

"The Barnes Foundation presents newly commissioned work by acclaimed visual and movement artist Brendan Fernandes,"
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The Barnes Foundation is proud to present the highly anticipated debut performance of "Returning to Before" by internationally acclaimed visual and movement artist, Brendan Fernandes. This newly commissioned work explores the intersection of spirituality, creativity, and the role of museums as spaces for artistic expression. Join us on Friday, July 14th at 7 pm for an artist talk and the mesmerizing performance of "Returning to Before."

The event will commence with a talk by Brendan Fernandes, where he will share insights into his artistic process and engage in conversation with Christina Knight, a scholar and movement artist, and James Claiborne, exhibition co-curator. Following the talk, guests will have the opportunity to witness the debut performance of "Returning to Before." This ongoing installation and intervention have been created in response to the sculptures in the exhibition "William Edmondson: A Monumental Vision."

"Returning to Before" delves into the profound influence of spirituality on both Brendan Fernandes and William Edmondson's artwork. The installation features an altar-like memorial space adorned with a tapestry designed by Fernandes, located within the Roberts Gallery. Periodically, a group of dancers will activate the space using Fernandes's choreography, evoking the physical labor inherent in Edmondson's sculptural practice. Through the collective movements of the dancers and the visitors within the exhibition, the gallery is transformed into a spiritual ground for communal homage to Edmondson's enduring legacy.