

NEW
235 BOWERY
NEW YORK NY
10002 USA
MUSEUM

TEL +1 212.219.1222
FAX +1 212.431.5326
newmuseum.org

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Gabriel Einsohn, Senior Communications Director
Hyatt Mannix, External Affairs Associate
press@newmuseum.org
212.219.1222 x209
Andrea Schwan, Andrea Schwan Inc.
info@andreaschwan.com
917.371.5023

**New Museum to Present First US Museum Exhibition for Paweł Althamer
Featuring the Artist's Iconic Portraits and a Sculpture Workshop**

Visitors Will Paint Gallery Walls in a Collective Participatory Artwork

New York, NY...On February 12, 2014, the New Museum will open the first US museum exhibition devoted to the work of **Paweł Althamer**. Since the early 1990s, Althamer (b. 1967 Warsaw, Poland) has established a unique artistic practice and is admired for his expanded approach to sculptural representation and his experimental models of social collaboration. Althamer is predominantly known for figurative sculptures of himself, his family, and various other individuals within his community. Beyond simple portraiture, these sculptures, along with the artist's other activities, highlight the complex social, political, and psychological networks in which he operates.



Image: Paweł Althamer, *Draftsmen's Congress*, 2012. Exhibition view: Berlin Biennale, 2012.
Photo: Artur Zmijewski. Courtesy the artist, Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw, and neuger-riemenschneider, Berlin

"Paweł Althamer: The Neighbors" will be on view on the Fourth, Third, and Second Floor galleries from **February 12–April 13, 2014**.

The exhibition will include a new presentation of the artist's work ***Draftsmen's Congress***, originally presented at the 7th Berlin Biennial (2012). Over the course of the exhibition, the blank white space of the New Museum's Fourth Floor gallery will be transformed through the gradual accumulation of **drawings and paintings by Museum visitors and more than seventy invited community organizations**. Althamer will also activate the exhibition through a **sculptural workshop** in which the artist and his collaborators will **produce new works** during the course of the show.

In many of his previous museum exhibitions, Althamer has used the visibility and resources of the organizing institution to benefit different local communities. For his New York exhibition, **Althamer has initiated a coat drive for the Bowery Mission**, the Museum's neighboring organization, which has been serving the homeless and hungry since 1879. **For the duration of the exhibition, visitors bringing new or gently used men's coats to the New Museum will receive free entry.** All the coats will be donated to the Bowery Mission.

In the past, Althamer has also realized a number of projects that seek to subtly alter reality through nearly imperceptible interventions into public space. For "The Neighbors," Althamer has arranged for more than **fifty street musicians to play at the Museum** over the course of the show, with the music being **broadcast in the Third Floor gallery**.

"Paweł Althamer: The Neighbors" will also feature Althamer's iconic sculptures and performative videos realized alone or in cooperation with community groups with whom he has collaborated with over the past two decades. The artist's most recent body of work, "**Venetians**," a haunting group of sculptures created for the 55th Venice Biennale in which Althamer cast the faces of various individuals he encountered on the streets of Venice, will make its US debut. These works will be presented alongside Althamer's series of videos, "**So-Called Waves and Other Phenomena of the Mind**" (2003–04). Produced in collaboration with artist Artur Żmijewski, these works capture Althamer as he ingests various drugs on a journey to explore the depths of his own mind. Across these varied projects, the exhibition will comprise a portrait of the artist as instigator, organizer, teacher, scientist, and visionary.

"Paweł Althamer: The Neighbors" is curated by **Massimiliano Gioni, Associate Director and Director of Exhibitions, and Gary Carrion-Murayari, Curator.**

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring an interview with the artist and new essays on Althamer's practice by Boris Groys, Joanna Mytkowska, and Artur Żmijewski.

Paweł Althamer attended the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw, from 1988–93, studying alongside his frequent collaborator Artur Żmijewski. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Westfälischer Kunstverein in Münster (2003), Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw (2004), Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2005), Centre Pompidou, Paris (2006), Fondazione Nicola Trussardi (2007), and Secession, Vienna (2009), among others. His work has been exhibited in a number of major international group shows including the 2013 Venice Biennale, 8th Gwangju Biennial (2010), Skulptur Projekte Münster (2007), 4th Berlin Biennial (2006), and the 9th Istanbul Biennial (2005).

Support

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About the New Museum

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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