



ESPACE MURAILLE
presents

The Night before the Day
an exhibition by Robert Wilson

May 24 to September 03, 2022



From May 24th to September 3rd 2022, Espace Muraille presents different aspects of the work of the visual artist and director Robert Wilson, through a selection of drawings and glass sculptures he developed over 20 years in American and European studios. The exhibition will also show an astonishing *Video Portrait* of Lady Gaga belonging to the eponymous series created in 2013.



"The Night before the Day is an exhibition of works that I have created over the past three decades. The past few years have been dark times for many, for me these abstract works relate to the very times in which we live. Einstein said, 'Light is the measure of all things.' and that is true, as without light there is no space. **I start with light, and think of light first when I am making my work. It is the architecture of light that is the most important element in my work, without light there is nothing.**" Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson is one of the rare artists who works across artistic media without being buoyed by one method of making. The process of creation transcends a single medium and instead finds outlet within the archetype of an opera, the architecture of a building, the stains in a watercolor drawing, the design of a chair, the choreography of a dance, the rhythm of a sonnet, or the multiple dynamics revealed in a Video Portrait. By incorporating a multitude of creative elements; lighting, costume, make up, choreography, gesture, text, voice, set design, and narrative – the video portraits act as a complete synthesis of all the media in the realm of Wilson’s art making. The canvas or High Definition (HD) screen is one thing, blending the environmental and spatial aspects of a stage with a new sensibility for Wilson’s direction. The medium is HD video but the form blurs time-based cinematography with the frozen moment of still photography. As in the layering nature of Wilson’s creative process, the video portraits infuse references found in painting, sculpture, design, architecture, dance, theater, photography, television, film and contemporary culture. The final result on the HD monitor resembles a photograph, but on closer inspection reveals Wilson’s highly developed theatrical language in conjunction with the startling clarity and precision of HD video.

Since the late 1960s, Robert Wilson's productions have decisively shaped the look of theater and opera. Through his signature use of light, his investigations into the structure of a simple movement, and the classical rigor of his scenic and furniture design, Wilson has continuously articulated the force and originality of his vision. Wilson's close ties and collaborations with leading artists, writers, and musicians continue to fascinate audiences worldwide.

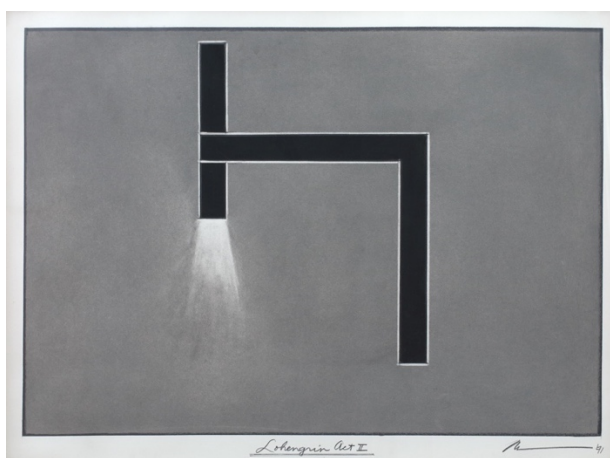
ROBERT WILSON



Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is among the world’s foremost theater and visual artists. His works for the stage unconventionally integrate a wide variety of artistic media, including dance, movement, lighting, sculpture, music and text. His images are aesthetically striking and emotionally charged, and his productions have earned the acclaim of audiences and critics worldwide. After being educated at the University of Texas and Brooklyn’s Pratt Institute, Wilson founded the New York-based performance collective “The Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds” in the mid-1960s, and developed his first signature works, including *Deafman Glance* (1970) and *A Letter for Queen Victoria* (1974-1975). With Philip Glass he wrote the seminal opera *Einstein on the Beach* (1976). Wilson’s artistic collaborators include many writers and musicians such as Heiner Müller, Tom Waits, Susan Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed, Jessye Norman and Anna Calvi. He has

also left his imprint on masterworks such as Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Brecht/Weill's *Threepenny Opera*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Melisande*, Goethe's *Faust*, Homer's *Odyssey*, Jean de la Fontaine's *Fables*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Sophocles' *Oedipus*.

Wilson's drawings, paintings and sculptures have been presented around the world in hundreds of solo and group showings, and his works are held in private collections and museums throughout the world. Wilson has been honored with numerous awards for excellence, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination, two Premio Ubu awards, the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale, and an Olivier Award. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, as well as the German Academy of the Arts, and holds 8 Honorary Doctorate degrees. France pronounced him Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters (2003) and Officer of the Legion of Honor (2014); Germany awarded him the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit (2014). Wilson is the founder and Artistic Director of The Watermill Center, a laboratory for the Arts in Water Mill, New York.



ESPACE MURAILLE

Espace Muraille is a unique exhibition space dedicated to contemporary art, **born out of the collectors and art sponsors Caroline and Eric Freymond's desire** to share their passion for contemporary art and artists to as wide an audience as possible. Their vision is based on enabling large numbers of visitors to discover artworks that are rarely seen in public. Temporary exhibitions, artists' projects and displays of works from great private collections are displayed over two floors and 275 sq. metres.

The space, based in the heart of the old part of Geneva and steeped in history, has been completely rethought and redesigned by its artistic director Caroline Freymond in order to welcome **ambitious exhibitions, including solo shows by major international artists.**

After the major exhibitions dedicated to **Monique Frydman (2015)**, **Tomàs Saraceno (2015)**, **Shirazeh Houshiary (2016)**, **Sheila Hicks (2016)**, **Edmund de Waal (2017)** and **Olafur Eliasson (2018)**, Espace Muraille gave carte blanche in 2019 to the Israeli artist **Michal Rovner** for his first exhibition in Switzerland, to **Arik Levy** in 2020, to the painter Roger de Montebello and the visual artist Eamon Ore-Giron in 2021 and presented in early 2022 the rare contemporary objects of the collective Lignereux.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition dates: 24th May to 3rd September 2022
Public opening Monday 23rd May 2022 from 6pm

Espace Muraille, 5 Place des casemates, 1204 Geneva
Opening times: Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to midday and 1pm to 6pm
Saturdays from 1 pm to 6pm
or by appointment

CAPTIONS FOR VISUALS

- Robert Wilson, *Concept B*, 1994-2003, Glass
- Robert Wilson, *LADY GAGA: MADEMOISELLE CAROLINE RIVIERE*, High-definition video, 2013, Music by Michael Galasso, inspired by the painting by Jean Auguste-Dominique Ingres
- Robert Wilson, *Untitled (« Flower » Drawing)*, 1991, Paint, oil pastels, colored pencil, graphite on paper 59,5 x 42 cm
- Robert Wilson, *Lohengrin Act II*, 1991, Pencil, graphite on paper 55 x 75cm

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT

l'art en plus
Marion Gardair
m.gardair@lartenplus.com
+33 (0)1 45 53 62 74

