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ARTS INSTITUTE WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA: www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu
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IMAGES: uwmadison.box.com/s/izo0x8e7kl22lmx6em1f

STRUT! EVENT WEBSITE: go.wisc.edu/strut | #strutuwmadison
STRUT! PROMOTIONAL VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YglJiZwRcmAo
(Produced by Aaron Granat)

STRUT!, a community arts procession around the Capitol Square in Madison, to take place on Saturday, May 2

MADISON—The University of Wisconsin–Madison Arts Institute, the School of Human Ecology, and the Madison Children’s Museum invite the public to come and see STRUT! on Saturday, May 2 around the Capitol Square. STRUT! is a community arts procession showcasing the expressions and collaborations of over thirty of Madison’s creative and cultural groups through stilt walking, dance, music, design, puppetry, and more. It will include special guests the Brooklyn Jumbies, a stilt dancing/walking group, and Tsitsisistas/So'tao'o (Northern Cheyenne) multidisciplinary artist Bently Spang (MFA, UW-Madison) who will lead a ‘dance-off’ at the Madison Children’s Museum after the procession. (Full program and schedule below.)

STRUT! is the culmination of Laura Anderson Barbata’s Spring 2015 Interdisciplinary Arts Residency and her course “Community Arts Practice.” For the past three months, Barbata and her students have been facilitating collaborations among groups on and off campus through weekly Community Conversations and community outreach including hosting workshops at the Goodman Community Center and the Lussier Community Education Center and presentations at the Overture Center for the Arts. The Madison Children’s Museum has also been a key community partner and has hosted Barbata for numerous events and encouraged visitors to make masks and costumes for STRUT!
Deb Gilpin, president of Madison Children’s Museum, talks about the museum’s collaboration:

“STRUT! is right in line with our mission. We make space to nurture creativity and play, in a central place where kids and families from all communities can celebrate together—and strut their stuff! The new Funkyard, behind the museum, was made for projects like this. And we are honored to display Barbata’s beautiful work in our museum.”

People who are interested in participating are invited to make their own costume or attend an upcoming costume-making workshop. See go.wisc.edu/strut for DIY costume instructions and a list of upcoming costume-making workshops.

The STRUT! event is sponsored by the UW-Madison Arts Institute and the School of Human Ecology along with community partner, the Madison Children’s Museum. Laura Anderson Barbata’s Spring 2015 UW Arts Institute Interdisciplinary Arts Residency is sponsored by the Design Studies Department and cosponsored by the Dance Department; the Art Department; the Department of Theatre and Drama; the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program (LACIS); and the Ruth Davis Design Gallery, which hosted Laura Anderson Barbata’s exhibition Transcommunality in Fall 2014.

For a full list of collaborators and confirmed participants along with an updated schedule, visit: go.wisc.edu/strut.

**Schedule – May 2, 2015**

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| 2:00pm | Procession | Capitol Square  
*(Rain location – Camp Randall Memorial Sports Center – 1430 Monroe Street)* |
| 3:00-4:30pm | Celebration and dance-off  
Madison Children’s Museum Funkyard | 100 N. Hamilton Street  
General admission: $8.00 | Free for STRUT! participants |
| 5:00pm | Laura Anderson Barbata and Brooklyn Jumbies meet & greet and book signing*  
The Edgewater - The Café | 1001 Wisconsin Place |

Note: In the event of rain, STRUT! will be held in the Camp Randall Memorial Sports Center (CRSC), also known as The Shell. The CRSC is located at 1430 Monroe Street, adjacent to Camp Randall Stadium.

* Laura Anderson Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies will be signing copies of Transcommunality: Interventions and Collaborations in Stilt Dancing Communities, available on Amazon.com. A small number of books will be available at the event for purchase by cash or check, however we recommend that people purchase a book in advance and bring it with them to the signing.
BIOGRAPHIES

Laura Anderson Barbata

Born in Mexico City, Laura Anderson Barbata lives and works in Brooklyn and Mexico City, where she is Associate Professor at the Escuela Nacional de Pintura, Escultura y Grabado “La Esmeralda” of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes and a member of the National System of Artists, Mexico.

Barbata creates community collaborations and public art performances that address social issues through blending art, dance, music, and design. Her work has included stilt dancing/walking traditions and artisans from the Caribbean, Mexico, West Africa, and evolving groups in Brooklyn. She has initiated projects with indigenous peoples in Mexico and South America. Her work is included in various private and public collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York City, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Mexico City, and Landesbank Baden-Württemberg in Stuttgart.

For more information on Laura Anderson Barbata, visit:
www.lauraandersonbarbata.com

Special Guests—The Brooklyn Jumbies

The Brooklyn Jumbies perform numerous cultural elements of the African Diaspora including stilt walking, folk/traditional African drum and dance, fire breathing, limbo dancing, and much more. They have collaborated with Barbata since 2007, most notably in the project Intervention: Wall Street (link to video below) and Jumbie Camp performed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The founders, Ali Sylvester and Najja Codrington, hail from Trinidad and Barbados, and now reside in Brooklyn. Their mission is to spread cultural awareness and hands on practice of their rich African and Afro-Caribbean traditions.

For more on information on the Brooklyn Jumbies, visit:
www.brooklynjumbies.com

Intervention Wall Street:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=84E877vGkpc
**Special Guest—Bently Spang**

Bently Spang is a Tsistsistas/So’taeo’o (Northern Cheyenne) writer, curator, educator, and multidisciplinary artist whose mediums include mixed media sculpture, performance, video, and installation. His work is exhibited widely in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and South America and in permanent collections of numerous museums throughout the United States. By combining organic and non-organic matter into sculpture, infusing performance with ironic humor and pushing the boundaries of video and installation, he creates indigenous cultural spaces and expresses himself as a contemporary Cheyenne. Spang was the American Indian Studies Eminent Artist in Residence at the University of Wyoming in the spring of 2014. During his residency, he directed and created Tekcno Powwow III (link to video below). His work is currently being shown in the group exhibition, *The Plains Indians Artists of Earth and Sky*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Spang received his MFA degree in sculpture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For more information on Bently Spang: [www.iaia.edu/museum/vision-project/artists/bently-spang/](http://www.iaia.edu/museum/vision-project/artists/bently-spang/)

*Tekcno Powwow III (University of Wyoming):* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYsw3nJRbhg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYsw3nJRbhg)

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**About the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program & Arts Institute “The Voice of the Arts”**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute’s Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program (established in 1999) provides opportunities for students and the community to meet and exchange ideas with world-renowned artists.

As a division of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Arts Institute speaks for and on behalf of the collective voice and vision of the arts at UW-Madison. We advance the arts as an invaluable resource to a vital university, and we promote all forms of artistic expression, experience, and interpretation as fundamental paths to engaging and understanding our world. The Institute’s various programs include the Interdisciplinary Arts Residency Program, Wisconsin Film Festival, Madison Early Music Festival, Arts Outreach Program, Communicating Science, Arts on Campus website, and more.

To learn more, visit: [www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu](http://www.artsinstitute.wisc.edu)

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