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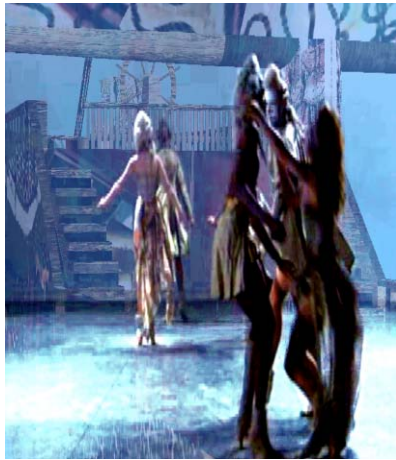
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Uncover Cultural Myths at the First SBMA Nights of the Season on April 16!



Featured activities include “The Royal Diaspora Fantasy Fete Galante, *Un Ballo* Masks, The Bronte Sisters Chokers, Afro-Pop/Nu-Jazz Remixes, The Parlour Play Portrait Studio, *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters* (and messages in bottles).

Nights events: Thursdays, April 16, June 25, and August 20, 5:30 - 8pm

Nights Atelier events: Saturdays, June 27 and August 22, 6 - 8 pm

March 24, 2009 – Santa Barbara, CA – **Nights** returns to the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) with an early start to the season on April 16 from 5:30 to 8 pm. The event continues to inspire through art-making, performance, and new media. Guests are served a cultural cocktail of art, music, specialty martinis, and outrageous one-night-only interactive happenings in the Museum’s galleries. With world-class art collections as a backdrop, **Nights** is an opportunity to both socialize and enjoy the creative play that redefines what it means to engage with

art. Each event features original participatory installations and artist-designed experiences inspired by the current exhibitions.

The April 16 **Nights** event is inspired by the current exhibition *Yinka Shonibare, MBE: A Flying Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child and Other Astonishing Works*. It will feature activities, performances, and installations throughout the Museum including The Royal Diaspora Fantasy Fete Galante, *Un Ballo* Masks, The Bronte Sisters Chokers, Afro-Pop/Nu-Jazz Remixes, The Parlour Play Portrait Studio, *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters* (and messages in bottles).

At the center of the event is the Fantasy Fete Galante, an updated and skewed version of amusements pursued by idle aristocrats in 18th century France. In the **Nights** version of these notorious gatherings, a contemporary string quartet lead by Jim Connelly is paired with Steve and Lindsay Campbell on African drums in a spontaneous collaboration. Dancers from Company XIV, a neo-Baroque dance troupe out of New York, founded by Santa Barbara native, Austin McCormick, provides theatrical dance. Shonibare inspired-costumed ballerinas Alyson Drake Leila Mattoon, and Erika Klaumann choreographed by Robin Bisio, dance on toe, with all to occur in front of an interactive multi media set created by Visions Aloud Productions with assistance from Marco Pinter for Nights premiere.

Guests are invited to play and pose with artists dressed as gender-bending nobility in the Parlour Play Portrait Studio. A Victorian Gothic/Steampunk parlour creates a twisted aesthetic honoring and blending Shonibare's challenge of aristocracy with a rebellion against tight-laced etiquette. The parlour installation also includes the *Greeting from the Grand Tour* Mural, a wall-sized postcard/visual commentary on colonialism via tourism created by an artist that paints and creates collages on stilts.

Those who visit the Continental Collisions Poetry Collective in the Luxe Lounge can participate in a live installation where poems are recited in five languages by a Tunisian, French Hip Hop Artist costumed after Shonibare's *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters* character. The selections range and originate from 14th century Persia, 21st century America, and those created spontaneously. Some of the evening's resulting works will be posted after the event on the www.sbma.net/nights website.

Born in Britain to Nigerian parents, Yinka Shonibare, MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) is recognized internationally for his provocative sculptural installations, photographs and films that contrast African and European imagery and convention. *Yinka Shonibare, MBE: A Flying Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child and Other Astonishing Works* represents the artist's first solo exhibition in the western United States, featuring an idyllic family riding human-powered flying machines modeled after 19th century drawings, alluding to the continual freedom sought by emigrants and tourists alike. Also included is a

selection of works from prominent West Coast collections, as well as several recent works that speak to cultural myths and misinterpretations of colonialism. The exhibition also marks the inaugural organizational effort for SBMA by Julie Joyce, the Museum's new Curator of Contemporary Art. The exhibition is on view from March 14 through June 21, 2009.

New this Season – Nights Atelier

New this year, SBMA introduces **Nights Atelier**, where art and performance get personal, on Saturday, June 27 and Saturday, August 22 from 6 to 8 pm. Step inside the galleries for a fresh experience - Nights' version of an artist's atelier - a studio for the imagination where the lights are lower, conversations are more intimate, and the artists are your collaborators.

Nights Atelier offers guests an intimate art experience at SBMA where participants explore the creative process in an enriching evening of art, music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. This series has a limited capacity of 200 people per event to ensure the highest quality experience.

All funds raised by **Nights** support SBMA's education programs that serve over 40,000 people through 40 different programs every year.

Nights was created by Kristy Thomas (SBMA Associate Director of Community Programs & Events), along with a team of SBMA Teaching Artists

MORE TICKET INFO:

Individual tickets for **Nights** are \$25 for SBMA Members, \$35 for non-Members.

The Nights **mARTini Card** gives guests access to dedicated bar lines, and is available exclusively to Luxe Pass holders. Each mARTini Card is good for ten drinks over the course of the 2008 Nights season. At \$70 each, they represent a \$3 discount for the cost of individual drink tickets bought at the event.

Along with dedicated bar lines positioned throughout the event, Luxe Pass holders enjoy a private entrance line to all 3 **Nights** events and access to VIP areas. Only a limited number of Luxe passes and mARTini cards are available. Prices are \$150 for SBMA Members.

New this year, Nights is offering a Luxury Package including a Luxe Pass and mARTini Card for \$200. Luxe Tickets are also available for SBMA Members for individual events at \$50 each.

Nights Atelier tickets are \$50 for SBMA Members and \$60 for non-Members which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Purchase tickets online at www.sbma.net. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is located at 1130 State Street.

NIGHTS EVENTS

Thursday, April 16, 5:30 - 8 pm

Uncover cultural myths explored in the exhibition *Yinka Shonibare, MBE: A Flying Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child and Other Astonishing Works*
The Royal Diaspora Fantasy Fete Galante, *Un Ballo* Masks, The Bronte Sisters Chokers, Afro-Pop/Nu-Jazz Remixes, The Parlour Play Portrait Studio, *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters* (and messages in bottles).



Thursday, June 25, 5:30 - 8 pm

Celebrate visual geometry, contrast and texture inspired by *Brett Weston: Out of the Shadow*
A special performance by String Theory in SBMA's back plaza, The Nude in Nature Collective Submissions, KCRW DJ Jason Bentley, Landscaping the Body: Botanical Couture, and Negative Spaces: Shadow Boxes.

Thursday, August 20, 5:30 – 9 pm

Surrender to taste, touch, sight, smell and hearing by focusing on 5: Five Works from the Permanent Collection explored through the five senses
Jardin au Petit Pont Scent Opera, The Mark: Digital Canvas Studio, *Perseus by Night* Amulets, and Candyland(scapes).

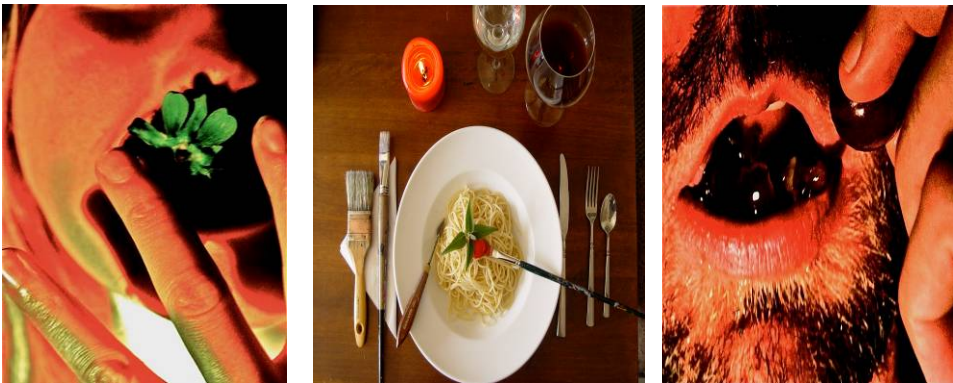
NIGHTS ATELIER EVENTS



Saturday, June 27, 6 – 8 pm

Focus on Form: Nature and the Nude

Celebrate the exuberance of the body as artists conjure, carve, stroke, slap, shape and feel their way to and from form with the site/sight specific sculpting from life studio, body as landscape over-sized photo-grams, and a provocative performance of music and dance.



Saturday, August 22, 6 – 8 pm

A Feast for the Eyes

Indulge in a spectacular food-as-art experience with a Feast for the Eyes - five visual artists paired with five chefs to create a culinary cabaret in five courses. The artists' interpretation of each course plays with the notions of taste, subverts rituals of etiquette, and slices through the symbolic layers to arrive at unexpected eating experiences, post-prandial performance and music that is definitely off the menu.

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