

Friday, April 24, 2020

Works & Process at the Guggenheim presents Vogue Dance Class with Ballroom Legend Omari Wiles

Company: The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum
Venue: The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum
Location: New York, NY

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Works & Process, the performing arts series at the Guggenheim, presents a virtual Vogue Dance Class with Ballroom Legend Omari Wiles on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 6:30pm. Details are available at <https://www.guggenheim.org/event/vogue-dance-class-with-ballroom-legend-omari-wiles>.

Ahead of the fall premiere of the Works & Process commission New York Is Burning with Les Ballet Afrik, Omari Wiles, the dance company's creative director and founding father of the House of Oricci, will teach a virtual introduction to vogue dance class. Get ready to sweat and work!

The class will held be on Instagram Live (@worksandprocess). Participants should have access to a computer or phone. Participants must have an Instagram account.

To learn more about Ball culture, watch the documentary Paris Is Burning.

For more information, email info@worksandprocess.org or visit [worksandprocess.org](https://www.worksandprocess.org).

About the Fall 2020 Premiere of New York Is Burning

In 1990, the documentary Paris Is Burning was released to critical acclaim. The film chronicled New York City Drag Balls, Ball culture, and Voguing in the 1980s, capturing the elaborately structured Ball competitions and showcasing rival houses. Beyond the Ballroom, each house served as surrogate families for young Ball-walkers who faced rejection from their biological families for their gender expression and sexual orientation. The Voguing that took place at these Balls has entered mainstream culture in the years since, serving as a touch point for a multi-leveled exploration of a queer African-American and Latino subculture.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary and to pay homage to Paris Is Burning, Omari Wiles, founding father of the House of Oricci, presents New York Is Burning, a Works & Process commission made in and for the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed theater at the Guggenheim. Performed by his company, Les Ballet Afrik, New York Is Burning will bring the Ballroom to the Guggenheim and feature Wiles's AfrikFusion, a style that fuses traditional African dances and Afrobeat styles with House dance and Vogue.

New York Is Burning is commissioned by Works & Process at the Guggenheim and was supported in part by Kaatsbaan's UpStream® Residency.

Lead funding for Works & Process is provided by the Ford Foundation,

Florence Gould Foundation, the Christian Humann Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Evelyn Sharp Foundation, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City

Ousmane Wiles began his training in various African dance styles at the young age of 6. He then joined his Father and Mother - Marie Basse Wiles and Anthony Olukose Wiles - in the family company: The Maimouna Ketia School of African Dance, taking on the role of Assistant Director by the time he was a teenager. Having trained and worked with master African Dancers, Mr. Wiles' understanding of the different cultures, rhythms, and dances create the strong foundation on which his excellence stands. Venturing further into his skillset, Ousmane also has trained in other styles such as Hip-Hop, Modern, House and Vogue, affording him the chance to work with artists such as Rashaad Newsome, Janet Jackson, Goldlink, Beyoncé, John Legend, Ephrat Asherie Dance, Jidenna, Maleek Berry, Jennifer Hudson, Forces, and Naomi Campbell, just to name a few. Ousmane has been published in

Dance Magazine's "top 25 to watch

," Korean Vogue, British Vogue, The Observer, and

The New York Times. Mr. Wiles is best known as Legendary Omari NiNa Oricci, Founder of The House of Nina Oricci, and Creative Director of his company LES BALLET AFRIK.

Works & Process at the Guggenheim

Described by

The New York Times as "an exceptional opportunity to understand something of the creative process," for 35 years, New Yorkers have been able to see, hear, and meet the most acclaimed artists in the world, in an intimate setting unlike any other. Works & Process, the performing arts series at the Guggenheim, has championed new works and offered audiences unprecedented access to generations of leading creators and performers. Most performances take place in the Guggenheim's intimate Frank Lloyd Wright-designed 273-seat Peter B. Lewis Theater. In 2017, Works & Process established a new residency and commissioning program, inviting artists to create new works, made in and for the iconic Guggenheim rotunda. worksandprocess.org.

The Solomon R Guggenheim Museum
1071 5th Ave, New York, NY 10128
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6467654773
https://www.guggenheim.org/event/event_series/works-process

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