

**Laura Anderson Barbata  
in collaboration with the Brooklyn Jumbies  
presents**

**Intervention: Wall Street**

November 16, 2011 (New York, NY) – Artist Laura Anderson Barbata, in collaboration with the Brooklyn Jumbies, will present ***Intervention: Wall Street*** on Friday, November 18, 2011. The performance will take place on Wall Street in New York City's Financial District at approximately 12 pm.

***Intervention: Wall Street*** was conceived as a response to the dire economic crisis that became most evident in 2008 which today afflicts not only Americans but has impacted 99% of the global population. Financial speculation and banking abuses by the largest and most powerful institutions on Wall Street have brought misery to individuals, institutions and to entire countries. In this public performance, Laura Anderson Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies bring to the Financial District of New York a world wide practice to remind viewers of the global impact of this crisis and the urgent need to elevate and change the values and practices of the New York Financial Industry.

On Friday, November 18, 2011, as part of the *Moko Jumbies* project, Anderson Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies will tower over the Financial District in a performance that incorporates stilt dancers wearing 12ft high business suits, music and a collaborative spirit.

In Western Africa, *Moko* is a spirit who watches over his village, and due to his towering height, is able to foresee danger and evil. In Africa, the *Moko Jumbie* (stilt dancer) is traditionally called in to cleanse and ward off evil spirits that have brought with them disease and misfortune to a village. On the other side of the Atlantic, in Oaxaca, Mexico, the *Zancudos* (stilt dancers) perform once a year to call upon the power of their saints to receive protection, blessings, and miracles. In the same spirit of warding off evil and seeking a change in the mindset of those causing misfortune, Laura Anderson Barbata and the Brooklyn Jumbies will intervene on Wall Street.

**You are cordially invited to join and support the intervention/dance wearing a business suit.**

The performance will take place at approximately 12 pm and will last for an estimated 30 minutes. It will begin on Broadway at Bowling Green and will continue uptown to Cedar, across from Zuccotti Park and make its way back through the back streets of the Financial District to Bowling Green and Broadway.

Any additional changes and details will be announced on mx-lab's Facebook page on Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> in the morning.

**About Laura Anderson Barbata**

Born in Mexico City. Laura Anderson Barbata, an internationally recognized multidisciplinary artist, best known for her collaborative social art projects, including *Moko Jumbies*. This project, has performed in numerous venues internationally since 2001. In 2007, as part of this project, Anderson Barbata presented *Jumbie Camp*, closing down 24<sup>th</sup> Street in the gallery district of Chelsea in New York City for a street performance by 70 costumed children and members of the Brooklyn Jumbies.

Anderson Barbata currently lives and works in New York and Mexico City, where she is a Professor at the Escuela Nacional de Escultura, Pintura y Grabado La Esmeralda of the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, México. Her work has received several awards and grants by the Institute of Bellas Artes in México and beneficiary of Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte 2010-2013 of the Fondo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes. Since 1992 she has worked primarily in the social realm and has initiated projects in the Amazon of Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Norway, the USA, and Mexico. Her work is included in numerous renowned collections private and public, among them the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Museo de Arte Moderno Mexico City, and Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart, Germany.

**About the Brooklyn Jumbies**

Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. is an organization whose sole purpose is to heighten the community's cultural awareness of African/African- Caribbean culture. The Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. is comprised of young men and women, who are striving to reach, uplift, educate and provide a positive direction for the youth of today and the future. Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. performs stilt dancing, which is one of the numerous cultural elements of the African and Caribbean Diaspora. The founding members of Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. are Ali Sylvester and Najja Codrington. They are well aware that "a people without a culture is like a tree without roots." Brooklyn Jumbies Inc. has made it one of their goals to help revive knowledge, respect and pride in our traditions. The organization firmly believes that planting these seeds in the minds, hearts and spirit of the youth and the public is one of the keys to empowerment and self-determination for our people.

**About *Moko Jumbies***

This project is a multidimensional collaboration with the Brooklyn Jumbies, a stilt-walking group completely operated by volunteers. Its focus is to provide, free of charge, healthy extracurricular activities to youth, as well as to revive the art and tradition of West-African stilt-walking. The goals are achieved through artistic interventions, such as thematic development and costuming for street performances and presentations. The project began in 2001 in Cocorite, Trinidad and Tobago, with Dragon Keylemanjahro School of Arts and Culture and in 2009 the project expanded to Mexico to include Los Zancudos de Zaachila, a traditional stilt-dancing group from that honors the patron saints of Zaachila, Oaxaca.