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## FROM A CREEPY BARBIE PERFORMANCE TO A MULTITASKING TRAVEY EMIN, HERE ARE 12 MUST-SEE EVENTS AT PERFORMA 17

By Caroline Goldstein & Sarah Cascone, November 2, 2017



Performa, New York City's performance art biennial, doesn't do anything halfway. Performa's seventh edition kicked off last night with its annual gala, which this year honored the performance artist Yoko Ono. Although the artist herself was not in attendance, she was well represented through restagings of many of her most important works—so many, in fact, that Performa's founder, RoseLee Goldberg, admitted she had lost count. "I think there are 14," she told artnet News. "We don't do things in small measures."

Guests were invited to hang their wishes on an Ono Wish Tree, and to bang away on Painting to Hammer a Nail, one of Ono's instructional pieces. The evening ended with a rousing performance of John Lennon's 1971 song "Imagine," for which Ono recently received a songwriting credit.

STEVEN  
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It had already been a busy day for the performance art biennial, which earlier unveiled Barbara Kruger's Untitled (Skate) at Coleman Skatepark on the Lower East Side. The installation is one of several works the artist is contributing to this year's event, including a roving bus, High Line billboard, and specially designed MetroCard.

"I said to Barbara, 'Let's take New York,'" Goldberg said. "It was a great way to start the day: Freezing cold under the Manhattan Bridge. Her signage is amazing, and there were all these kids skating back and forth."

Performa 17 events are scheduled across the city until November 19. Here is a list of the performances you can't miss.

2. Teju Cole, Black Paper, November 2–4 at BKLYN Studio at City Point

The writer and photographer has penned award-winning essays and shown his work in galleries around the world, but nothing quite compares to the vulnerability of performing in front of a live audience, as artnet News learned recently. If you only make it to one performance this year, let it be Black Paper, a multimedia response to the 2016 election in which Cole will project his photographs and videos onto large scrimms accompanied by live readings.

445 Albee Square West, Brooklyn; \$25 general admission, \$15 student; Thursday, November 2, 7 p.m.; Friday, November 3, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.; Saturday, November 4, 7 p.m.