

Saturday, January 13, 2024

## Underground Uptown Dance Festival: Ladies of Hip-Hop: Black Dancing Bodies Project: SpeakMyMind

Company: Works & Process  
Venue: Guggenheim Museum  
Location: New York, NY

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Photo: Works & Process/Titus Ogilvie-Laing

Part of an ongoing performance and documentary effort focused on Black women in street and club dance culture, this session of The Black Dancing Bodies Project continues to explore the power of the "choreopoem," a word coined in 1975 by playwright and poet Ntozake Shange (for *colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*). In *SpeakMyMind* each member of the collective responds to the question, "If I could speak my mind, what would I say?" In this world premiere, experience new writings, music, and movement spanning dance styles from African to waacking, vogue, hip-hop, and house, all curated under the direction of Michele Byrd-McPhee.

*SpeakMyMind* was commissioned by Works & Process, developed in Works & Process LaunchPAD residencies at Bethany Arts Community (2022, 2023, and 2024) and Catskill Mountain Foundation (2022), and Office Hours Residency at The Kennedy Center (2023). Iterative performances have taken place at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Jacob's Pillow, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the National Gallery of Art, SummerStage, Dancers Responding to AIDS Hudson Valley Dance Festival, and New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

*SpeakMyMind* is a 2023 New England Foundation for the Arts's National Dance Project grantee, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and Mellon Foundation.

Works & Process  
1071 5th Avenue  
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212-423-3575  
<https://www.worksandprocess.org/calendar>

Schedule  
January 13, 2024: 3:00pm, 7:00pm

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