

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LEE MINGWEI'S NEW WORK *CHAQUE SOUFFLE UNE DANSE*  
DEBUTS AT MINNESOTA STREET PROJECT FOUNDATION**

**PREMIERE PERFORMANCES  
APRIL 5 – MAY 5, 2024**

**Press Preview: Wednesday, April 3, 7:00 pm**

**Commissioned by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and Presented in  
Collaboration with the Artist's First Major U.S. Exhibition,  
*Lee Mingwei: Rituals of Care***



Lee Mingwei, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*, 2024. Performance installation with sumi ink on alabaster slabs, stands, and candles. Each slab 30 x 23 cm. Design of stand in collaboration with Desai Chis Architecture. Performer: Liu I-Ling. Photo by Lin Wei-Lung, courtesy of Lee Studio.

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**February 8, 2024, San Francisco, CA** – Minnesota Street Project Foundation (MSP Foundation), in partnership with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, is thrilled to announce the debut of Lee Mingwei's new performance installation, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*, April 5–May 5, 2024 at 1201 Minnesota Street.

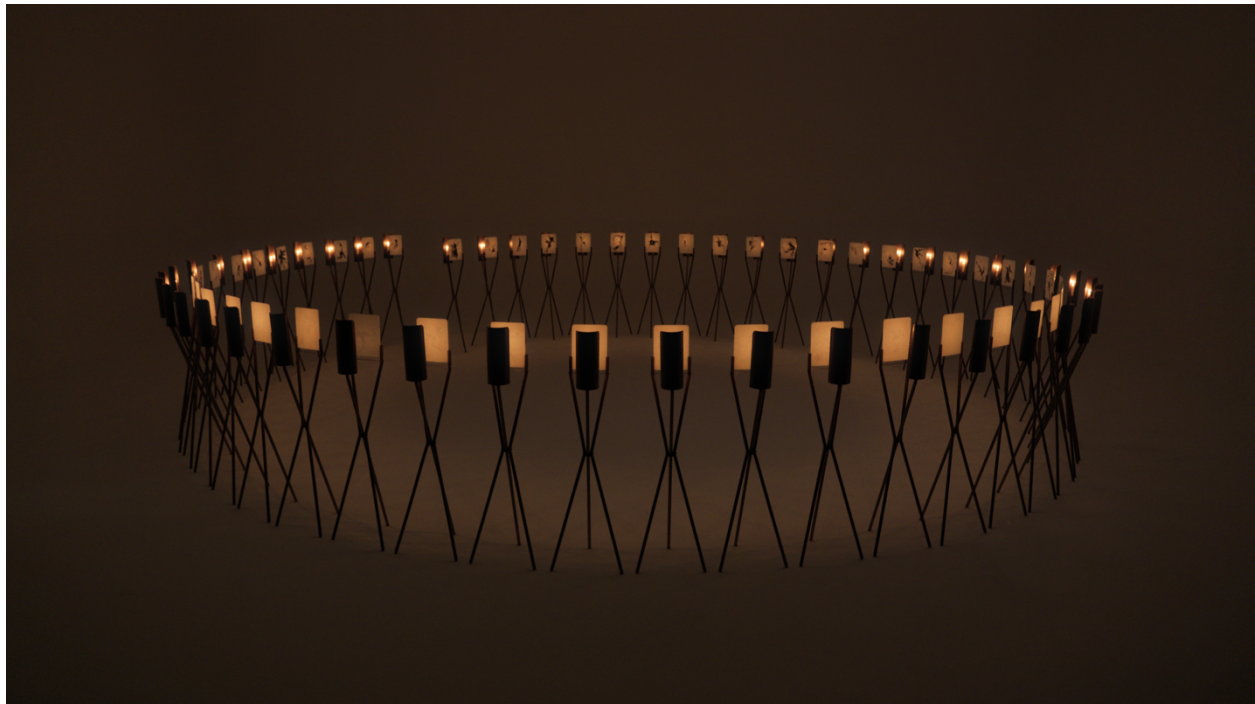
Press is invited to attend an advance dress rehearsal of *Chaque Souffle Une Danse* at 1201 Minnesota on **Wednesday, April 3, at 7:00 pm**. RSVP to [bill@minnesotastreetproject.org](mailto:bill@minnesotastreetproject.org) to confirm attendance.

Commissioned by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* is presented along with the artist's first major U.S. exhibition, *Lee Mingwei: Rituals of Care*, on view at the de Young museum. "We are delighted to partner with Minnesota Street Project Foundation," said Thomas P. Campbell, Director and CEO of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. "I couldn't imagine a more meaningful way to collaborate than to jointly support the creation of a new work of art."

Rachel Sample, Director of the Minnesota Street Project Foundation, adds, "The Foundation couldn't be more thrilled to amplify the work of Lee Mingwei and the Fine Arts Museum by adding this co-presentation of *Chaque souffle une danse* to our 2024 programming. Our partnership with the Fine Arts Museum provides the perfect example of how, in collaboration, we can celebrate an artist and create expanded opportunities to experience world-class art."

Performances of *Chaque Souffle Une Danse* will take place at 1201 Minnesota at **7:00 pm on Thursdays and Fridays, 2:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays**. Advance registration is required, and access is provided free of charge.

**Public registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lee-mingwei-chaque-souffle-une-danse-tickets-846147779787>



Lee Mingwei, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*, 2024. Performance installation with sumi ink on alabaster slabs, stands, and candles. Each slab 30 x 23 cm. Design of stand in collaboration with Desai Chis Architecture. Photo by Lin Wei-Lung, courtesy of Lee Studio.

"*Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*, reflects on the physical and social threats that the simple act of breathing has come to embody since the spring of 2020, while also encapsulating the sensation of a world increasingly running out of breath," said Claudia Schmuckli, Curator in Charge of Contemporary Art and Programming at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

Escalating global discord and a tumult of emotions prompted artist Lee Mingwei to practice a “regimen of deep, tranquil breathing”, an act that both grounded the artist in the moment and provided the creative inspiration for *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*. Over an extended period, directly following his daily meditation, Mingwei watched the sun setting on the horizon each evening and began creating his “breath drawings.” Taking contemplative breaths and slowly exhaling to move droplets of sumi ink across alabaster slabs, each new artwork “assumed a distinctive essence, an embodiment of the atmospheric conditions and emotional context inherent at the specific moment of creation,” said Lee Mingwei.



Lee Mingwei, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)*, 2024. Performance installation with sumi ink on alabaster slabs. Each slab 30 x 23 cm. Photo by Anpis Wang, courtesy of Lee Studio.

For the 1201 Minnesota debut performances, Mingwei’s “breath drawings,” positioned in a large circle on 60 metal and wood candle stands, delineate the literal performance space, and provide a metaphysical space for reflection. Lasting approximately 45 minutes, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* is activated when a single dancer enters the exhibition space, moving slowly among the candle stands displaying the alabaster breath drawings. Upon encountering each drawing, the dancer lights a candle. Once all the panels are lit, each candle one by one is then extinguished. Throughout the performance the exhibition space cycles between states of illumination and darkness, offering, Mingwei notes, “viewers a journey through rhythms that punctuate both art and life, a possible contemplation of the symbiosis between opposites, and how one gives meaning to the other.”

Following Minnesota Street Project Foundation’s first week of performances at 1201 Minnesota, *Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* will be represented by a film on view at the de Young museum from April 9 through July 7, 2024.

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*Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* will be on view April 5–May 5, 2024, at Minnesota Street Project Foundation’s 1201 Minnesota Street exhibition warehouse. Free, ticketed performances occur several times a day, Thursday–Saturday. The performance schedule and timed-entry tickets will be made available in early March.

*Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* coincides with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco’s presentation of *Lee Mingwei: Rituals of Care*, on view at the de Young museum, February 17–July 24, 2024.

*Chaque souffle une danse (Each Breath a Dance)* is commissioned by the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and is co-presented by Minnesota Street Project Foundation and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

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### **Lee Mingwei**

Born in Taiwan in 1964, Lee Mingwei currently resides in New York, Paris, and Taipei. He creates participatory installations that enable strangers to engage with concepts of trust, intimacy, and self-awareness. In addition, he conducts one-on-one events in which he and visitors explore these themes through daily activities like eating, sleeping, writing, and conversing. His projects often create open-ended scenarios for everyday interactions, adapting and transforming with participant involvement throughout an exhibition's duration.

Lee Mingwei received his MFA from Yale University in 1997 and has since presented his solo exhibitions internationally at venues including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; Tate Modern, London; Gropius Bau, Berlin; Sydney Modern Project; Taipei Fine Arts Museum; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art, Australia; Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, New Zealand; Ateneum Art Museum: Finnish National Gallery, Helsinki; Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He has also been featured in biennials in Venice, Lyon, Sharjah, Liverpool, Taipei, Sydney, Echigo-Tsumari, and the Whitney, as well as the Asia Pacific Triennial.

***Rituals of Care***, on view at the de Young museum from February 17–July 24, 2024, features six projects by Lee Mingwei created between 1995 and 2020, placing the visitor at the center of radical acts of generosity and immersing audiences in an intimate experience of reflection and exchange. Inspired by the artist's personal experiences and recent world events that continue to resonate—such as the loss of his maternal grandmother, the attack on the World Trade Center, the US invasion of Iraq, the fatal illness of his mother, or the global COVID-19 pandemic—Lee's work asks how art can serve as a conduit for human connection and emotional healing in a social environment defined by so much trauma and loss. Transforming ordinary gestures like writing and sweeping, mending, or breathing into rituals of engagement, Lee encourages us to find beauty, solace, and strength in the small acts that define everyday existence. *Rituals of Care* invites visitors to engage with installations in the de Young's free public spaces as well as its galleries dedicated to art of the 20th and 21st centuries.

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### **Minnesota Street Project Foundation**

Established in 2019, the Minnesota Street Project Foundation's mission is rooted in our unwavering dedication to the visual arts in every facet. We operate on the belief that the future of philanthropic support for the arts requires an alternative model. By providing space and infrastructure for the creation and exhibition of the contemporary arts we generate sustainable support for the Bay Area arts communities. Our programming enables new arts initiatives, collaborations, public exhibitions, and capacity building grants.

Located in San Francisco, the Minnesota Street Project's three-city block contemporary arts campus comprises Minnesota Street Project Foundation, Minnesota Street Project Galleries,

and Minnesota Street Project Art Services. Minnesota Street Project Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 83-3859484).

Follow us on Instagram for updates and announcements: @mspfoundation  
For more information, visit [minnesotastreetproject.org](http://minnesotastreetproject.org).

### **Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco**

Golden Gate Park  
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive  
San Francisco, CA 94118

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, comprising the de Young in Golden Gate Park and the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park, are the largest public arts institution in San Francisco.

The de Young museum originated from the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition in Golden Gate Park. The present copper-clad landmark building, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, opened in 2005. Reflecting an active conversation among cultures, perspectives, and time periods, the collections on view include American painting, sculpture, and decorative arts from the 17th to the 21st centuries; arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas; costume and textile arts; and international modern and contemporary art. The Legion of Honor museum was modeled after the neoclassical Palais de la Légion d'Honneur in Paris. The museum, designed by George Applegarth, opened in 1924 on a bluff in Lincoln Park overlooking the Golden Gate. It offers unique insight into the art historical, political, and social movements of the previous 4,000 years of human history, with holdings including ancient art from the Mediterranean basin; European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; and the largest collection of works on paper in the western United States.

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco are located on land unceded by the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of what is now the San Francisco Peninsula. The greater Bay Area is also the ancestral territory of other Ohlone peoples, as well as the Miwok, Yokuts, and Patwin. We acknowledge, recognize, and honor the Indigenous ancestors, elders, and descendants whose nations and communities have lived in the Bay Area over many generations and continue to do so today. We respect the enduring relationships that exist between Indigenous peoples and their homelands. We are committed to partnering with Indigenous communities to raise awareness of their legacy and engage with the history of the region, the impacts of genocide, and the dynamics of settler colonialism that persist today.

For more information, please visit [famsf.org](http://famsf.org) or call 415-750-3600 for more information.

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**To request interviews or more information**, contact Bill Proctor ([bill@minnesotastreetproject.org](mailto:bill@minnesotastreetproject.org)).

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