



NOGUCHI: BODY-SPACE DEVICES

A collection-based survey of Isamu Noguchi's sculptures that connect body to space is now on view.

In September, it will be transformed into 'Brendan Fernandes: Contract and Release.'

WHAT

Noguchi: Body-Space Devices, an installation from the Museum's collection, opens on May 15 and remains on view through the summer, prior to being transformed by artist and Martha Graham-trained dancer Brendan Fernandes in September. Titled *Brendan Fernandes: Contract and Release*, this new exhibition will include six versions of a "training device" for dancers that Fernandes has designed. Dancers will perform with the devices several times over the course of the exhibition.

WHEN

Noguchi: Body-Space Devices opens May 15, 2019

Brendan Fernandes: Contract and Release opens September 11, 2019

WHERE

The Noguchi Museum 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City, New York



EXHIBITION

At the heart of Isamu Noguchi's conception of sculpture is the production of a powerful set of invisible motive forces between object, viewer, and space. *Noguchi: Body-Space Devices* comprises thirty works from The Noguchi Museum's collection. They have been selected to create a platform for understanding what it means to develop a culture of movement through objects that inspire play, an awareness of our place in the order of things, and empathy. The works on view in the exhibition reflect Noguchi's lifelong interest in turning sculpture into a civic practice, from motivating the movement of an individual body in relationship to an object, or the flow of a company of dancers seeking collective meaning from a set, to social progress.

In September, *Body-Space Devices* will be reconfigured as the site of a multidisciplinary collaboration with artist Brendan Fernandes (b. 1979). He will add custom-designed scaffolding to the existing installation as a means of reframing it, along with six versions of a "training device" for dancers, based on the rocking chair Noguchi designed for Martha Graham's *Appalachian Spring*. By weaving Noguchi's, Graham's, and his own vocabularies of movement together, Fernandes takes aim at the cultural assumptions that are instilled in us through the physical habits of being we absorb consciously and unconsciously as we learn and grow. Dancers will activate the devices several times over the course of the exhibition.

NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist's archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi's art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator. noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

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