



## ABOUT PARK AVENUE ARMORY

Part palace, part industrial shed, Park Avenue Armory creates unparalleled opportunities for artists to create and audiences to experience works of art free from constraints imposed by traditional performance halls and museums. With its soaring 55,000-square-foot Wade Thompson Drill Hall—reminiscent of 19th-century European train stations—and array of exuberant period rooms, the Armory offers a platform for creativity across all art forms.

Park Avenue Armory has transformed itself from the former home of the Seventh Regiment into a groundbreaking cultural institution that blurs the boundaries between high art and pop culture. The Armory's first decade of programming is marked by adventurous, unconventional, and thought-provoking commissions and collaborations that have drawn critical acclaim and popular attention, mounted independently and in collaboration with other cultural institutions.

Among the highlights of its first ten years are:

- Aaron Young's *Greeting Card*, a 9,216-square-foot "action" painting created by the burned-out tire marks of 10 choreographed motorcycles;
- Bernd Zimmermann's harrowing *Die Soldaten*, in which the audience moved "through the music;"
- the six-week residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company in their own theater rebuilt inside the drill hall;
- *the event of a thread*, a site-specific installation by Ann Hamilton;
- the final performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company across three separate stages;
- Stockhausen's electronic masterpiece *OKTOPHONIE* in a lunar environment created by Rirkrit Tiravanija;
- *WS*, by Paul McCarthy, a monumental installation of fantasy, excess and dystopia;
- an immersive *Macbeth* set in a Scottish heath and henge by Rob Ashford and Kenneth Branagh;
- *The xx*, a series of site-specific concerts that blurred the boundary between artist and a 45-member audience within the massive drill hall;
- *tears become...streams become...*, a major genre-defying collaboration between artist Douglas Gordon and pianist Hélène Grimaud, which flooded the Armory's drill hall with an installation of water, light, and music;
- *HABEAS CORPUS*, a collaboration between Laurie Anderson and Mohammed el Gharani which activated the drill hall and period rooms in a work fusing elements of narrative and cinematic art with experimental music;
- Taryn Simon's *An Occupation of Loss*, a monumental work with 30 professional mourners from around the world that blended sculpture, sound, architecture, and performance in an exploration of the boundaries of grief between living and dead, past and present, performer and viewer; and
- Louis Andriessen's *De Materie*, a monumental musical and philosophical essay directed by Heiner Goebbels that featured an expanded International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), a cast of more than thirty actors and dancers, and a flock of one hundred sheep.

Concurrent with its artistic program, the Armory has undertaken an ongoing \$210-million revitalization of its historic building, named in 2000 among the "100 Most Endangered Historic Sites in the World" by the World Monuments Fund. Designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron, with Platt Byard Dovell White as Architect of Record, the multiyear project reinvigorates the Armory's original design while stabilizing, preserving, and renewing the building for future generations. Past work as part of this project includes the restoration of the Lexington Avenue and Park Avenue façades; the installation of state-of-the-art systems in the Wade Thompson Drill Hall to accommodate a range of visual and performing arts productions; and the revitalization of two historic period rooms on the second floor.

The Armory reopened its revitalized Board of Officers Room in 2013 with the launch of its now acclaimed recital series, which showcases musicians from across the globe in the historic Belle Époque salon setting. The revitalized Veterans Room, one of the few surviving interiors in the world by Louis C. Tiffany and Co., Associated Artists, was inaugurated in March 2016 with the launch of the Artists Studio series, which features innovative artists and artistic pairings that harken back to the imaginative collaboration and innovation of the original designers who conceived the room. The Armory's Artist-in-Residence program provides artists with dedicated space in the building's historic period rooms within which to research, create, and develop new works across an array of disciplines.

Park Avenue Armory's arts education initiatives offer programs at no cost to underserved public school students from all five boroughs—including production-based programming, school partnerships, and the Armory Youth Corps, a paid and closely mentored internship program focusing on at-risk high school students. These initiatives offer students and families deep engagement with the Armory's artistic programs, as well as the building's history and architecture, giving them the opportunity to be fully immersed in the creative process of exceptional artists and artisans.