



**ANNOUNCING STEPHANIE DINKINS'S *SECRET GARDEN*,
PART OF SUNDANCE NEW FRONTIER 2021**

COMMISSIONED BY NOKIA BELL LABS E.A.T., *SECRET GARDEN* WILL BE SHOWCASED FROM JANUARY 29 TO FEBRUARY 3 AT ONX STUDIO, A PROJECT OF NEW MUSEUM'S NEW INC AND ONASSIS USA



ONX Studio, a collaboration of Onassis USA and the New Museum's NEW INC, is pleased to announce the inclusion of ONX member and Nokia Bell Labs Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.) artist-in-residence

Stephanie Dinkins in the 2021 Sundance Film Festival New Frontier Program, where she joins an illustrious international group of artists working in VR and new media. Dinkins has been an integral part of the NEW INC community for nearly five years: from 2016-17 as an incubator member, from 2018-20 as an Artist-in-Residence as part of our Nokia Bell Labs E.A.T. initiative, and currently as part of our inaugural cohort of ONX Studio members.

Her project **Secret Garden** is an immersive web experience and installation, illuminating the power and resilience in Black women's stories. In the work, interactive audio vignettes generate a multi-generational narrative that collapses past, present, and future. In addition to *Secret Garden*, Stephanie Dinkins and fellow ONX members Ari Melenciano and Idris Brewster along with filmmaker Sophia Nahli Allison have been selected by New Frontier to premiere their work, *Traveling the Interstitium with Octavia Butler*, produced in association with NY Live Arts. Of the fourteen projects selected for New Frontier, four were created by NEW INC alumni and ONX members.

All the New Frontier projects will be showcased in a custom-built digital platform, and *Secret Garden* will additionally have a special in-person presentation at ONX Studio, located at 645 Fifth Avenue in New York City, with the installation designed to meet best practices of social distancing. *Secret Garden* will run with timed ticketing on January 29 to February 3, from 12-7:00 pm each day. Tickets (\$10) are now on sale [here](#).

ONX studio will have an accompanying free public program on February 2, from 11:00 am-12:00 pm EST. "**Bodies in Space: Storytelling and the Moving Image in Extended Reality**" features Tribeca Film Festival's Loren Hammonds moderating a conversation with two artists—Stephanie Dinkins and Loukia Alavanou—whose practices embrace storytelling through VR, AR, and experiential design.

ONX Studio distinguishes itself as a hybrid space where work is both created and presented. It functions as an accelerator, a subsidized production studio and workspace, and an exhibition gallery located in the Onassis Gallery of Olympic Tower in Midtown Manhattan.

Stephanie Dinkins is a transmedia artist who creates platforms about our future. Her art practice employs lens-based practices, emerging technologies, and community engagement to confront the contradictory histories, traditions, knowledge(s) and philosophies that form/in-form society-at-large, underpinning her thought and art production. Professor Dinkins holds the Kusama Endowed Chair in Art at Stony Brook University and is Artist-in-Residence at the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, 2019 Creative Capital Grantee, and a 2018 Soros Equality Fellow. *The New York Times* has featured Dinkins in its pages as an AI influencer, and she has been profiled in *Wired*, *Art In America*, and the BBC, among others.

Dinkin's *Secret Garden* is the culmination of the Nokia Bell Labs Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.) residency program that engages NEW INC alumni and Nokia Bell Labs researchers for a year-long collaboration to produce new works of art that are enabled by Nokia Bell Labs technology. Project collaborators drawn from NEW INC's alumni community include award-winning extended reality studios Sensorium and DOT DOT, and with support from Scatter, creators of Depthkit.

Secret Garden was also commissioned as part of the Eureka Commissions by Onassis USA, an initiative catalyzing forward-looking, exploratory, interrogative work within a new cultural landscape irrevocably changed by COVID-19 and a society grappling with social and racial injustice.

Credits

Lead Artist: Stephanie Dinkins

Producers: Stephanie Dinkins, Adaora Udoji, Nokia Bell Labs, Onassis Foundation, NEW INC, ONX Studio

Platform Development: Sidney San Martín

Creative Producers: Dot Dot

Lead Developers (Physical Installation): Danielle McPhatter and Ethan Edwards, Nokia Bell Labs

Creative Technologists: Dot Dot and Sidney San Martín

Technical Directors: Sensorium

Writers: Stephanie Dinkins, Jade Dinkins

Audio Production (Storytellers): Hidden Chapel Studios

3D Assets: Jessa Gillespie

Soundscape: Myda El-Maghrabi

Cast:

Visual: Brandi Porter, Dayne Board, Erlene Curry, Lisa Sainvil, Melissa Moore, Tianna Mendez

Audio: Deborah Leon, Joy Sunday, Karen Vaughn, Laura Vandiver, Leah Arscott, Stephanie Dinkins

Technical Production Support: Hard Work Party, Dirt Empire, Noel Paul

With Special Support From: Scatter, Creators of Depthkit

Production Intern: Elizabeth Pérez

Dinkins Studio Support: Neta Bomani

ABOUT ONASSIS USA

Founded in 2000, Onassis USA was the first international affiliate of the Onassis Foundation. It is dedicated to culture, community, and education, with projects that can effectively inspire social change and justice across borders. By collaborating with Onassis Stegi in Athens and educational and cultural institutions throughout the Americas, Onassis USA presents theatrical and dance productions, art exhibits, conversations, lectures, and other initiatives, triggering discussions about democratic values, human rights, civil rights, and the ever-changing realities facing today's citizens on a global scale.

ABOUT ONASSIS FOUNDATION

Onassis Foundation's mission is and will always be human-centric. Since 1975, focusing on the fields of culture, health, and education, it creates the conditions, explores the ideas, and triggers the discussions that lead to a better society. Releasing the potential of artists, scholars, and scientists, it has supported Greek programs in universities around the world; has granted more than 7,000 scholarships and research fellowships for postgraduate and doctorate studies; has continuously supported Special Education; has acquired the Cavafy Archive to ensure its openness and accessibility to researchers and the wider public; has rare book collections in the Onassis Library; has built and donated to the Greek State the Onassis Cardiac Surgery Centre (OCSC) and is currently building the much-needed Onassis National Transplant Center in Athens; has established Onassis USA (NY & LA), and last but not least, Onassis Stegi in Athens, a cultural center which hosts performances and activities across the whole spectrum of the arts from theatre, dance, music, cinema and the visual arts to the written word, with an emphasis on contemporary cultural expression. The Onassis Foundation believes in active citizens with bold ideas and optimistic dreams, and embraces process, research, study, experimentation, as well as the values of freedom, democracy and human rights.

ABOUT NOKIA BELL LABS

Nokia Bell Labs is the world-renowned industrial research arm of Nokia. Over its ninety-year history, Bell Labs has invented many of the foundational technologies that underpin information and communications networks and all digital devices and systems. This research has resulted in eight Nobel Prizes, three Turing Awards, three Japan Prizes, and a plethora of National Medals of Science and Engineering, as well as an Oscar, two Grammy awards, and an Emmy award for technical innovation. For more information, visit bell-labs.com.

ABOUT NEW INC

NEW INC was cofounded by Lisa Phillips and Karen Wong in 2013 and is the first museum led cultural incubator dedicated to supporting innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship across art, design, and technology. NEW INC's Director is Stephanie Pereira. For more information, visit newinc.org.

ABOUT NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery designed by SANAA in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

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Image: *Secret Garden*