



## ARAHMAIANI'S *FLAGS PROJECT* COMES TO THE STREETS OF CHARLESTON



World-renowned Indonesian artist Arahmaiani will present her community-based, ecologically-driven street performance, the *Flags Project*, in downtown Charleston on Sunday afternoon, May 15th. Her visit inaugurates the Foundation for Spirituality and the Arts' Charleston Residency Program, which will bring artists, performers, and writers from around the world to the Holy City for creative residencies and community collaborations. The *Flags Project* has been performed in various European and Asian countries with the intent of developing collective creativity and facilitating community dialogue.

The performance will take place in conjunction with Spirited Brunch, an interfaith, self-guided food tour of numerous houses of worship in downtown Charleston. It brings together differing venues and sites, drawing a wider audience throughout the downtown neighborhoods to participate in the festivities. Echoing this form of diversity and interfaith dialogue, Arahmaiani is collaborating with volunteers organized by the Charleston Interreligious Council to participate in her street performance by carrying flags with meaningful words and symbols that communicate joy and harmony. Commencing at the College of Charleston's Alumni Center (86 Wentworth Street) around 1:30 pm, the street performance will move between various locations in downtown Charleston, stopping at landmarks, monuments, and houses of worship – reflecting on history, spiritual unity, and community. The event culminates at 3:00 pm with a brief interfaith choral performance at KKBE synagogue (90 Hasell Street). The general public is invited to walk with the performers as they traverse the sidewalks.

One of Indonesia's most seminal and respected contemporary artists, Arahmaiani has been internationally recognized for her powerful and provocative commentaries on social, political, and cultural issues. Born in 1961 in Bandung, Indonesia, she established herself in the 1980s as a trailblazer in the field of Southeast Asian performance art (although her practice incorporates a wide variety of media). Described by the *New York Times* as a "dynamic and courageous artist," Arahmaiani has been featured in over one hundred solo and group exhibitions around the world, including the Venice Biennale in 2003. In New York City, she was included in the landmark exhibition, *Traditions/Tensions*, at Asia Society in 1996, as well as *Global Feminisms* at the Brooklyn Museum in 2007. A major retrospective, *Arahmaiani: The Past Has Not Passed*, was presented at the Museum MACAN in Jakarta in 2018.

The Foundation for Spirituality and the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that aims to nurture connections between contemporary art and faith. Oriented around four main programs that include residencies, exhibitions, gatherings, and fellowships, the foundation encourages collaborations, both in-person and online, with a variety of participants, including artists, performers, writers, and theologians. We hope to reignite the union between these realms while fostering a community that inspires a more conscious and fulfilled life.

**Performance date and time:** Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm.

**Starting location:** Alumni Center, 86 Wentworth Street (entry via St. Philip's Street).

**Route:** Participants will walk to various nearby participating congregations, ending at 3:00pm at KKBE synagogue (90 Hasell Street), with a short interfaith choral performance.

**Participants:** The general public is invited to attend and walk with the performers.

**For more information about the performance:** contact Julie Hamilton at [team@fsa.art](mailto:team@fsa.art) or call 212-328-9265.

**For information about Spirited Brunch:** contact Hanna Raskin at [readthefoodsection@gmail.com](mailto:readthefoodsection@gmail.com) or call 843-817-5858.