

Performance Specification	
Artist:	Title:
Acc. No:	Year:
Medium:	
Dimensions:	
Description of Work (include image and an artist statement, as applicable)	
External Factors influencing the performance either in creation or display	
Consider any factors that influenced the creation of the performance: social, economic or political	
Consider any current external factors that would influence or change the performance context	

### **Requirements for Documentation**

This is a list of requirements for documentation when the work is performed. This is either specified directly by the artist or a conservation requirement to ensure the ongoing historical capture of the work.

#### **Artwork Requirements**

This section should outline the constant aspects of the artwork, being specific to the conditions/requirements of the work.

- 1. What specific artist conditions are there around the performance?
- 2. What are the overarching principles of the artwork?
- 3. How flexible are these overarching principles?
- 4. What are the constant elements of the performance?
- 5. What are the elements of the performance that are in flux?
- 6. What physical and temporal dimensions if any does the artist require?
- 7. What decisions must the artist be consulted on?
- 8. What documentation conditions are there and what is considered 'accurate' documentation?
- 9. What are the necessary environmental conditions for the installed work?
- 10. What are the legal conditions of presenting the work?
- 11. What are the health and safety conditions of presenting the work?

# Time-based Media Conservation Performance Specification



#### Space

- 1. Where is the piece performed?
- 2. Who chooses which space is used, and how?
- 3. How flexible is the space in which the work can be performed?
- 4. What are the necessary dimensions of the space and what might the implications of limitations in the space be? How flexible does the space need to be?
- 5. What are the environmental conditions and needs necessary for the space?
- 6. What access is needed within the space?
- 7. What are the health and safety implications of the space?
- 8. What legal issues might there be around the space?
- 9. What is the impact of the space on the work?
- 10. What other works might the performance share the space with, and what are the implications of these?
- 11. What is the layout of the audience in the space?
- 12. What considerations need to be made around the audience's comfort in the space?
- 13. Where has the work been performed before?

#### Time

- 1. What is the duration of the piece?
- 2. How flexible is the duration?
- 3. How dependent is the duration of the work on the participation and presence of the audience?
- 4. How often, if at all, does the work repeat?
- 5. How is the end of the performance signalled?
- 6. Is there a rehearsal period?
- 7. What is the schedule for a performance day?
- 8. What is the schedule for the lead up to the performance?
- 9. What needs to happen before the work can be enacted?
- 10. Is the work done in shifts and how are these formatted?
- 11. What is the relationship between the work and the museum's opening hours?
- 12. How can the experience of the work be maintained if the 'official' duration is not achievable?
- 13. How can we influence the time spent engaging with a performance, without being prescriptive?
- 14. What are the implications in terms of manging change across the life span of this artwork? Does the artist always need to be involved?
- 15. How much time is needed to install or de-install the performance?
- 16. How is the end of the performance signalled? Is this not a requirement?

#### Physical Components (TIBM Elements)

- 1. Are there any physical components of the work?
- 2. What objects are needed for the work?
- 3. What status do the objects have?
- 4. What are the specifics of the objects?
- 5. How are these objects sourced?
- 6. What objects does the work produce and what happens to these after the performance?
- 7. What costs do the objects incur, both in their creation and in their storage or destruction?
- 8. Can the objects be 'remade' for future performances?
- 9. How do we manage wear and tear, and issues of replacement and repair on the objects?
- 10. How perishable are the objects and how/why might they become obsolete?
- 11. What health and safety issues might the objects present?
- 12. Are they packed suitably for transportation?



#### Performers

- 1. How many performers are needed for a single activation of the work?
- 2. How many performers are needed for the full duration of the work?
- 3. How flexible is the number of performers?
- 4. What kind of performer is needed and what skills should they have?
- 5. What physical requirements are there for the performer?
- 6. What previous experience does the performer need of the artwork?
- 7. What physical or mental support should be offered to performers?
- 8. What health and safety issues might there be for the performers?
- 9. What permissions are needed for the performers' participation?
- 10. What are the time commitments and requirements for the performers before, during and after the performance?
- 11. Are the performers remunerated for their time, and what other legal considerations are there around their employment?
- 12. How do the performers engage with the audience?
- 13. Who instructs the performers in the work?
- 14. What production roles are there around performer support?
- 15. Who has previously performed the work?

### Audience/Viewers

- 1. What is the demographic of the audience, and is this relevant to the artwork?
- 2. How do we deal with audiences beyond the museum visitor?
- 3. What happens to the work if there is no audience present?
- 4. How does the audience interact with the work?
- 5. Where should the viewers be located spatially?
- 6. What needs to happen in terms of audience engagement and managing audience knowledge around the work?
- 7. What are the rules of engagement for the performance?
- 8. How are visitors who also begin to perform approached?
- 9. What information are visitor assistants given regarding the work?
- 10. Do the audience behave in unexpected ways during the performance?
- 11. How flexible is the audience's ability to leave the performance?
- 12. How does the audience's reaction differ depending on location or situation?
- 13. Is there a limit to the number of people who can watch the performance at any one time?
- 14. What health and safety issues might there be around the audience?
- 15. Is it important that the visitor know what to expect of the artwork or is this not required?
- 16. What is the demographic of the audience, and is it relevant?
- 17. What are the expectations for participation by audience members?

#### Logistics

- 1. Who is responsible for each aspect of the performance?
- 2. Does the artist need to be involved in each performance of the work and to what extent?
- 3. How much time is needed to prepare for the activation of the work?
- 4. What are the costs of presenting the work?
- 5. What are the legal issues around activating the work?

#### **Display Costs:**

# Time-based Media Conservation Performance Specification



Note any other operational information for the artwork:	
Information to be collated to create Dossier for Transmission	
Create a list of key documentation/files that would need to be shared to enable the artwork to be fully understood and performed. Documentation for transmission would be agreed with Artist/Estate.	
Report Created:	
By:	
Date:	

'Performance Specification', published as part of Documentation and Conservation of Performance (March 2016 – March 2021), a Time-based Media Conservation project at Tate, <a href="https://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/projects/documentation-conservation-performance">https://www.tate.org.uk/about-us/projects/documentation-conservation-performance</a>

<sup>\*\*</sup> Included as part of the documentation process is the requirement to list and capture performances pre-acquisition at Tate. This document maps the previous activations. This is a separate document.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Beyond this, future activations will be captured in the 'display history' section of the artwork folder.