



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Dressing the Roots: A Live Fashion + Art Experience in the Heart of the Garment District

Haute couture by B Michael meets monumental art by Steve Tobin in a one-day-only public showcase presented by the Garment District Alliance

***** Photo op *****

WHAT: On Thursday (9/11), the Garment District will be transformed into an open-air runway for *Dressing the Roots*, a special cultural showcase pairing the worlds of fashion and sculpture. Presented by the [Garment District Alliance](#), the event will bring together the work of two renowned artists: couture designer **B Michael** and sculptor **Steve Tobin**.

B Michael's haute couture designs, originally created for the late, legendary actress **Cicely Tyson** and most recently exhibited at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, will be brought to life on the streets of the Garment District. 12 models will interact with Tobin's monumental *Steel Roots* sculptures, which embody both the unseen strength of roots and the dynamic energy of human connection.

The event underscores the power of public art and design to educate, inspire, and unite. By placing these museum-quality works directly in the streets of New York, *Dressing the Roots* invites visitors to engage with couture and sculpture in new and unexpected ways—making high art accessible to all.

WHEN: Thursday, September 11
1:00 – 2:00 PM

WHERE: Broadway pedestrian plazas between 39th and 40th Streets
Garment District, NYC

WHO:

- Garment District Alliance representatives

- **B Michael**, celebrated NYC-based designer whose works have been worn by icons including Cicely Tyson, his “MUSE”, Beyoncé, Valerie Simpson-Ashford and Phylicia Rashad
- **Steve Tobin**, internationally acclaimed sculptor behind the *Steel Roots* installation, represented by Sundaram Tagore Gallery: NYC, London, Singapore
- **Mark-Anthony Edwards**, Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO of B Michael Global
- 12 models showcasing B Michael’s couture creations, previously featured at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture

BACK- GROUND:

The **Garment District Alliance** (www.garmentdistrictnyc.com) is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1993 to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of Manhattan’s Garment District. Through programs in the areas of streetscape improvements, sanitation and public safety, marketing and promotions, economic development, and community service, the Garment District Alliance supports the neighborhood’s transformation into a modern, 24/7 destination for dining, nightlife, hotels and unique office space. For more information on the Garment District Alliance’s many art initiatives, please visit <https://garmentdistrict.nyc/>

B Michael, a Connecticut-born fashion designer, launched his namesake millinery line after studying at FIT and working under Oscar de la Renta, later debuting his first couture collection in 1999 with the guidance of Eleanor Lambert. His designs have been worn by icons including Cicely Tyson, Beyoncé, Phylicia Rashad, Lena Horne, and Ruth Carter, and he has created costumes for Whitney Houston in *Sparkle* and the Joffrey Ballet. A member of the CFDA since 1998, B Michael has received numerous honors, including the Design Visionary Award from the Lighthouse Guild and recognition from the National Congress of Black Women. In 2019, he became the first Black American luxury fashion designer to dress an Oscar recipient when Cicely Tyson wore his design on the red carpet. His 2024 memoir, *MUSE: Cicely Tyson And Me, A Relationship Forged in Fashion*, published by HarperCollins, has been celebrated by the Smithsonian and the Met and garnered national media attention. Beyond fashion, he is active in cultural and community initiatives, serves on the board of Youth America Grand Prix, and enjoys music, dance, and collecting vintage books and photography. He lives in New York City with his husband and business partner, Mark-Anthony Edwards.

Celebrated for his expansive sculptures, **Steve Tobin** seamlessly intertwines nature and industry using materials like bronze, steel, stone, glass, and ceramics. Since the 1980s, he has been at the forefront of fostering existential transformation and environmental awareness. With a background in theoretical mathematics and physics, his work is deeply influenced and guided by scientific principles and his time teaching in Japan. Among his many notable installations, in New York City, Tobin is known for *Trinity Root*, a large-scale work donated to the Trinity Church in lower Manhattan as memorial to the 9/11 attacks. Tobin’s works are featured in museums and public collections around the world, including The White House Permanent Art Collection in Washington, D.C.; the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Lausanne, Switzerland; the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; the Frost Art Museum in Miami, Florida; the Osaka Foundation in Japan; the Jing’An Sculpture Project (JISP) in Shanghai, China; the Museum of Art and Design (MAD) in New York City; and more.