

Parasol unit

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Press Release

Parasol unit presents

Parasol Public: A place to live when we are old

A public art project in collaboration with Argentinian artist **Ana Gallardo**

9–15 July 2012 (Launch: 9 July at 12 noon, Bishops Square, Spitalfields, London)



Images: Ana Gallardo: *A place to live when we are old*, Courtesy of Ana Gallardo, Mario Gomez Casas, Ramiro Gallardo and Parasol unit, London. Photograph: Mario Gomez Casas

Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art presents *A place to live when we are old*, an inter-generational, dance-based piece by **Ana Gallardo** which brings people of all ages together through dance. In the heart of Spitalfields, London, this week-long event in Bishops Square has three mature, amateur dancers from Mexico offering demonstrations of and lessons in *danzón*, a typical Mexican dance, to members of the public.

Building on the success of Kate Gilmore's *Walk the Line*, the inaugural **Parasol Public** project staged in June 2011, Parasol unit is now collaborating with Argentinian artist **Ana Gallardo** to realise the site-specific project, *A place to live when we are old*, which premiered with great success at the 29th São Paulo Biennial in 2010. For its London debut, the piece features three dancers, all in their 70s: Ofelia Martinez Herrera, Marvan Pale and Arnulfo Hernandez Hernandez give presentations of *danzón* and encourage the public to join in. *A place to live when we are old* takes place on a purpose-built dance floor in Bishops Square with accompanying music, a site-specific wall drawing and video projection that together create a dynamic social environment.

In Mexico City, where Ana Gallardo lived for many years, the artist absorbed the culture of *danzón*, popularly danced by senior people in the public squares. *A place to live when we are old* draws on the social importance and benefit of dance, showcasing sociological concerns surrounding age in modern society. For Gallardo, the project challenges the typically 'unfavourable image of growing old, often associated with illness, financial constraints and physical or mental decline'. The project's central themes of hope, community and enjoyment play out through the shared experience of dance.

Continuing its work with international artists, Parasol unit will be the first UK institution to show the work of **Ana Gallardo**. Born 1958 in Argentina, Gallardo has exhibited throughout South America, North America and Spain. Her recent solo exhibitions include: Galería Ignacio Liprandi, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2012; Florencia Lowenthal Gallery, Santiago de Chile, Chile, 2010; Alberto Sendros Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2009; and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rosario, Argentina, 2009. Her recent group exhibitions include: the Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2011; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, USA, 2011; Museum of the University of Alicante, Spain, 2011; National Foundation for the Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina; and the 29th São Paulo Biennial, Brazil, 2010.

A place to live when we are old will feature in **Big Dance 2012**, a nationwide festival that promotes public involvement in a broad range of dance activities in a variety of unconventional places.



Groups and individuals of all ages are welcome. For further information and group bookings, please contact Lucy Britton at lucy@parasol-unit.org or Nicola Pomery at nicola@parasol-unit.org.

This project is generously supported by:

Arts Council England
Spitalfields



VISITOR INFORMATION

The Parasol *Public* art project takes place in Bishops Square, Spitalfields, London, E1, from 9–15 July 2012, Monday–Saturday, 12 noon–7 p.m and Sunday 12 noon–4 p.m. Admission is free. The project launch is at 12 noon on 9 July.

Directions

Nearest tube stations are Shoreditch High Street and Liverpool Street.
Buses 8, 26, 35, 42, 47, 48, 78, 149, 242, 344, 388 all travel down Bishopsgate; 67 travels down Commercial Street.

Access

The dance floor is wheelchair accessible; seating is available.

Note to editors

Founded in December 2004, Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art is an educational charity registered in England and Wales, which operates purely for the benefit of the public. Each year, the foundation organises four exhibitions in a variety of media as well as setting up other artistic projects. Each gallery exhibition is accompanied by a publication and a related educational events programme. The foundation does not bear the founder's name, and its exhibitions are not derived from the founder's own collection. Parasol unit is therefore a new model of collaboration between private funding and public support.

For more information, contact Nicola Pomery on 020 7490 7373, at nicola@parasol-unit.org, or go to www.parasol-unit.org

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