

## ***How Can We Sleep?*** **Paz Perlman**

July 11th, 2024, opening at 11:00 am

July 11th – 20 October 2024



**Paz Perlman** presents *How Can We Sleep?* at **ARKIV the Institute of Contemporary Art, Peja**

ARKIV the Institute of Contemporary Art is proud to announce the opening of the exhibition by artist Paz Perlman, titled *How Can We Sleep?* The exhibition will open to the public on July 11, 2024.

*How Can We Sleep?* is a site-specific exhibition intended as an urgent wake-up call to prevent runaway climate change. Amidst record temperatures around the world, Perlman's work underscores the urgent need to transform our way of seeing and connecting. The exhibition challenges our obsession with individualism and nationalism, which have led us to believe we are separate from each other and nature. Perlman posits that true happiness is unachievable while others suffer and that our health and the health of the planet are inseparable. It is therefore vital to reconnect with Mother Earth and our common humanity.

A particular focus of the exhibition is on our forests, which are being decimated by logging and repurposed for agriculture and animal grazing. Perlman reminds us of our intimate relationship with trees – they hold the ground together, inspire awe, provide shelter and food, and produce the oxygen we breathe.

The name of the exhibition is inspired by a popular activist song from the 1990s by the band Midnight Oil. Originally highlighting social injustice against Aborigines in Australia, the song was later rewritten as an anthem by 60 well-known artists ahead of the global climate negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009. The song is introduced by Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, who is pictured in the entrance of the Arkiv Institute during his visit to the school.

*The time has come  
To take a stand  
It's for the Earth  
It's for our land  
The time has come  
A fact's a fact  
The heat is on  
No turning back  
How can we dance when our earth is turning  
How do we sleep while our beds are burning*

Each installation offers a unique perspective on the urgency of environmental and social change, encouraging visitors to reflect deeply on their role in these global issues.

The installation is made possible with support of the Autostrada Biennale and the production team at Autostrada Hangar.

**Opening Event:** The exhibition will open on July 11, 2024, at ARKIV the Institute of Contemporary Art with an opening reception from 11 AM to 5 PM. Paz Perlman will be present to discuss the works and the themes they explore.

### About Artist

Paz Perlman is an internationally renowned artist known for her compelling and socially engaged artworks. Her work often addresses critical global issues, encouraging viewers to confront uncomfortable truths and consider their impact on the world. Paz Perlman's early life was shaped by war, loss and migration. This has created an urge, through her works, to heal the space where time and events leave their traces and scars; a fragile and unfolding process of discovery.

A media profile in the HuffPost said that "Perlman's multimedia sculptures and bricolage are born of a desire to piece together history. Not just her history, but a blanket of past trauma and pain that's wound its way in and out of Perlman's life."

Paz's artistic practice is influenced by her spiritual quest. She left Israel, her home country, at the age of 19 to spend a year in an Indian Ashram before moving to Los Angeles to train in Tai Chi and has studied with Buddhist masters in various traditions for the past three decades. She is a member of the Order of Interbeing in the lineage of the world-renowned Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh.

Paz began her career as a dancer and changed direction to become a visual artist. She initially emphasized traditional methods and materials such as carving stone and casting bronze.

A radical change in her artistic practice transformed her subject matter and process, resulting in works that express impermanence and the fragility of our existence, represented in installations, collages, painting and prints using a broad range of mixed media and found objects.

Currently, Perlman is integrating the existential challenges faced by the climate emergency into her work, with a focus on large scale installations. Perlman studied initially at Beeldhouden Art school in Amsterdam and after moving to the UK, completed a two year course at the Art Academy, London, before graduating with a BA in Fine Arts from Central St Martins, University of Arts, London. Paz moved to New York, opening a studio in 2015 and exhibiting in a number of group and solo shows in galleries in the city, as well as continuing to show internationally. Her work is held in public and private collections in the US and Europe. In 2020 she moved to live next door to the Plum Village Zen monastery of Thich Nhat Hanh in the South of France, where she works from her studio, converted from an old winery. Perlman exhibited in prestigious contemporary art galleries and museums. Her artwork has been showcased in prominent cities such as New York, London, Miami, Oaxaca, Amsterdam, and more. Notable exhibitions featuring Perlman's work include: International mural festival, Oaxaca, Mexico; LJGallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Aqua Art, Miami, USA; Garrison Institute, New York; Plum Village climate change exhibition, France; Zero Hour Climate change online exhibition, London; Oaxaco Covid project, Oaxaco, Mexico; Robert Blackburn Gallery, New York; Equity Gallery, New York; Happylucky No. 1 Gallery, New York; Maggi Peyton Gallery, New York; LJGalerie, Amsterdam; ODETTA Gallery, New York; National Academy, New York; Elizabeth Gardens, New York; HappyLucky No 1 Gallery; Chinatown Soup Gallery, New York.

## About ARKIV

ARKIV, the Institute of Contemporary Art, is the first public institution dedicated to contemporary art in the Peja region. By bringing together local, national, and international artists across all disciplines, ARKIV will be a center for advanced research, critical thinking, experimentation, and dialogue.

ARKIV aims to offer visitors an unparalleled experience of culture and contemporary art. It will examine the past through collection and archiving, inform the present through exhibitions and production, and inspire the future through education and development. This institute will contribute to the advancement of contemporary art in Kosovo through direct engagement of artists and the public, creating exhibitions and programs that communicate the transformative power of art in our time.

A fundamental value of ARKIV is the promotion of opportunities for public dialogue about art and the ideas that artists generate, making their work part of a national and international conversation. It serves as a special place and a unique platform for discourse and engagement in a society where members of different ethnic, racial, religious, or social groups preserve and develop their traditional cultures.

At ARKIV, there is a belief in fostering community building by bringing people together through art and ideas, recognizing that art is a human necessity and the sharing of its experience promotes collective engagement and international dialogue. ARKIV will be an institution that collects, preserves, organizes, and publishes historical values. The history of Kosovo and beyond has been primarily produced but consumed and documented to a lesser extent. Therefore, ARKIV sees itself as an archive that proposes a space for discussion on contemporary art from Kosovo and beyond.

ARKIV, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Peja, is a non-profit public NGO founded in 2018 by artist Sislej Xhafa. ARKIV is in the current public school "Vaso Pash Shkodrani." The building of this school dates back 1946, serving as the first primary school in Peja, and is strategically located near the city's national park.

The image: *My guts tells me*, 2019 found object, plastic gloves, paint

### AGENDA

Launch of ARKIV and Exhibition Agenda

Press conference: July 11th at 11:00 - 12:00.

Opening of the exhibition: July 11th 2024 11:00 – 17:00.

Duration of the exhibition: July 11th – October 20th 2024

### ARKIV

Working Hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 12:00 - 17:00

+ 383 49 190 554

School, "Vaso Pashë Shkodrani"

str. "Fehmi Agani", 30,000

Peja, Kosova

[info@arkivi.org](mailto:info@arkivi.org)

[www.arkivinstitut.com](http://www.arkivinstitut.com)

#### • Media Contact

Rea Kurtaj

+383 49 261 264

[info@arkivi.org](mailto:info@arkivi.org)

A special thank you to Din Begolli, Kulla e Zenel Beut and Dugagjini Printing House.

Supported by:



MINISTRIA E KULTURËS  
RINISË DHE SPORTIT



Komuna e Pejës  
Municipality of Peja  
Opština Peć

Production Partner:



AUTOSTRADA BIENNALE HANGAR