

ROBERT WILSON

FALCONS

VIDEO PORTRAIT SERIES

OVERVIEW

## ABOUT THE FALCON PORTRAIT SERIES

- The *Falcons* Video Portraits are a series of ultra high-definition works of art created by Robert Wilson and his production company for gallery and museum exhibition, purchase, and preservation.
  - Each life-sized portrait will be a seamlessly and endlessly looped video work displayed on a 4K monitor. Each portrait will be released in a very limited series.
  - The species of falcons being considered for portraits are the Peregrine, Saker, and Gyr. Each bird tells a different story, and each story has its own analog in human behavior. The peregrine is a success story of conservation after having recently been taken off the Critically Endangered list where they had been for 20 years. The Saker falcon, whose migration routes take them through the Middle East, is currently listed as Endangered as a result of illegal pet trade and pesticide use. The Gyr is prized by falconers around the world, many of who are working together in their conservation efforts for all falcon protection.
  - For source and visual references, Mr. Wilson is focusing on two texts. The first is the *Conference of the Birds*, a 4500 line poem written by the 12th c. Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attar. The second is an illuminated manuscript made of the same poem in the 15th century by the celebrated painter Behzād.

## FALCONS FOR PORTRAIT STUDIES



GYRFALCON



SAKER FALCON



PEREGRINE FALCON



## CREATING THE PORTRAITS

- Robert Wilson will develop and illustrate a creative framework for the project, and then work with his creative team to develop necessary visuals for their field work.
- Robert Wilson and his production team by working with key advisors will locate portrait falcons presently under the care of certified wildlife rescue sanctuaries, falcon hospitals, or private owners with good conservation histories.
- Robert Wilson and a few key members of his production team will work closely with the veterinarians, caregivers, or handlers of the animals to film them in the safety of their homes and without stress.
- In the practice of leaving no footprints, all carbon credits for travel by Mr. Wilson, his assistants, and the crew will be purchased.
  - For the creation of any exhibition or installation we will only work with and purchase from electronic manufacturers whose products comply with Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) and the Green Electronics Council (GEC).

## FALCON PORTRAIT SOURCE IMAGES

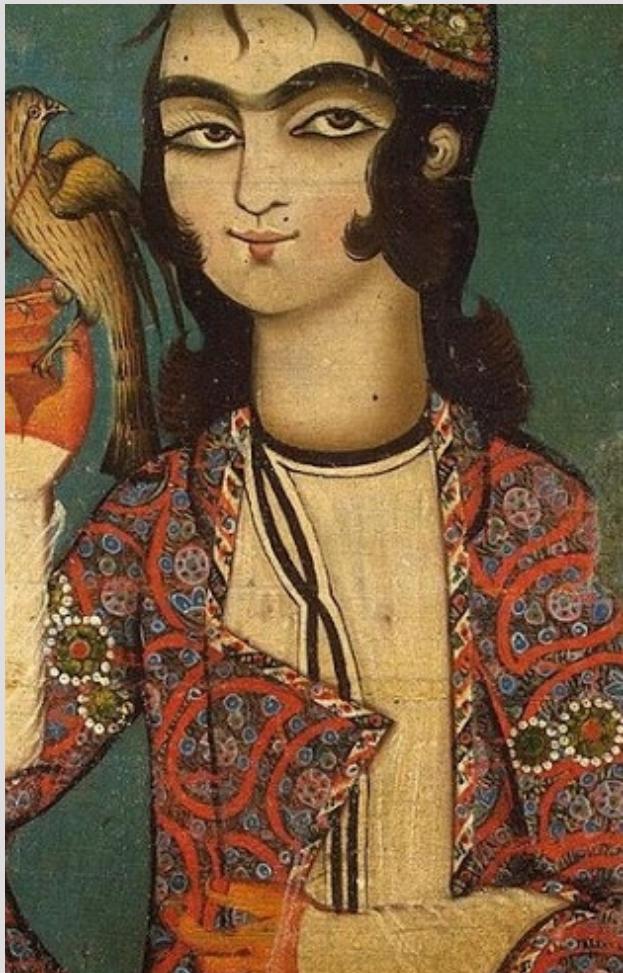


Deccan Falcon Alam  
Golconda (17th century)



Royal Hunting Falcon

Bijapur, ca. 1610 - 20 AD

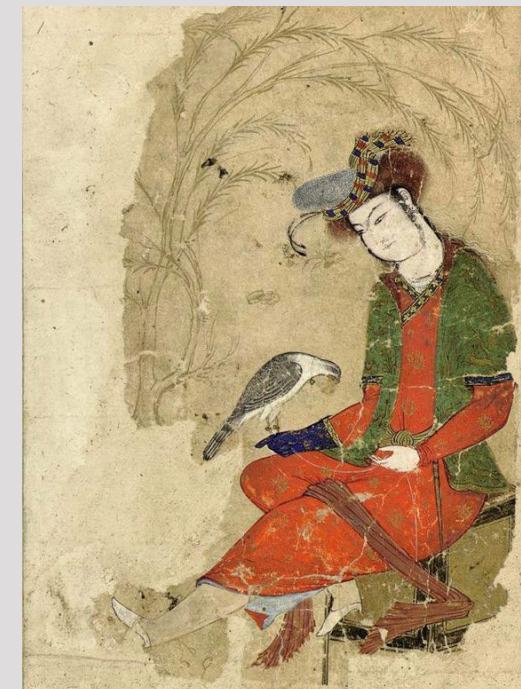


Boy Holding a Falcon  
Qajar Dynasty, 18th century



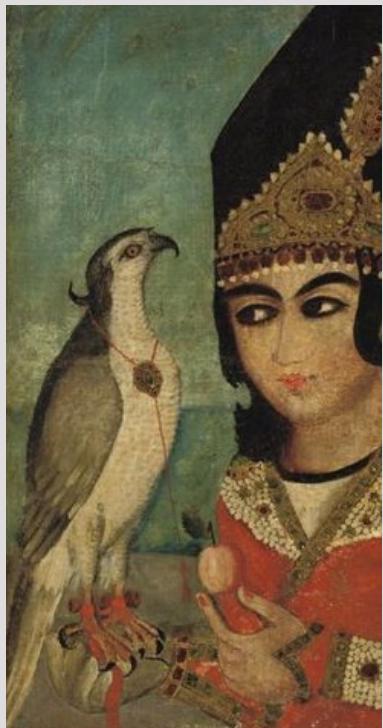
Prince with a Falcon

Mughal ca. 1600

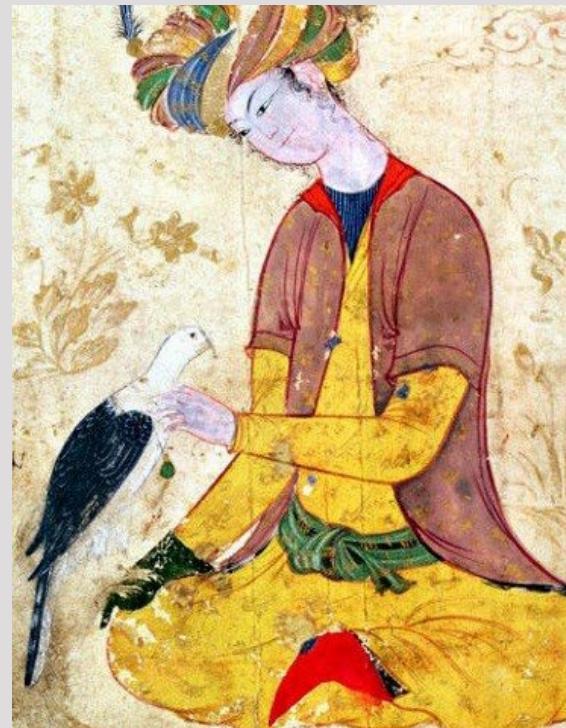


A Seated Youth with Falcon

Safavid Iran, ca. 1600



Qajar Portrait of Prince with Falcon  
Persia, 19th c.



A Hunter Stroking his Falcon  
Persian Miniature



Daccani Portrait of a Young Falconer  
Deccani, 16th c.



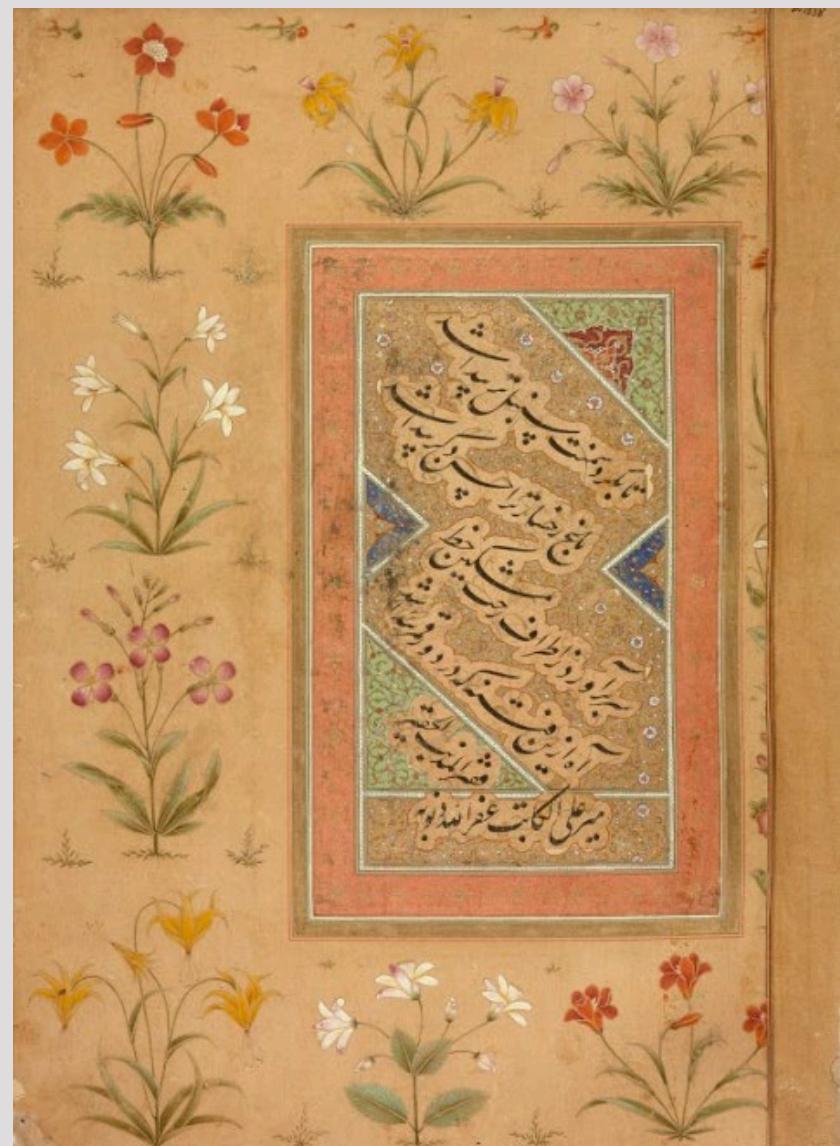
Photograph of "Three Sisters"

Robert Wilson Production



"The Language of the Birds" Folio Illustration

Iran, ca. 1600 AD



Folio from the Late Shah Jahan Album

Mughal, ca. 1596 - 1640

## FALCON PORTRAIT SOURCE TEXT

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*The Conference of the Birds* is a long and celebrated Sufi poem of approximately 4500 lines written in 1177 by the poet Farid ud-Din Attar, who is commonly known as Attar of Nishapur, and who stands with Rumi and Hafez as the three greatest Sufi poets writing in Persian.

In the poem, the birds of the world gather to decide who is to be their king, as they have none. The hoopoe, the wisest of them all, suggests that they should find the legendary *Simorgh*, a mythical Persian bird roughly equivalent to the western *Griph* but whose etymology stems from the Sanskrit *śyenah*, a word meaning raptor, falcon, or bird of prey. In classical and modern Persian literature the *Simorgh* is frequently mentioned, particularly as a metaphor for God in Sufi mysticism. The hoopoe leads the birds, each of whom represent a human fault which prevents man from attaining enlightenment. When the group of thirty birds finally reach the dwelling place of the *Simorgh*, all they find is a lake in which they see their own reflection.

Besides being one of the most celebrated examples of Persian poetry, this book relies on a clever word play between the words *Simorgh* and “*si morph*” – meaning “thirty birds” in Persian.

**VIDEO PORTRAITS OF ANIMALS BY ROBERT WILSON**



Kool (Snowy Owl)

2007



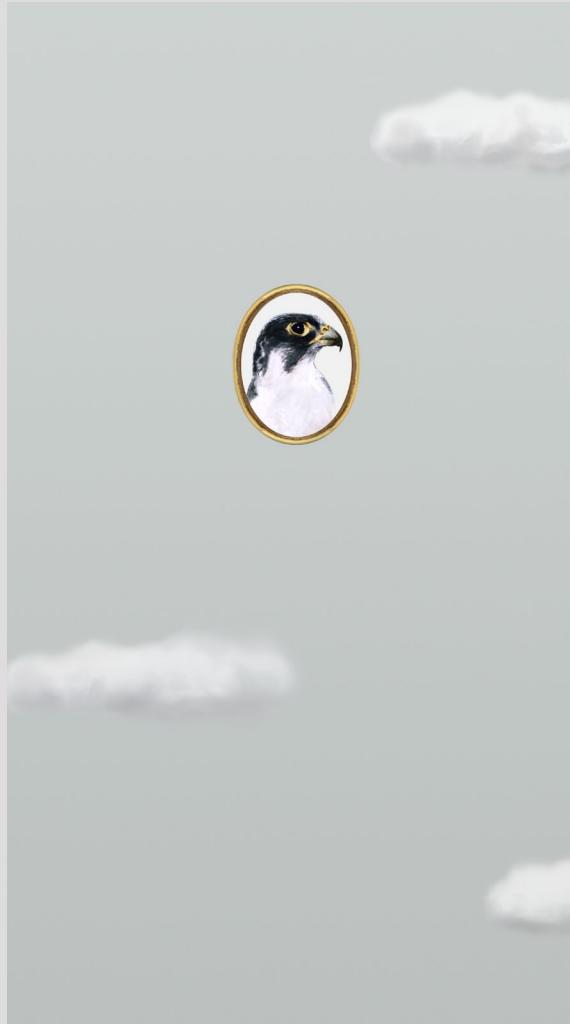
Kool (Snowy Owl)  
2007



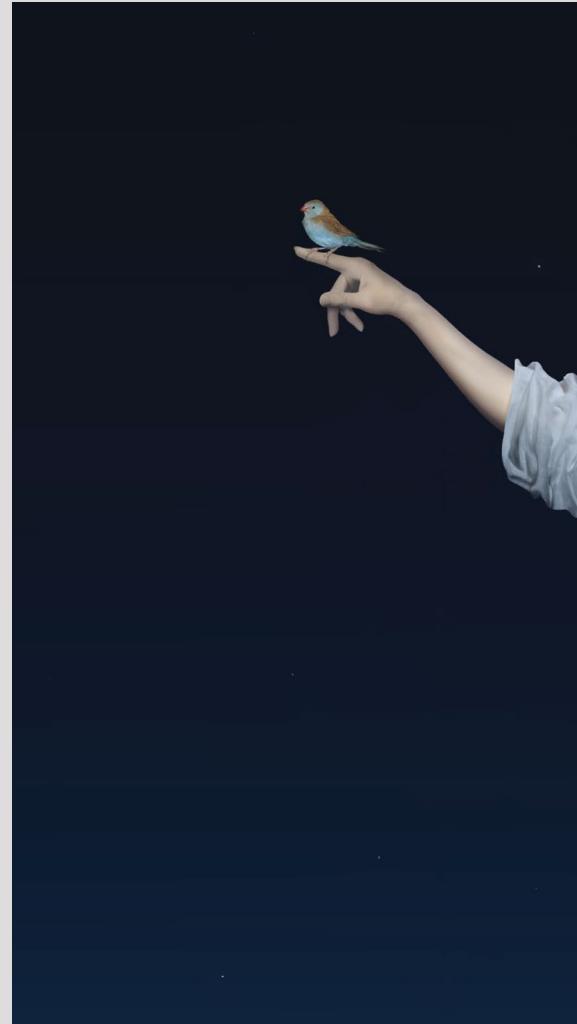
Kool (Snowy Owl)  
2007



Kool (Snowy Owl)  
2007



Hermes Falcon  
2016



Hermes Bird on Hand  
2016



Hermes Owl  
2016

## ROBERT WILSON MULTI-PORTRAIT VIDEO INSTALLATIONS



Ace Gallery  
Los Angeles



Museo D'Arte Contemporanea Dona Regina  
Naples



Galerie Thomas Schulte  
Berlin



National Museum of Singapore

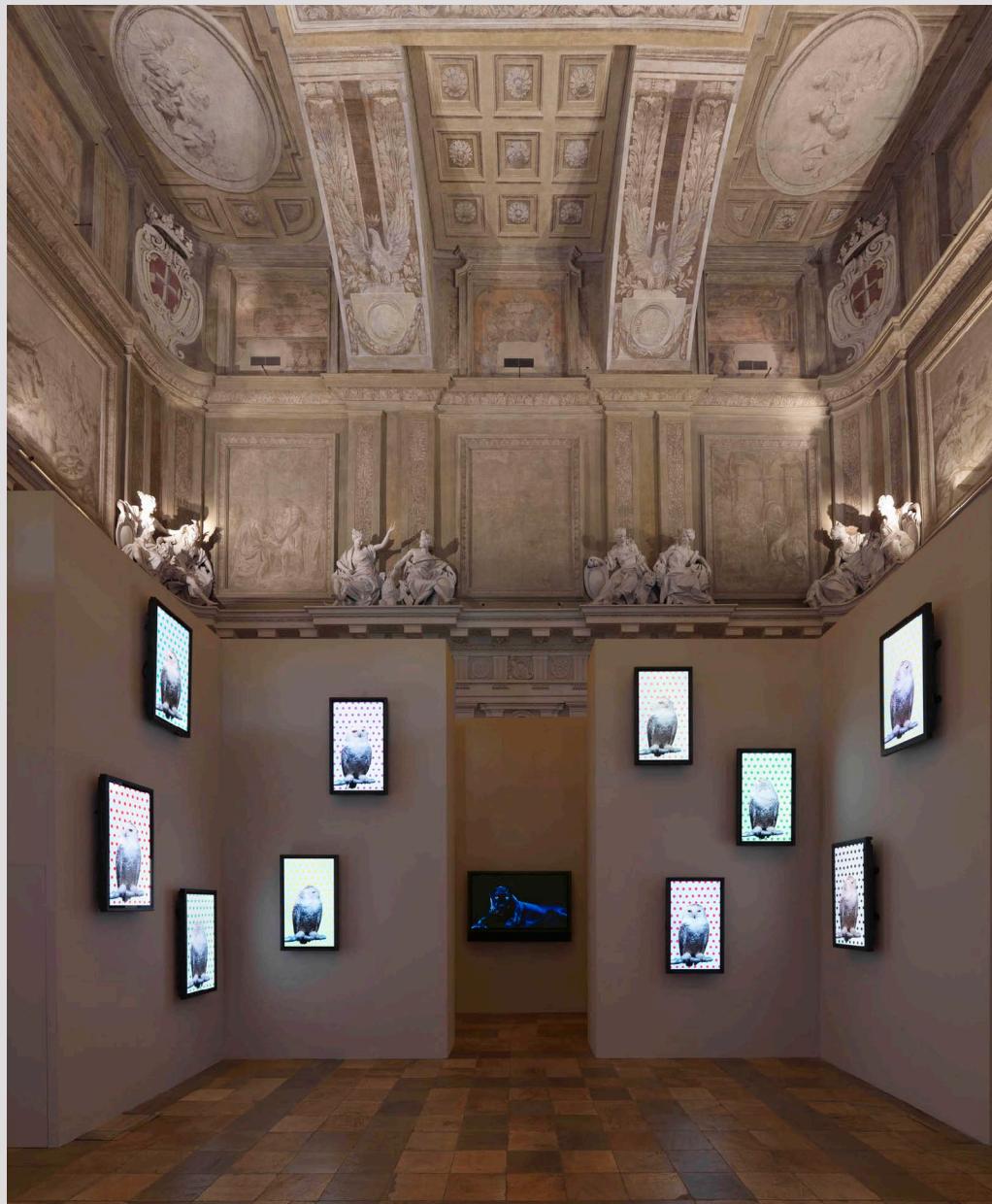
Singapore



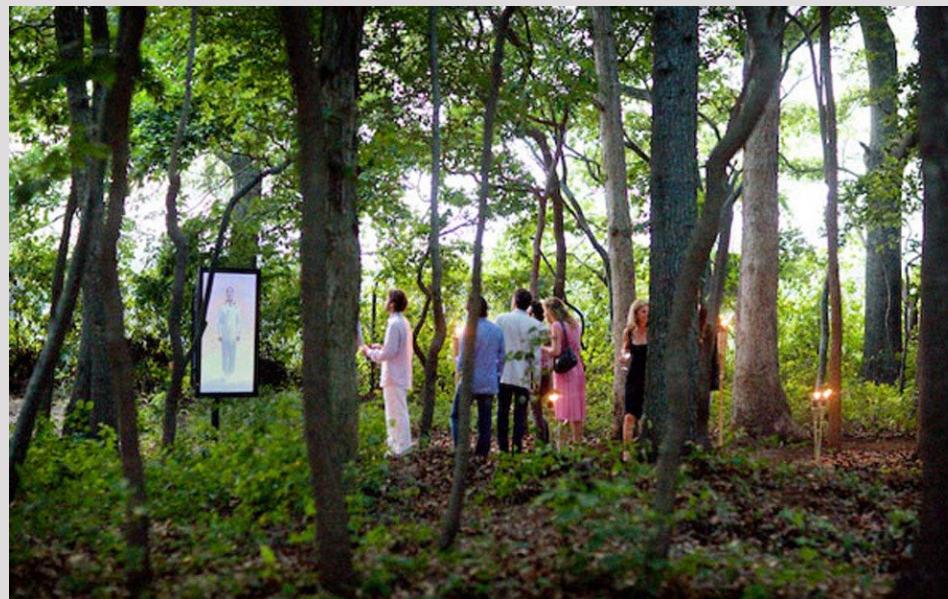
Hermes Exhibition  
New York



Hermes Exhibiton  
New York

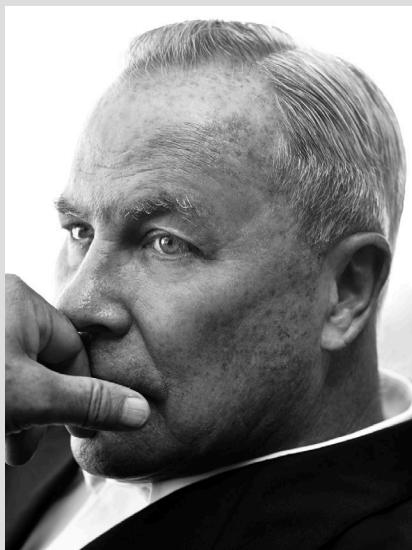


Palazzo Madama  
Torino



Watermill Center  
New York

## ROBERT WILSON DIRECTOR



### LIFE & WORK

The New York Times described Robert Wilson as “a towering figure in the world of experimental theater and an explorer in the uses of time and space on stage.” 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 Phillip Glass, Arvo Pärt, Umberto Eco, Heiner Müller, Tom Waits, Susan Sontag, Laurie Anderson, William Burroughs, Lou Reed and Jessye Norman. He has also left his imprint on masterworks such as Beckett’s *Krapp’s Last Tape*, Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Debussy’s *Pelléas et Melisande*, Brecht/Weill’s *Threepenny Opera*, Büchner’s *Woyzeck*, Jean de la Fontaine’s *Fables* and Homer’s *Odyssey*. 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 and France pronounced him Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres.

### VIDEO PORTRAITS

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.

Wilson has created video portraits of Princess Caroline, Isabella Rossellini, Brad Pitt, Johnny Depp, Marianne Faithfull, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Renee Fleming, Farah Pahlavi, Isabelle Huppert, Sean Penn, Willen Defoe, and others. His series of video portraits of Lady Gaga premiered at Mr. Wilson’s solo exhibition “Living Rooms” at the Louvre in 2013.

ROBERT WILSON  
VIDEO PORTRAIT  
SUBJECTS

Alan Cumming  
Brad Pitt  
Byamba Ulambayar  
Dita von Teese  
Farah Pahlavi  
Gao Xingjian  
Isabelle Huppert  
Horned Frog  
Isabella Rossellini  
Jeanne Moreau  
Johnny Depp  
Juliette Binoche  
Lady Gaga  
Luc Hoffman  
Lucinda Childs  
Maren Otto  
Marianne Faithfull  
Macaulay Culkin  
Mikhail Baryshnikov  
Peter Stormare  
Robert Bollo  
Panther  
Porcupine  
Princess Caroline  
Red Fox  
Renee Fleming  
Robin Wright  
Salma Hayek  
Sean Penn  
Skunk  
Snowy Owl Steve  
Buscemi  
Suzushi Hanayagi  
Williem Dafoe  
Zhang Huan  
Byambar Ulambayar  
Robert Downey Jr.

## PAST EXHIBITIONS

Museums

Hirshhorn Museum – Washington DC  
Louvre Museum – Paris  
Slovak National Gallery – Bratislava  
Onassis Cultural Centre – Athen  
Galerija Klovićevi dvori – Zagreb  
Timken Museum of Art – San Diego  
Palazzo Reale – Milan  
Museo de Pasión – Valladolid Spain  
The Fabric Workshop and Museum - Philadelphia  
University of Toronto Art Center – Toronto  
Museum der Moderne – Salzburg  
Vitraria Glass+A Museum – Venice  
Fondazione Carisbo – Bologna  
Museum Kampa – Prague  
Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum – Graz Austria  
Hamburger Kunsthalle – Hamburg  
Palazzo Reale – Milan  
National Museum of Singapore  
Bass Museum of Art – Miami  
Joslyn Art Museum – Omaha  
Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University – Durham USA  
University of Iowa Museum of Art – Iowa City USA  
Museo D'Arte Contemporanea Donna Regina – Naples

Galleries

Bernier/Eliades Gallery – Athens  
Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac – Paris  
Galerija Klovićevi dvori – Zagreb  
Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery UWA – Perth  
Jiri Svestka Gallery – Prague  
Galerie Thomas Schulte – Berlin  
Phoenix Hallen – Hamburg  
Bernice Steinbaum Gallery – Miami  
Devin Borden Hiram Butler Gallery – Houston  
Triumph Gallery – Moscow  
Ace Gallery – Los Angeles  
Phillips de Pury & Co. – New York  
Paula Cooper Gallery – New York

Fairs & Festivals

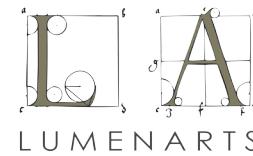
Lichtsicht Biennale – Bad Rothenfelde  
Backlit – Nottingham UK  
Art Basel Hong Kong  
Art Basel Miami  
21\_21 Design Sight - Tokyo  
Bologna Art Fair – Bologna  
TIFF Cinematheque – Toronto  
Fullframe Kunst Film Festival – Vienna  
International Festival of Photography – Knokke-Heist, Belgium  
Art Miami (with Bernice Steinbaum Gallery) – Miami  
International Audiovisual Festival of Performing Arts – Lisbon  
Palazzo Leti Sansi (Spoleto Festival) – Spoleto Italy  
International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA) – Montreal

Events

artRAVE, New York  
St. Moritz Art Masters – St. Moritz Switzerland  
Times Square Alliance – New York

Institutions

Akademie der Künste - Berlin  
Palazzo Madama – Torino  
Instituto Moreira Salles (IMS) – Rio de Janeiro  
Santander Cultural – Porto Alegre Brazil  
Akademie der Künste – Berlin  
ZKM | Center for Art and Media – Karlsruhe, Germany  
Hydra School Project – Hydra Greece  
SESC Pinheiros - Sao Paulo  
CSPS Hall – Cedar Rapids USA  
Ekaterina Foundation – Moscow  
PSI – New York



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