

**CLEAN LABOR** by Brendan Fernandes

Produced by More Art | Presented in partnership with the Wythe Hotel

**Wythe Hotel**

March 5, 2017 | 80 Wythe Ave, Brooklyn

1-2pm | Main performance staged throughout three Wythe Hotel rooms

2-4pm | Second performance + closing reception and book-signing at The Ides Rooftop Bar*The Wythe Hotel performances are free and open to the public, but RSVP is required.*<https://cleanlabor.eventbrite.com> | Support us on [Kickstarter!](#)

Created by artist Brendan Fernandes, *Clean Labor* is a contemporary dance performance that make visible what is too often overlooked — the work of hospitality workers and cleaning professionals whose contributions ensure that our homes, offices, schools, hotels, and public spaces are safe, clean, and livable.

Brendan is collaborating with members of the housekeeping staff at the Wythe Hotel in Williamsburg, Brooklyn to design an original, contemporary dance inspired by the movements and routines involved in their work. The resulting performance explores the similarities between the graceful and methodical movements of cleaning and those of dance, establishing a dialogue between these two physically demanding professions and making us all more aware of how our bodies shape and are shaped by the work we do. As the artist notes, “On stage, dancers enact romantic gestures of grace and virtuosity perceived as effortless and ephemeral, whereas in reality, these efforts leave a permanent mark on the body in muscle memory, altered physicality, and injury.”

Throughout the performances, movement artists will engage with and activate the spaces of numerous hotel rooms, shared spaces of the Wythe Hotel by reproducing the gestures of maintenance professionals within the lexicon of contemporary dance. In the hotel itself cleaning and maintenance will go on as usual both with cleaner and her/his dancer shadow. Accompanying them will be the tools of the trade such as brooms, mops, trash cans, and sanitizers contained within stylized janitorial carts that will function as a sculptural element embedded within the performance. While the piece will be rehearsed and scored, the live performance will rely on improvised movements inspired by the spatial elements of each site’s floor plan composed of numerous and interlocking corridors, galleries, cafes, bed quarters, and lounges, and the routine of the hotel’s cleaning staff.

**more about the performances.**

On Sunday, March 5, *Clean Labor* will be performed at the Wythe Hotel. Dancers will be joined by the Wythe Hotel’s cleaning staff in this very special performance. While the cleaners make up the room, the performers will take their movements and gestures as inspiration. The performance will take place in three rooms throughout the Wythe as well as in the Ides Rooftop Bar. An originally choreographed preview of *Clean Labor* will also be performed at the VIP opening of The Armory Show art fair.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please contact [jeff@moreart.org](mailto:jeff@moreart.org)  
for more information.

Brendan Fernandes is a Canadian artist of Kenyan and Indian descent. He completed the Independent Study Program of the Whitney Museum of American Art (2007) and earned his MFA (2005) from The University of Western Ontario and his BFA (2002) from York University in Canada. He has exhibited internationally and nationally including exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Art and Design New York, Art in General, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, The National Gallery of Canada, The Art Gallery of Hamilton, Brooklyn Museum, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Mass MoCA, The Andy Warhol Museum, the Art Gallery of York University, Deutsche Guggenheim, Bergen Kunsthall, Stedelijk Museum, Sculpture Centre, Manif d'Art: The Quebec City Biennial, The Third Guangzhou Triennial and the Western New York Biennial through The Albright-Knox Art Gallery. Fernandes has been awarded many highly regarded residencies around the world, including The Canada Council for the Arts International Residency in Trinidad and Tobago (2006), The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Work Space (2008), Swing Space (2009) and Process Space (2014) programs, and invitations to the Gyeonggi Creation Center at the Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Korea (2009) and ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany (2011). He was a finalist for the Sobey Art Award Canada's pre-eminent award for contemporary art. (2010), and was on the longlist for the 2013 and 2015 prize. He was a 2014 recipient of a Robert Rauschenberg Residency Fellowship. A national Canadian tour of his work recently concluded and will culminate in a monograph produced by Black Dog Press in London this fall. He is currently artist in residence and faculty at Northwestern University in the Department of Art Theory and Practice.

#### ABOUT MORE ART

More Art commissions groundbreaking artists to create public art projects that engage communities across New York City. For over a decade, we've worked with seminal artists including Joan Jonas, Pablo Helguera, Dread Scott, Andres Serrano, and many more to produce and present innovative works of public art that serve as platforms for open dialogue and catalysts for new ideas and strategies in the pursuit of social justice. This, in addition to our outreach, education, and engagement programs have made More Art a leader in the New York City cultural community.

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