NEBA:

Neba is a multidisciplinary researcher and designer living and working in New York City. Originally from Turkey, she is of paternal Tatar and Turkish, and maternal Albanian and Circassian descent. She introduces unique and spiritual methods and folk pieces from her ancestry and upbringing to her fashion-art pieces.

She has MS and PHD in engineering, and thinks of herself as a ‘Scientific Humanist’ and desires to bring empathy and beauty to the ways we see, perceive and interact with the world around us.

ARTIST STATEMENT | NEBA’s New Collection: FEAST

My purpose is to bring warmth and enchantment to the world through my garments. I express myself through touch & warmth: my garments carry my alphabet as it finds its voice through the fabrics and colors I bring together.

My new ‘Feast’ series is a dialogue with the world in four languages from my lineage: Circassian, Tatar, Albanian, and Turkish. In written/threaded(hidden words and drawings, I write love letters from my ancestors to the world. I call my creations: story garments.

My garments collectively represent a victorious and resilient story of my heart as I struggle to find my belonging in a faraway land through love and empathy. I am grounded and strengthened by the origins of my body and spirit.

Within my heart, there is a country that is boundless. Within my heart, there is a quivering that is thirst. Within my heart, there is hope and fear, light and dark, there is love. And it is a feast.”

nebawonders.com
**ALLISON WEISS:**

Allison Weiss is a museum disrupter. Just as the advent of User-Generated Content has democratized sharing content on the internet by eliminating unilateral control by editors or gatekeepers, Allison created a model of Community-Generated Content that democratizes the process of sharing content in a museum setting. Community-generated content can be a dance about the history of Sandy Spring, a sculpture that opines that Quakers freed their slaves because of soil depletion and not because of divine inspiration, or painting in the exhibit hall with still life composed of museum artifacts - any project that is community-initiated and led strategy of the museum to one that predicates its success on the dynamic participation of the community, whose mission is about participation instead of preservation.

Allison credits the formation of her worldview from her experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer in West Africa and her graduate school research in the Federated States of Micronesia. Observing that he who tells the story retains the power, she has dedicated her career to creating public opportunities where people can speak for themselves. Against the prevailing wisdom of the museum field, she opens the doors to museum collections to allow laypeople to interpret history, and paves the way for them to challenge the existing historical narrative of the community.

**CAMERON OKEKE:**

Cameron Okeke loves space—not the type astronauts live in; he loves everyday spaces and the norms and rules that govern them. Occupying an intersecting space of being the child of an immigrant and the inheritor of the legacy of American slavery, Cameron has always been obsessed with what makes a space safe and inclusive. Featured in Vox and NPR, Cameron is a public speaker and advocate for diversity, equity, social justice, and inclusion.

As a movement artist and performer, Cameron combines his training as a hip-hop dancer with his interest in spaces, arts, and justice to raise questions about belonging, isolation, and oppression. His obsession with spaces bleeds into his work as a researcher and ethicist where he explores the preconditions of community safety, the ethics of policing, and remedies of conflict. As a researcher at the Urban Institute, he works on projects related to creative placemaking, community violence, policing, and public health.

Born poor and black in Chicago, Cameron has spent his life in intersections, looking for spaces to heal, prosper, and grow. Unsatisfied, Cameron has used his writing, research, and performances to amplify and advocate for more inclusive space. Cameron sees his life’s work as dismantling oppressive structures and building brave inclusive spaces while centering the struggles of the most marginalized—queer black women, non-binary, and trans people.

He is a second-generation immigrant and first-generation college and Master’s graduate. Okeke holds a BA from the University of Chicago in biology and history, philosophy, and social science of science and medicine, and he received his MBE with a concentration in public policy and public safety from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Allison’s recent curated work (click) [UPROOTED: THE ART OF REFUGEES | website]

Cameron’s recent work with the Urban Institute on creative placemaking - integrating arts and culture into broken spaces, aims to inform others in understanding how creative placemaking improves community safety and how to measure these interventions’ effectiveness (click) [Report]