

GALERIE THADDAEUS ROPAC

LONDON PARIS SALZBURG

ROBERT WILSON
DER MESSIAS – ZEICHNUNGEN

January 23, 2020 - March 28, 2020

Mirabellplatz 2, Salzburg



Robert Wilson, *Untitled (Detail)*, 2019, Charcoal on paper, 50 x 70 cm, © Robert Wilson, Photo: Ulrich Ghezzi.

An exhibition of new drawings by American artist Robert Wilson, on the occasion of his new stage production of *Der Messias*, an oratorio by Georg Friedrich Händel adapted by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, at the Festspielhaus in Salzburg.

In these graphic works, fuelled by influences ranging from performance art to Minimalism, the internationally renowned director, stage architect, designer, choreographer, curator, visual and light artist captures on paper the ephemeral moments of his productions, which are strongly influenced by light. Created during the initial rehearsals of the stage project in autumn 2019, the drawings are not intended to illustrate the production, but represent the power beneath the surface of the music, the undercurrent of this entirely abstract work.

Der Messias, a co-production of the Mozarteum Foundation Salzburg with the Salzburg Festival and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, is directed by Robert Wilson and conducted by Marc Minkowski. The premiere will take place January 23rd 2020..

BIOGRAPHY

Robert Wilson was born in Waco, Texas. He studied at the University of Texas and at the Pratt Institute, New York City. In the 1960s he was recognized as one of the leading lights of avant-garde theatre in Manhattan. With the performance company, the *Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds*, he created *Deafman Glance* (1970) and in 1976 his opera *Einstein on the Beach* with music by Philip Glass brought him worldwide recognition and changed conventional perceptions of opera.

Since then, Robert Wilson has staged both original works and works from the traditional repertoire, notably: *The CIVIL warS* (1983-1985), *Salome* at La Scala (1987), *Black Rider* at the Théâtre du Châtelet (1990), *Orlando* with Isabelle Huppert at the Théâtre de l'Odéon (1993), *Wagner's Ring* at the Zurich Opera (2002), *Lulu* by Frank Wedekind with music by Lou Reed at the Théâtre de la Ville (2011), *The Life and Death of Marina Abramovic* in Manchester (2011) and at the Teatro Real, Madrid (2012), *The Old Woman* by Daniil Kharms at the Théâtre de la Ville (2013), *Peter Pan* with the Berliner Ensemble and music by CocoRosie (2013), *Pushkin's Fairy Tales* in Moscow (2015), *The Sandman* with Anna Calvi at the Ruhrfestspielhaus in Recklinghausen (2017) and recently *Mary Said What She Said* at the Théâtre de la Ville (2019). In 1998 the renowned production of *Bluebeard's Castle & Expectation*, with Jessye Norman in the role of the Woman, premiered at the Salzburg Festival.

Wilson's drawings, paintings and sculptures have been presented around the world in solo and group exhibitions, and his works are held in various private collections and museums.

Robert Wilson has been honored with numerous awards for excellence, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination (1986), two Premio Ubu awards (1992/1994), the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale (1993), and an Olivier Award (2013). He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2000), as well as the German Academy of the Arts (1996), 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.

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OPENING HOURS DURING THE MOZART WEEK
27 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2020
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