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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAMELA Z presents the world premiere of

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

A live multi-media performance about objects (and memories)

May 20-23, 2010, Thursday – Saturday @ 8pm; Sunday @ 3pm

Z Space at Project Artaud (450 Florida St. @ 17th St., San Francisco, 94110)

Tickets: \$16-\$20 Box Office: (800) 838-3006 and brownpapertickets.com

(San Francisco, CA – April 9, 2010) **Pamela Z** – the internationally recognized, Bay Area-based composer/ vocalist, and frequent traveler – inquires: *“When you go on a trip, what do you pack? How many pairs of socks and underwear do you take? What precious things have you lost on your travels? What defines your personal sense of belonging, and of place?”*

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE explores these questions and the connections between objects, the memories that they inspire, and our sense of place through a trio of interconnected elements – a gallery installation, a live multi-media performance, and an interactive web-based component – all with shared content and materials. Source material for **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE** draws from Pamela Z’s extensive traveling and cartage experiences; supplemented by text from found sources and interviews with fellow world travelers who narrate their stories about traveling on the train and by air. **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE** does not offer a position about our connection to ‘stuff;’ it invites the audience to ponder the physical, intellectual, and emotional concept of baggage from ‘baggage’ as impediment to ‘baggage’ as treasure.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE’s first incarnation is a gallery installation currently on display at the **Krannert Art Museum** in Champaign, Illinois (exhibition dates January – May 2010). Multi-media set pieces, sculptural elements, and a video are layered with processed sounds and Pamela Z’s original compositions. Moving through the exhibit, one will come across a vintage suitcase that has a weeping woman tucked inside; people will have their bags checked (and secrets revealed) through an x-ray machine similar to the airport baggage check; and the video includes a mesmerizing landscape shot from a train enhanced by a rich, sonic score about baggage.

Tumelo Mosaka, Curator of the Krannert Art Museum, wrote in his introduction to the exhibit *“the emotional attachments to the things that surround us, as well as our memories of place together represent an extension of self-identity, while our sense of belonging remains intangible.”*

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At Z Space/Project Artaud, the gallery exhibition is transformed on the stage as a large-scale, multi-media solo work performed by Pamela Z with lighting and visual design by **Elaine Buckholtz**. In performance, the open format of the gallery exhibition is organized into a series of vignettes, or episodes, for the stage. The stage is laden with images from multiple channels of video and Pamela Z's vocals are electronically processed and tracked via interactive performance software (Max MSP and Isadora) allowing her to control both sound and video elements in real time. The result is a mesmerizing, sonic and visually layered theatrical production. Elements of the gallery exhibition will be shipped out to Z Space/Project Artaud Theatre to re-create the exhibit in the lobby of Project Artaud.

Following its Bay Area premiere in May, BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE will tour to New York for its East Coast premiere at The Kitchen (September 23-25, 2010). An interactive BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE web portal will go live on the Internet in late 2010 and will remain active indefinitely.

Pamela Z remarks "As a touring artist working with technology, I spend a substantial portion of my days carting a curious and ever-changing collection of objects around the world with me. I've become a nomadic creature, always needing to have certain possessions at the ready – and always in some stage of packing or unpacking. I have amassed countless stories with an interesting perspective on the subject of baggage, and the experience has led to a lot of self-examination and general curiosity about the attachment we develop for things we need to keep with us."

The Bay Area premiere of BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE is May 20 – 23 at Z Space/Project Artaud Theatre. It is produced in collaboration with Bay Area Video Coalition, and is made possible in part by grants from the Haas Foundation's Creative Work Fund and Multi-Arts Production Fund (MAP Fund). It is worth noting that although she has actively tours her concerts and large-scale performance works elsewhere, BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE marks Pamela Z's first large-scale multi-media performance in the Bay Area since WUNDERKABINET (2004).

[Pamela Z](#) is a San Francisco-based composer/performer and audio artist who works primarily with voice, live electronic processing, and sampling technology. She creates solo works combining experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic *bel canto*, found objects, text, digital processing, and MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound with physical gestures. In addition to her solo work, she has composed and recorded scores for dance, theatre, film, and new music chamber ensembles. Her large-scale multi-media works have been presented at venues including Theater Artaud and ODC in San Francisco, and The Kitchen in New York, and her audio works have been presented in exhibitions at the Whitney Museum in New York and the Diözesanmuseum in Cologne. Her multi-media opera *Wunderkabinet* – based on the Museum of Jurassic Technology (created in collaboration with Matthew Brubeck and Christina McPhee) has been presented at The LAB Gallery (San Francisco), REDCAT (Disney Hall, Los Angeles), and Open Ears Festival, Toronto. Pamela Z has toured extensively throughout the US, Europe, and Japan. She has performed in numerous festivals including Bang on a Can at Lincoln Center (New York), Interlink (Japan), Other Minds (San Francisco), Pina Bausch Tanztheater Festival (Wuppertal, Germany), and La Biennale di Venezia (Italy). She is the recipient of numerous awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Creative Capital Fund, the CalArts Alpert Award in the Arts, the ASCAP Music Award, and the NEA and Japan/US Friendship Commission Fellowship. She holds a music degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

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