New York. The song, “Feminine Ways,” takes its lyrics from a poem of the same name written by Kjartansson’s ex-partner Ásdís Sif Gunnarsdóttir.

Situated on the Hudson River, Rokeby Farm is part of an estates district originally constructed during the American Colonial era, which attracted landed gentry, business magnates and historical figures who built lavish country mansions. Among those who established their country seats in this area were Frederick Vanderbilt, John Jacob Astor, Robert R. Livingston, James Roosevelt, Sr., and Franklin H. Delano.

*The Visitors* captures the long-drawn-out moment when a group of seemingly exotic invitees has taken over the noble mansion for a musical performance. Attracted by both the house’s atmosphere of romantic decadence and disrepair and its eccentric former inhabitants (descendants of the Livingston and Aldrich families), Kjartansson and his musical cast perform their hypnotic chant in this otherworldly setting. The nine visitors play and sing the song’s main tune as if to themselves, and it is only in the synchronization of the nine channels that the voices and instruments merge into a harmonic orchestration—what the artist calls a “feminine nihilistic gospel song.”

**“Auto Body”**

**May 30-June 8, 2015**

Debuted in December 2014 during Miami Art Week, the traveling exhibition “Auto Body” features women artists (nominated by a committee of 26 international women curators) working in video, performance and new media. With each new city, a local curatorial committee selects works by local artists to be added to the show—continually fostering a new exchange of ideas and an international conversation on the political and economic inequalities of the art world and beyond.

The project's first iteration featured works by 35 international female artists; for "Auto Body" Buenos Aires, three local curators have added works by 10 Argentine artists. The Argentine local curatorial committee is comprised of Ximena Caminos, Larisa Zmud, curator and co-founder of Slyzmud Gallery, and Vivi Tellas, independent curator and theater director. The upcoming presentation, which marks the project's first international stop, will occupy FAC's Sala Molinos. By acknowledging the underrepresentation of women in the art world, "Auto Body" serves as a platform for female voices and presents performativity as a powerful catalyst for change.

Focusing on time-based practices as an alternative to an object-driven market, the exhibition presents the body as language, in which overarching themes of "voice" collide. Notable video and performance works from the first iteration in Miami included **Zackary Drucker's** live performance *The Inability to Be Looked At and The Horror of Nothing to See*, which utilizes the body to illicit desire, judgement and voyeuristic shame for the viewee; *Untitled Sept 16, 2011* by **Tameka Norris** which, with a minimal gesture, speaks volumes about the silencing and invisibility endemic to our society; *Untitled (Babies)* by **Naama Tsabar**, who was recently featured at the Guggenheim; and downtown New York punk feminist dominatrix **Kembra Phfaler** and *The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black*. New additions to the exhibition in Buenos Aires include *La Casa Rodante*, a video by **Ana Gallardo** in which the artist documents her pilgrimage of moving from house to house every month during one year—positing personal belongings as the symbols that establish identity. **Kara Peisajovich's** light installation *Untitled* pushes the human body's perception of space through the creation of new luminosity, allowing light to perform and as such to orient or disorient the viewer. Esteemed choreographer **Cecilia Bengolea**, who has been featured at the Gwanju Biennial, Sadler's Wells in England, and The Kitchen in New York, will perform a new version of her work *Sylphides*. Videos by **Adriana Bustos**, **Jimena Croceri**, **Silvia Gurfein** and others similarly explore the physicality of the female body through a variety of collective and individual voices.

#### **About FAENA ART**

FAENA ART is a nonprofit organization whose cultural program transcends disciplines and encourages collaborations across geographical and intellectual borders. Spearheaded by Ximena Caminos, FAENA ART advocates for the fusion of art, recreation, nature, sustainable architecture and technology, and brings together the greatest minds across these fields in order to redefine the way we live in cities by creating communities that maintain culture at their core. FAENA ART is a conceptual framework for a wide range of activities housed at both Faena Art Center Buenos Aires and the soon-to-launch Faena Forum in Miami Beach. The relationship between these sister venues encourages cross-cultural collaborations and highlights the synergy that exists between artists and practices throughout the Western Hemisphere.

#### **About Faena Art Center Buenos Aires (FAC)**

The FAC is a center for arts and artistic experimentation created by Faena to present groundbreaking, site-specific installations, and offer both an international and innovative exhibition program to the city of Buenos Aires. Generating ideas and dialogue within the surrounding community, as well as across the Americas and the international contemporary art world, the FAC is space for cross-cultural investigation and creation that supports the newest and boldest forms of creativity.

Inaugurated in 2011, the Faena Art Center, under the guidance and overarching vision of Executive Director Ximena Caminos, has commissioned contemporary artists to envision and realize major site-specific works: *ángeles veloces arcanos fugaces* by assume vivid astro focus (October 2014); *Mendoza Walking* by Richard Long (June 2014); *Fyodor's Performance Carousel* by Fyodor Pavlov-Andreevich (May 2014); *The Liminal Space Trilogy* by the Russian collective AES+F (May 2013, curated by Sonia Becce); *El Aleph* by Anthony McCall and Mischa Kuball; *Los Carpinteros* by the Cuban collective of the same name (May 2012); *Walking South* by Franz Ackermann (November 2012); *Los Paraísos Desplegables* by Manuel Ameztoy and *O bicho suspenso na paisagem* by Ernesto Neto (September 2011, curated by Jessica Morgan). Faena Art Center is generously supported by HSBC and CITROËN.

### **About Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna**

Founded in 2002 by **Francesca von Habsburg**, **Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary** (TBA21) in Vienna, Austria, represents the fourth generation of the Thyssen family's commitment to the arts. The foundation is dedicated primarily to the commissioning and dissemination of ambitious, experimental, and unconventional projects that defy traditional categorizations. This approach has gained the collection a pioneering reputation throughout the world. The foundation's projects promote artistic practices that are architectural, context- and site-specific, performative, and often informed by an interest in social aesthetics and environmental concerns. Many of the projects reflect the shift away from disciplinary to transdisciplinary practices embracing architecture, sound, music and science. The "cross-pollination" of disciplines challenges interpretation and the traditions of collecting, preserving, and presenting works of art.

### **General Information**

"Auto Body" is open to the public May 31 to June 8, every day from 2 pm to 9 pm.

Performances will take place on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the run of the exhibition.

For more information, visit [www.autobody-movement.com](http://www.autobody-movement.com).

*The Visitors* is open to the public May 31 to June 29:

May 31 to June 8: every day from 2 pm to 9 pm.

June 13 to June 29: Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, 1 pm to 8 pm.

General admission: \$50 ARG pesos/ \$5 USD.

Free on Mondays

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