

Statements

— **Marina Abramović, Pina Bausch Guest Professorship, Folkwang University of the Arts:**

— ‘For my one year of teaching at Folkwang University of the Arts, my task was very clear. I wanted to work with students from all the disciplines of the university to develop long durational projects. In a generous collaboration with Museum Folkwang, the students and I conceived of a 9 day durational series of performances that would last for 6 hours each day, which later became the show titled *54 Hours Performances*. I worked on this project with Billy Zhao, and we prepared the students mentally and physically for this task with the *Cleaning the House* workshop at my institute in Greece. It was important for me that the students take their developed concepts and learn to work within a museum structure in order to support their artistic careers, in real life with real public.’

— **Prof. Peter Gorschlüter, Director of Museum Folkwang:**

‘With Marina Abramović and the Free Interdisciplinary Performance Lab from the Folkwang University of the Arts we are sending a clear signal with regards to the interdisciplinary nature of Museum Folkwang and further pursuing our performance and dance programme, which, in recent years, has seen exhibitions including *12 Rooms*, *Global Groove* and William Forsythe. We look forward to this also intensifying the collaboration between the Folkwang University of the Arts and Museum Folkwang.’

Prof. Dr. Andreas Jacob, President of the Folkwang University of the Arts:

‘Working with Marina Abramović was a terrific start for our newly-created Pina Bausch guest professorship. She brought incomparable experience for the students involved – some of them describe this as a once-in-a-lifetime event. She offered and offers all other members of the university and the public the opportunity to come into contact with the work of one of the most important contemporary performance artists. A huge gift for everyone, and a challenge when appointing the next Pina Bausch guest professorship next year.’

Ina Brandes, Minister of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia:

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‘Warm, clever, charming, full of humour and subtle irony – this is how I was able to experience Marina Abramović at our first meeting in her New York apartment. You couldn’t receive a delegation in your own home with more affection. With her charisma and her exuberant energy, as the first holder of the Pina Bausch guest professorship she is one of the showpieces of the Folkwang University of the Arts. Marina Abramović repeatedly succeeds in motivating and impelling young artists to achieve top performances. I am very curious to see what sort of masterpiece we can expect in *54 Hours Performances*.’

Salomon Bausch, Founder and Board of Directors at Pina Bausch Foundation:

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‘The mix of disciplines has fully paid off. The students’ projects are very diverse and they all were able to learn from each other. I am sure they will never forget working with Marina Abramović. That is the idea behind the professorship: We want to enable exceptional artistic encounters for the students.’