



ARCADIA EXHIBITIONS



## Venice Biennale top prize-winning *Sun & Sea* launches nationwide tour September 15, 2021

The stunning performance will premiere at BAM in NYC and make stops in Philadelphia (Arcadia Exhibitions/Arcadia University as part of Philadelphia Fringe Festival), Bentonville, AR (the Momentary), and Los Angeles (the Hammer, MOCA, and CAP UCLA).

“a remarkable achievement”—*The New York Times*

“astonishing”—*The Guardian*

“surreal as it is profound”—BBC

“a revelation.”—*Artnet*

### ***Sun & Sea***

By Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė and Lina Lapelytė  
US Tour runs from Sep 15—October 16

Direction and set design by Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė

Libretto by Vaiva Grainytė

Music and musical direction by Lina Lapelytė

Curated by Lucia Pietroiusti

**August 17/Los Angeles, CA**—After enthralling audiences at the 2019 Venice Biennale, and earning its all-woman creative team (Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, and Lina Lapelytė) the much-coveted Golden Lion, *Sun & Sea* launches its national tour on September 15 at BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music). The production will then travel to Philadelphia (Arcadia Exhibitions/Arcadia University as part of Philadelphia Fringe Festival), Bentonville, AR (the Momentary), and Los Angeles (Hammer Museum, MOCA, and CAP UCLA).

Using twenty-five tons of sand to transform each theater into a lively beach, sunbathing characters offer up a range of seductive harmonies and melodic stories that glide between the mundane, the sinister, and the surreal. From the sprawling narrative of their lives emerges a piercing exploration of climate change, shining light on the complex relationship between people and our planet. The piece is brought to life by 13 vocalists who are surrounded by approximately 25 adventurous local community members in each city who act as fellow beach-goers.

“*Sun & Sea* started with the image of vacationers lying on a sandy beach and singing; their half-naked bodies observed from above, from the sun’s perspective, as if humankind were insects, finding parallels with the temporality of the colossal body – the body of the Earth” said librettist Vaiva Grainytė on behalf of the artistic team. “The libretto of the piece is set as a mosaic of stories, inner monologues, dreams and thoughts, sung in solos and as a chorus by the beachgoers. This ‘soup’ of stories might sound mundane and carefree, however, in this liturgical, poppy, and synthetic ocean of songs one can feel an impending threat. The picture of enjoyable holidays belies the consequences of this inertia – planetary resources being extracted as if sipping fizzy Piña Colada.”

*Sun & Sea* is the second collaboration for these three artists who focus on the relationship between documentary and fiction, reality and poetry, and how theater, music and the visual arts intertwine. Their previous work, the contemporary opera *Have a Good Day!* for 10 cashiers, supermarket sounds, and piano, premiered in 2013 and is touring worldwide.

## 2021 SUN & SEA TOUR DETAILS

**September 15—26**

**BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)**

321 Ashland Pl.

Brooklyn, NY

Tickets \$25

[bam.org/sun-and-sea](https://bam.org/sun-and-sea)

*Sun & Sea* inaugurates BAM’s fall season which features a fresh and forward-looking lineup of US premieres by artists from around the world in their BAM debuts. Like *Sun & Sea*, each artist will unleash their imagination at the BAM Fisher, exploring new ways to activate the space in unprecedented ways.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor. Leadership support for *Sun & Sea* provided by Compass. Leadership support for BAM Access Programs provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation. Leadership support for BAM Visual Art provided by Toby Devan Lewis. Leadership support for theater at BAM provided by The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc.; The SHS Foundation; and The Shubert Foundation, Inc. Major support for *Sun & Sea* provided by the Arthur F. & Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation. Major support for female creators in the Fall 2021 Season provided by the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

### **September 30—October 3**

#### **Arcadia Exhibitions** (As part of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival)

The Budd

3431 Fox St.

Philadelphia, PA

Tickets \$25

[gallery.arcadia.edu/Sun&Sea](http://gallery.arcadia.edu/Sun&Sea)

Arcadia Exhibitions at Arcadia University is pleased to announce its presentation of *Sun & Sea* as part of the 2021 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Blurring the lines between music, theater, poetry, and visual art, the Philadelphia presentation of the work will feature a custom built set for the original cast, joined by non-singing beachgoers sourced from the community with opportunities to volunteer. Major support for *Sun & Sea* to come to Philadelphia has been provided to Arcadia Exhibitions by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, with additional support from Arcadia University.

### **October 6—9**

#### **The Momentary**

507 SE E St.

Bentonville, AR

Tickets \$20 General Admission; \$16 Members; Free for youth ages 12 and under. (Ticket sales open August 27, 9 a.m. CT for members, August 30 at 9 a.m. CT to the general public.)

[themomentary.org/calendar/sun-and-sea/](http://themomentary.org/calendar/sun-and-sea/)

The Momentary, a satellite to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, is thrilled to welcome *Sun & Sea* to the Heartland. Bringing the beach indoors in a decommissioned cheese factory turned contemporary art space, the Momentary will transform their interior Tower space to an unconventional and spectacular theater, offering unique perspectives and aerial views to audiences.

### **October 14—16**

#### **Presented by the Hammer, MOCA, and CAP UCLA**

#### **The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA**

152 North Central Avenue

Los Angeles, CA

Tickets \$25 General Admission; \$20 Member Presale (Ticket sales open September 14-16 for members, September 17 to the general public.)

[moca.org/exhibition/sun-sea](http://moca.org/exhibition/sun-sea)

Making its West Coast debut, *Sun & Sea* in Los Angeles will be installed at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and transform the Frank Gehry-designed former warehouse space into a sunny day at the beach. The touring vocalists will be supported by members of LA-based choral group Tonality, best known for concerts on themes of social justice. The haunting yet catchy songs contemplate the impact of humans on the environment, presenting the urgent climate change conversation in a new light.

About the artists:

**Rugile Barzdžiukaite** works as a filmmaker, theater director and visual artist. In her creative practice, Barzdžiukaite explores the gap between objective and imagined realities, while challenging an anthropocentric way of thinking in a playful way. Her recent full-length documentary film-essay *Acid Forest* was awarded at the Locarno International Film Festival among others, was shown at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, Lincoln Center in NYC, American Film Institute festival in LA and many other events and venues for cinema and contemporary art. *Sun & Sea* is her latest collaboration in the medium of performance.

**Vaiva Grainytė's** text-based practice shifts between genres, interdisciplinary theater works and publications. As a writer, playwright, and poet she takes action as an observant anthropologist: challenged by Grainyte's poetic interpretation, mundane social issues take on a paradoxical and defamiliarized nature. Her book of essays *Beijing Diaries* (2012) and the poetry collection *Gorilla's Archives* (2019) were nominated for the Lithuanian Book of the Year awards, and included in the top twelve listings of the most creative books in Lithuania. Her oeuvre has been translated into more than 10 languages. Her upcoming, bilingual, cross-genre novel, *Roses and Potatoes* (2022), deconstructs the contemporary enforcement of happiness.

**Lina Lapelytė's** performance-based practice is rooted in music and flirts with pop culture, gender stereotypes and nostalgia. Her works engage trained and untrained performers often in an act of singing through a wide range of genres such as mainstream music and opera. The singing takes the form of a collective and affective event that questions vulnerability and silencing. Her recent and upcoming shows include Cartier Foundation, Paris, Tel Aviv Museum of Art; RIBOCA2 – Riga biennale; Tai Kwun, Hong Kong; Glasgow International; Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels; Kaunas Biennale, Lithuania; Pompeii Commitment and Castello di Rivoli, Italy.

Each engagement will adhere to Covid-19 safety protocols. Please check with each venue accordingly.

Originally produced by Neon Realism

Producer, Aušra Simanavičiūtė.

Associate Producer and Stage Manager, Erika Urbelevič.

Co-Commissioned by the Momentary, Bentonville (AR), Goethe-Institut; Münchner Kammerspiele; National Gallery of Art, Vilnius; Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts; Staatsschauspiel Dresden; Hosting venue: Akademie Schloss Solitude

Commissioned for the Lithuanian Pavilion at the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, 2019 by Rasa Antanaviciute

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Sponsored by JCDecaux

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**ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the biennial, Made in L.A., the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

**HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free, made possible through the generosity of benefactors Erika J. Glazer and Brenda R. Potter. Museum hours are subject to change and visitor capacity is limited. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking \$7 (maximum 3 hours) or \$7 flat rate after 6 p.m. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.