

SOIL

CONCEIVED, CO-WRITTEN, AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL SAKAMOTO
Wednesday–Thursday, February 8–9, 2017
Strauss Hall



Photo: JaNelle Weatherford

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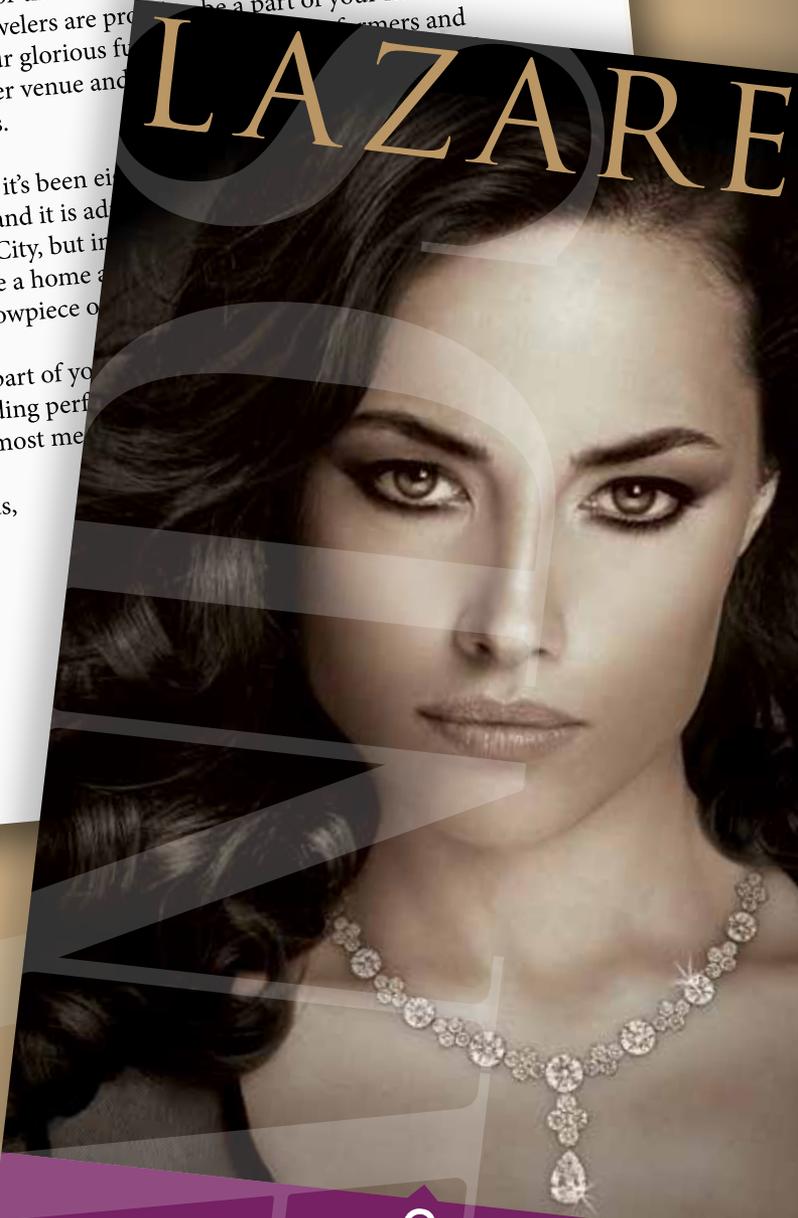
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DIRECTOR, CO-WRITER, CO-CHOREOGRAPHER

WAEWDAO SIRISOOK CHEY CHANKETHYA NGUYỄN NGUYỄN
PERFORMERS, CHOREOGRAPHERS, CO-WRITERS

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MICHAEL SAKAMOTO (director, project leader) is a transdisciplinary artist active in dance, theater, performance, media art, and photography. He is best known as an innovator in contemporary butoh, which serves as the physical and philosophical base of all of his works. Michael's ensemble and solo performances have been presented internationally in 14 countries throughout Asia, Europe, and North America, including the GAS Festival (Sweden), TACT/Fest (Japan), and Vancouver International Dance Festival (Canada). He has won grants from major funders, including the National Dance Project, Japan Foundation, Asian Cultural Council, Arts International, Meet the Composer, DanceUSA, and others. Michael began performing with legendary performance artist, Rachel Rosenthal, and is former co-founding director of the avant-garde theater ensemble, Empire of Teeth, cited by *LA Weekly* as a Best of LA. Michael is also a scholar and educator who has taught and lectured internationally and published articles. He is former Program Co-Director of the MFA-Interdisciplinary Arts program at Goddard College and currently serves as Assistant Professor in Dance at the University of Iowa.

WAEWDAO SIRISOOK is the premiere dancer-choreographer working in traditional, folk, and contemporary dance of northern Thailand. She is dedicated to developing the broad range of arts and culture from her native Lanna ("a million rice fields" in northern Thai dialect) region for international audiences. Waewdao's ensemble, solo, and guest performances have been presented throughout Thailand and in Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, China, India, Myanmar, Canada, and the USA, including such venues as REDCAT, TACTFest Osaka, Esplanade da:ns Festival, UCLA, and others. She has also performed throughout Asia, Europe, and North America as a representative of the Tourism Authority of Thailand and in commercial engagements in Thailand for nearly two decades. Waewdao's most recent solo and collaborative stage works, *Lanna Dream* and *Fauwn Leb/Identity*, are inspired by postmodern and contemporary discourse and speak to issues of the tourist gaze, globalized culture, and gendered self-exotification. She holds an MFA in Dance from UCLA, has taught performance at Chiang Mai University, UCLA, and Santa Monica College, and is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor in Dance at University of Iowa. More info at waewdaosirisook.org.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

CHANKETHYA CHEY started her classical dance training at the age of five. As one of Cambodia's top classical dancers, Kethya has performed nationally and internationally with the Cambodian Ballet Royal Troupe. In 2006, she was awarded a Choreography Arts Management Fellowship to support a three-month residency at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). In 2009 she received an Asian Cultural Council grant to participate in American Dance Festival. Kethya has worked under some of the world's leading contemporary choreographers at World Dance Alliance choreographic labs in Brisbane, Hong Kong and New Delhi and has been a featured dancer in works by Emmanuèle Phuon, Peter Chin, Arco Renz, and others who have toured extensively throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. Kethya was a soloist in *CRACK*, a contemporary Cambodian dance work by German choreographer Arco Renz that was awarded the 2012 ZKB Patronage Prize. Kethya teaches classical Cambodian dance at the Secondary School of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh and is the leader of Trey Visay (Compass), a dance ensemble consisting of nine young Cambodian dancers that aims to explore and create their own contemporary dance vocabulary. She was a 2011-2014 Fulbright and ACC grantee while earning her MFA in Dance at UCLA. Her solo performance, *My Mother and I*, was presented at the Season of Cambodia Festival 2013 in New York, and she was the Mo Ostin Performing Arts Award winner 2013.

NGUYỄN NGUYÊN is a choreographer, dance filmmaker, and educator based in Los Angeles. Nguyễn was born in Vietnam and came to the United States at seven years old. His work has been presented at Highways Performance Space, Anatomy Riot, Diavolo Space, Citrus College Dance Festival, Dancers For Life at Landis Performing Arts Center, Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, American College Dance Festival, and the Guangdong International Dance Festival in China. Nguyễn is a founding member of Los Angeles Movement Arts, an interdisciplinary arts collective. He holds an MFA in Dance and Choreography from UCLA's Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance. Nguyễn taught at Santa Monica College and Cal State LA and has worked with many artists, including David Roussève, Cheng-Chieh Yu, Katsura Kan, Simone Forti, Holly Johnston, and Maria Gillespie. He is currently on faculty at Renaissance Arts Academy and is a member of the dance theater collective, The Rock Collection.





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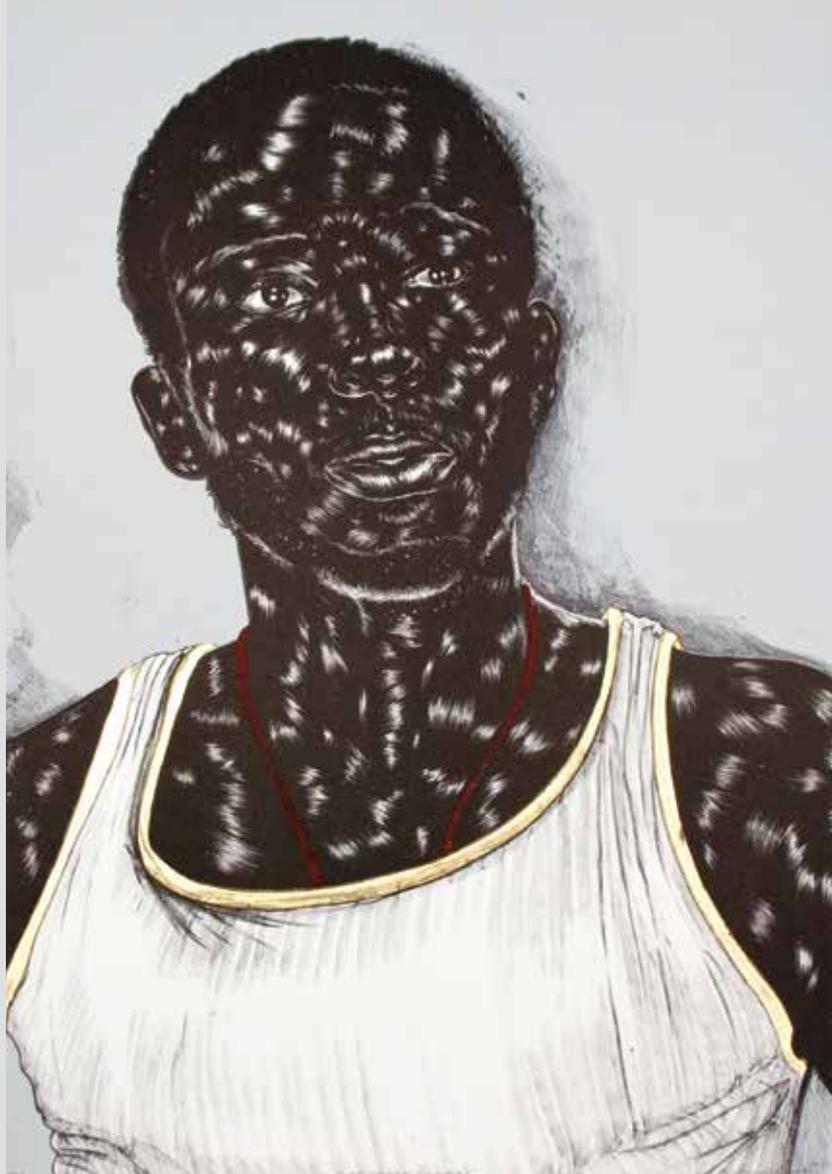
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Funding for this exhibition was provided in part by the Richard V.M. Corton, M.D., and Janet Y. Corton Exhibition Fund, the John S. and Patricia C. Koza Art Exhibition Fund, and the UIMA Members Special Exhibition Fund.

Toyin Ojih Odutola
(American, born in Nigeria, 1985–)
Birmingham (middle), 2014
Four-color lithograph with gold leaf
Museum of Art Purchase Fund, 2016.114a-c
©Toyin Ojih Odutola. Courtesy of the artist
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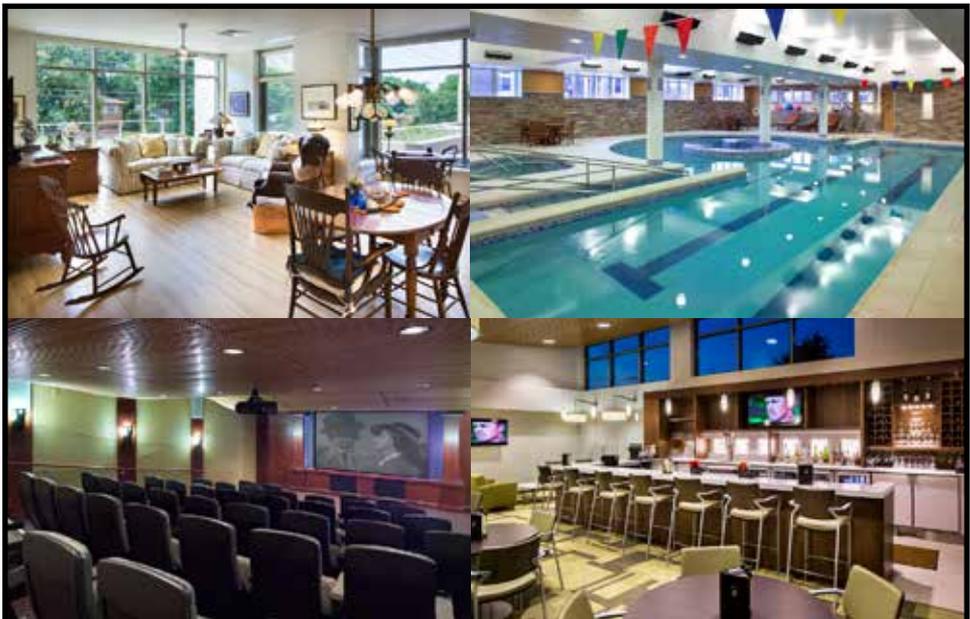
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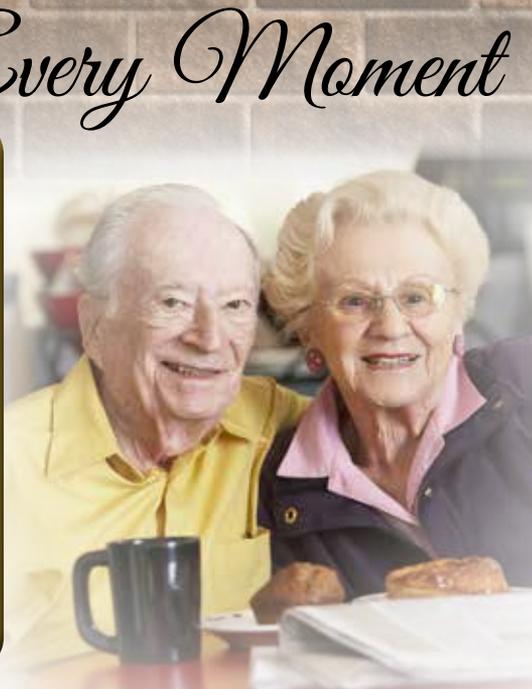
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