

PLAINS ART MUSEUM

Plains Art Museum & Philomé Productions to Host Empower Haiti Fundraiser

Press Release

For Immediate Release (September 2021)

Fargo, North Dakota – Plains Art Museum, in partnership with Philomé Productions, is hosting *Empower Haiti: Disaster Relief and Orphanage Fundraiser* from September 29 - November 2, 2021.

“These prints are a visual representation of my people and my story, which is deeply rooted in the island of Haiti. Those roots are the unwavering foundation of the man that stands before the world today as a bold and proud Haitian-American,” said Wess Philomé of Philomé Productions.

The auction and exhibition feature seven distinct and original photographic prints from Wess Philomé, an energetic, insightful, and incisive creative talent who has resided in ND for 15 years. Bidding on the photographs opens at \$500 in \$10 increments. Additionally, supporters who donate at the \$50+ level will receive a 5 x 7 in. print, and those who donate \$200+ will receive an 8 x 10 in. print. Donors can choose from two artist chosen prints.

Visit one.bidpal.net/empowerhaiti to bid. 100% of all proceeds will go directly to two verified charities in Haiti – one social service organization and one orphanage.

“Wess is that rare kind of artist who can combine the double articulation of the aesthetic and the psychological. He possesses the profound capacity to render extraordinarily private moments into recognizable realities,” said Dr. Kelvin Monroe, Coordinator of Voices of Creative Change at Plains Art Museum.

Empower Haiti: Disaster Relief and Orphanage Fundraiser was coordinated by Plains Art Museum’s Voices of Creative Change Initiative with the support, guidance, talent, and insight of the following: Artist-Activist, Wess Philomé, Coordinator of Voices of Creative Change, Dr. Kelvin Monroe, Director | CEO, Andy Maus, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections, Tasha Kubesh | Development & Marketing Manager, Sarah Anstett, Graphics | Communications Manager, Cody Jacobson, Director of Operational | Curatorial Logistics, Steve Jacobs, and the Associate Registrar, Kaitlin Molden. Finally, this event is made possible by the generous endowment support of Arlette and Richard Preston.

Plains Art Museum is the largest and only accredited art museum in North Dakota. It is your nonprofit museum and education center, supported by over 800 individuals and organizations. The Museum and its Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Center of Creativity are located at 704 First Avenue North in downtown Fargo. For more information about visiting or supporting your art museum, visit plainsart.org

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Wess Philome, *Empower Haiti*, 2018, 19 x 13 in., Digital photograph



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