

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CCN – BALLET DE LORRAINE
WORKS BY MERCE CUNNINGHAM AND OTHERS**

Saturday, February 18, and Sunday, February 19, 2017



The **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** presents **CCN – Ballet de Lorraine: Works by Merce Cunningham and Others**, featuring several of Merce Cunningham’s most beloved pieces performed by CCN - Ballet de Lorraine, one of the most important European dance companies working today. CCN - Ballet de Lorraine is known for performing contemporary creations while retaining and programming a rich and extensive repertory spanning modern history. Their presentation of *Works by Merce Cunningham and Others* is presented with the **Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago** and takes place February 18 and 19 at the MCA. It coincides with the museum’s presentation of **Merce Cunningham: Common Time**, the largest survey ever of Merce Cunningham and his dynamic artistic collaborations, organized by the Walker Art Center.

This project features three pieces:

- *Sounddance* | Created in 1975 after spending nine weeks with the Paris Opera Ballet, Cunningham set out to create a work for his own dancers that would be “vigorous, fast, complex.” “The general impression,” he wrote, “is of a space observed under a microscope.” The dancers enter and exit

through a tent-like opening in the upstage décor designed by Mark Lancaster. The powerful, driven electronic score is by renowned composer David Tudor.

- *Fabrications* | This 1987 dance is constructed of a gamut of 64 movement phrases, corresponding to the 64 hexagrams in the I Ching (the Chinese Book of Changes). According to Cunningham, the title refers to both meanings of the verb “to fabricate”: to combine parts to form a whole, and to invent or concoct, even to lie. The dance features the music by Emanuel Dimas de Melo Pimenta, performed live by the composer, and a striking visual design by artist Dove Bradshaw.
- *Untitled Partner #3* | This work was created by Ballet de Lorraine’s artistic director, Petter Jacobsson, and the company’s rehearsal director and coordinator of research Thomas Caley (Merce Cunningham Dance Company 1993-2000).

ABOUT CCN – BALLET DE LORRAINE

Part of France’s National Choreographic Center network, CCN – Ballet de Lorraine maintains a company of 26 dancers, as well as a multidisciplinary platform for research and experimentation in order to create a space for diverse visions of dance today. CCN - Ballet de Lorraine is led by Director Petter Jacobsson and Coordinator of Research Thomas Caley. Both are choreographers and have danced with several acclaimed companies, notably Caley’s history as a dancer with MCDC.

ABOUT THE MERCE CUNNINGHAM TRUST

The Merce Cunningham Trust was established in 2000 to hold and administer the rights to the work of Merce Cunningham, which encompasses more than 150 dances and over 800 Events created over the course of his sixty-five year career. Now based at New York City Center, the Trust offers a wide range of programs adhering to the mission to preserve, enhance, and maintain the integrity of the choreographic and other artistic works of Merce Cunningham, and make such works available for the benefit of the public. Such programs include Cunningham Technique® classes for student and professional dancers, and the Cunningham Fellowship, which supports the restaging of Cunningham dances.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION MERCE CUNNINGHAM: COMMON TIME

February 11 - April 30, 2017

The MCA and the Walker Art Center together present the largest survey ever of the legendary choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham and his dynamic artistic collaborations. This immersive exhibition, organized by the Walker, runs at both museums concurrently, premiering at the Walker on Feb 8, and at the MCA on Feb 11, with performances by international touring companies and former Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) dancers. The exhibition embodies both institutions' dedication to cross-disciplinary programming and artistic practice. Merce Cunningham revolutionized dance in the 20th century and continues to influence generations of artists, composers, and choreographers. His innovations and philosophies over a prolific 60-year career changed the course of modern dance and provided the impetus and inspiration for key movements in postwar artistic practice. Performance backdrops, costumes,

artworks, photographs, documentary video and video installations, sets, and ephemera engage viewers in Cunningham's creative activities. The exhibition highlights partnerships with artists including lifelong collaborator John Cage as well as Jasper Johns, Robert Morris, Bruce Nauman, Nam June Paik, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol, all of whom developed work for MCDC.

TICKET INFORMATION

CCN – Ballet de Lorraine has a running time of 80 minutes with one intermission. Tickets are \$30 and are available through the MCA Box Office at 312.397.4010 or www.mcachicago.org.

PROGRAM CREDITS

Fabrications

Choreography: Merce Cunningham

Music: Emanuel Dimas de Melo Pimenta, *Short Waves 1985* and *SBbr*

Design: Dove Bradshaw

Staged by: Patricia Lent

Sounddance

Choreography: Merce Cunningham

Music: David Tudor, *Untitled 1975/1994*

Design: Mark Lancaster

Staged by: Meg Harper and Thomas Caley

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Image: CCN - Ballet de Lorraine, SOUNDANCE Photo: Laurent Philippe.

Lead support for the 2016-17 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman. Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, Shawn M. Donnelley and Christopher M. Kelly, and Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation.

Merce Cunningham: Common Time is organized by the Walker Art Center with major support provided by the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous support is also provided by Agnes Gund and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation.

Lead support for the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago's presentation of *Merce Cunningham: Common Time* is provided by Cari and Michael Sacks. Major support is provided by Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes; Anonymous; and the Nancy Lauter McDougal and Alfred L. McDougal Exhibition Fund. Additional generous support is provided by Irving W. Harris Foundation; the NIB Foundation and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. Programming is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue, one block east of Michigan Avenue. The museum and sculpture garden are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday from 10 am to 8 pm. The museum is closed on Monday. Tuesdays are Community Free Days with free admission for Illinois residents. Suggested general admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Children 12 years of age and under, MCA members, and members of the military are admitted free. Information about MCA exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MCA website at mcachicago.org or by phone at 312.280.2660.