

Noelle Lorraine Williams
Mixed Media
The Cakewalk Soldiers' Ade
2007

The Cakewalk was a dance originated by African Americans in the 19th Century. It mocked and innovated on the European ballroom dances that whites replicated as part of their entertainment United States. Combining theatrics, African dance gestures, the dance was one of the first genuinely *American* dance and spawned a dance culture and was a staple perform in Black stereotypical minstrel shows.

This piece highlights what it means to be in between worlds: to be African, to be American, to be slave, to be captured, to be spiritually free. It also speaks to the weaving of imperialist, colonialist, master, slave and the deconstruction of static binaries.

This work is about ritual historical and contemporary – how do we forge into and understand this life.

To see is to be courageous.

Curator's Notes
African Mask – punu
Victorian Petticoats and Skirts
White Vinyl
Period piece from 1865