

# Oude Kerk Amsterdam and Hartwig Art Foundation present major survey exhibition, Meredith Monk

**Oude Kerk Amsterdam and Hartwig Art Foundation present the first-ever European survey of Meredith Monk in the context of visual art.**

21 October 2023 - 17 March 2024

[Hartwig Art Foundation](#) & [Oude Kerk](#)

*Meredith Monk*

*"In a world so fragmented and full of sadness, I want to create work that affirms life and our sense of connection to each other and all living things."* – Meredith Monk



Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, *Indra's Net* (2023), co-presented by Holland Festival and Hartwig Art Foundation.  
Photo Ada Nieuwendijk.

Living legend Meredith Monk has dedicated her career to exploring the potential of the human voice, weaving new modes of perception and pushing the boundaries of music, performance and visual art. Starting Oct. 21, 2023, Oude Kerk Amsterdam, center for contemporary art and heritage, and Hartwig Art Foundation present the first-ever European survey of Meredith Monk in the context of visual art. In it, she

looks back on nearly sixty years of work at the forefront of the arts. Monk remains ever relevant and active: on June 23, her performance *Indra's Net* had its world premiere in Amsterdam as a co-presentation of Holland Festival and Hartwig Art Foundation.

### Ancient and contemporary

The sound of Monk's singing is often described as ancient and contemporary at the same time. Her groundbreaking vocal work, music, theater performances and films find a natural home in the Oude Kerk as Amsterdam's oldest building and venue for contemporary art. The exhibition aims at bringing her groundbreaking work in voice, music, staged performances and film into an experience beyond the stage with works translating her theatrical pieces into encounters with immersive video- and sound installations in the alcoves and open public space of the 700-year old church.

Key works such as 2008's *Songs of Ascension*, *Quarry* (1976) and *ATLAS* (1991) will be updated as new installations for the Oude Kerk. Especially for Amsterdam, the interactive installation *American Archaeology* (1998) will be updated as a local version. Visitors are invited to bring and add meaningful objects to the work to build a monument of collective memories.

At the same time, Monk plays with the idea of the church as an archive, sharing for the first time unpublished sound pieces, scores, drawings; featuring, in particular, material from *Indra's Net*, her most recent work. As part of the exhibition, Monk is also developing a retrospective series of live concerts for the Oude Kerk performed by a new generation of local musicians in conjunction with the Oude Kerk's architecture, music and movement.



Left: Allison Sniffin, Meredith Monk, Katie Geissinger, Ellen Fisher, *Cellular Songs* (2018), photo: Stephanie Berger.

Right: Meredith Monk, *16 Millimeter Earrings*, (1966) photo: Kenneth van Sickle

### Collaboration

The survey in Amsterdam has been curated by Beatrix Ruf, director Hartwig Art Foundation and is developed in close collaboration with Meredith Monk and The House Foundation for the Arts. This first survey of Meredith Monk's oeuvre is a collaboration in two acts: at the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam, together with Hartwig Art Foundation (Oct. 21, 2023-March 17, 2024), and the Haus der Kunst in Munich (Nov. 10, 2023-March 3, 2024).

*"The exhibition, Meredith Monk, forms a unique retrospective of her influential interdisciplinary performance practice. In it, she always seeks harmony between the spiritual, the earth and human existence. Oude Kerk as an ancient temple of music, echoes this quest through both history and the future."* – Mariette Dölle, artistic director Oude Kerk

*"The pioneering work of Meredith Monk, who has explored polyphonic modes of perception and expression for more than six decades, has been a beacon for me to experience the interconnectedness of the arts. I am proud that Hartwig Art Foundation, along with our partners Holland Festival and Oude Kerk,*

*with whom we are now collaborating for the third time, can bring this extended experience with this exceptional artist to Amsterdam with her latest performance Indra's Net and the first-ever European retrospective of her work.” – Beatrix Ruf, director Hartwig Art Foundation and curator of the exhibition*



Meredith Monk, Photo Christine Alicino

### **About Meredith Monk**

Monk (b. 1942, New York) is considered the great pioneer of extended vocal technique and interdisciplinary performance, the genre that emerged in New York's artist community in the 1960s and 1970s. Her pioneering compositional work and performances have received numerous awards, including a National Medal of Arts, the highest award in the United States given specifically for achievement in the arts.

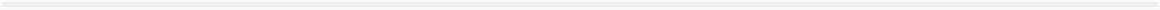
### **About Hartwig Art Foundation**

Hartwig Art Foundation is active in fostering and facilitating the production, presentation, communication and preservation of contemporary art for society at large in an effort to support the cultural ecosystem in the Netherlands and abroad. Art here includes all media of the visual arts, time-based arts and future art forms in the broadest sense that are related to the continued development of artistic expression and media. The production, presentation, mediation and preservation of art aims, in particular, at the sustainable promotion of a cultural environment for society as a whole, both in terms of infrastructures and people.

Hartwig Art Foundation is working towards the establishment of a new museum for contemporary art in Amsterdam. [www.hartwigartfoundation.nl](http://www.hartwigartfoundation.nl)

### **About Oude Kerk Amsterdam**

Oude Kerk is a national monument and a place for contemporary art in the oldest building in Amsterdam, in the middle of the historic city center. Commissioned by Oude Kerk, artists create monumental new work specially for the place. The art installations explore the acoustics of the building, play with the perception of the space or illuminate stories from the centuries-old history of the place in new ways. Recent commissions: Ibrahim Mahama (2022), Antonio Obá (2022), Susan Philipsz (2021), Aimée Zito Lema (2021), Adrian Villar Rojas (2019). Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller (2018).



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