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ON THE POLITICAL IMAGINARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The history of performance art as a tool of political critique and a catalyst for social change remains largely unwritten. When the story is finally told, the work of Tania Bruguera should figure prominently in the account of pivotal recent developments. For the last two decades, she has devised well theorized, intellectually and emotionally compelling performative strategies to both describe and demonstrate, as she explains, “the subtlety and seductiveness of power, and our own participation in its processes”—the constellation of issues at the very heart of all collective human struggles.

It is a privilege to offer the first comprehensive exhibition and publication surveying Tania Bruguera’s art and ideas, and we are most grateful to her for the opportunity; as well, for the extraordinary spirit of collegiality she brought to the collaborative process. Helaine Posner, the Neuberger Museum of Art’s chief curator and deputy director for curatorial affairs, long an advocate for the critical, interdisciplinary art of our time, brought the full measure of her intellectual and curatorial gifts to the organization and administration of this complex exhibition and her rhetorical skills to this exemplary publication, and we thank her. Roy R. Neuberger, founding patron of the Neuberger Museum of Art and, at age 106, still a vocal advocate for younger artists, made both the exhibition and catalogue possible through his substantial support of a new annual exhibition prize that bears his name. As always, we thank him for his visionary leadership.

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Thom Collins, Director, Neuberger Museum of Art