

ABRAHAM BRODY

THE VIOLINIST IS PRESENT

Performance on Friday, 2 October at 6 pm

Galerija VARTAI is pleased to invite to the performance *The Violinist is present* by Abraham Brody. This performance is an exploration of the powerful energy between performer and public. The main goal being to give the public an active role in the performance, Abraham Brody invites members of the public to sit in front of him, one at a time, and he will create musical improvisations based on what he sees in their eyes. When sitting in front of the violinist, the public is encouraged to keep eye contact with him at all times.

Performance *The Violinist is present* brings both the public and performer fully into the present moment, allowing the public to become aware of their current inner emotions. The creation of this work goes two ways - the violinist improvising in response to what he sees in the public's eyes, the public affected and changed by the music, creating an ever evolving process and a spontaneous musical piece unique to each moment.

The energy transmitted from the public sustains the violinist in his musical creations. The longer the public remains in the space, and the more focused attention they bring to the present moment, the more they actively control the dialogue between the violinist and themselves.

Abraham Brody is a performance and conceptual artist. He is also a classically trained violinist, and aims to explore in depth the participation of the audience in live performance by bringing the violin into the genre of performance art.

Abraham Brody has performed in venues across Europe, USA, and Canada. Most recently he was invited to be resident at the Barbican Centre Art Gallery in London where he premiered three new works, including two based on Lithuanian ancient rituals together with sutartines ensemble Trys Keturiose. He has collaborated with artist Michal Rovner at Pace Gallery London and was invited by Marina Abramovic to perform a six hours version of his piece *The Violinist is Present* at the Fondation Beyeler in Basel, Switzerland, curated by Ms. Abramovic. He has performed as a violinist at the Royal Festival Hall London, The Moritzburg Festival Germany, where he received the audience prize; Kristupo Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania; the Gewandhaus in Leipzig; Smetana Hall in Prague; Frauenkirche in Dresden; Haydnsaal in Vienna; Royal Festival Hall, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, Barbican Centre, Royal Opera House, Southbank Centre, Spitalfields; Symphony Hall in Boston, among others.

Patron: Vilnius City Municipality

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