

WIDEWALLS

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13 New York Venues Welcome A Survey Of John Giorno Art This June!

By Angie Kordic



In 2015, Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone staged a one-of-a-kind declaration of love at Palais de Tokyo – an artwork in form of an exhibition entirely dedicated to his husband, John Giorno. Appropriately titled *UGO RONDINONE: I ♥ JOHN GIORNO*, this amorous expression will now continue throughout the city of New York, as thirteen artistic venues will host its sequel this June! Bearing the same name, the show is described as “a kaleidoscopic retrospective that includes items from Mr. Giorno’s archive, as well as works by his collaborators and Mr. Rondinone.”

One of a Kind

A performance artist, AIDS activist, fundraiser, poet and a long-time practitioner of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, the 80-year-old John Giorno has been an important figure of the New York’s downtown art. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he first became prominent in Andy Warhol’s silent film *Sleep* from 1963, which will also be on view in the *I ♥ John Giorno* exhibition. Two years after that, he founded a non-profit production company, Giorno Poetry Systems, in order to bring poetry to new audiences using innovative technologies. He has been the husband of Ugo Rondinone for two decades now.

I ♥ John Giorno

On display as part of the *I ♥ John Giorno* exhibition, the visitors will be able to see Ugo Rondinone’s 2011 video work *Thanx 4 Nothing*, which features John Giorno reading his poem of the same name, as well as a restating of Giorno’s *Dial-a-Poem*, a 1969 piece that was included in the Museum of Modern Art’s 1970 exhibition *Information* and that invites people to call a number and hear recorded poems by William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and John Cage, among

