



For Immediate Release

MEREDITH MONK FILLS MUSEUM AIR, RATHER THAN WALLS
MEREDITH MONK & VOCAL ENSEMBLE PRESENTS PERFORMANCE
AT THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM ON MARCH 5

The music of 2009 Grammy Award nominated Meredith Monk will fill two New York museums in the coming months. On March 5, the Guggenheim Museum will host the New York premiere of "Ascension Variations," a site-specific version of Monk's most recent work, "Songs of Ascension." Monk's radical transformation of the Guggenheim rotunda and galleries recalls "Juice," the history-making work that the composer, choreographer and multi-disciplinary artist created for the Guggenheim in 1969.

ABOUT THE GUGGENHEIM: The snail-like spiraling galleries of the Guggenheim Museum will be magically transformed by "Ascension Variations," Monk's adaptation of her most recent work, "Songs of Ascension," to the Guggenheim's unique geometry. The work was inspired by Monk's fascination with the symbols of ascension and circling that are integral to most spiritual practices, both religious and secular. For "Songs of Ascension," Monk composed movement and sound that is constantly shifting and changing, evolving and expanding. The work radiates with Monk's singular wit, humanity and physicality. In addition to voice, Monk's luminous score includes a string quartet (led by Todd Reynolds), winds and percussion. The costumes are by Yoshio Yabara and the lighting design by Tony Giovanetti. "Ascension" was previewed at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis this past June, followed in October and November by performances in California at the Ann Hamilton Tower at the Oliver Ranch in Sonoma County, Stanford University in Palo Alto and the Redcat in Los Angeles. To celebrate her original work at the Guggenheim, Monk will intersperse bits of "Juice" into the performance. "Ascension Variations" is part of the Guggenheim's *The Third Mind Live*, a series that features world-renowned practitioners in dance, music, performance art and theater. The series is presented in conjunction with the exhibition *The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989* on view at the Guggenheim Museum through April 19.

"Ascension Variations" will be performed at 6:30pm and 9pm on March 5. Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$40 for members and \$20 for students, and can be purchased online at guggenheim.org or by calling the Box Office at 212-423-3587 between 1pm and 5pm.

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