



ART

Wu's World



Wu Tsang in the video *Shape of a Night* (top), in which he researches and/or exhibits *Amazons* (left); YouTube video.



Two of the transgender Latina performers featured from L.A. club *The Silver Mirror*, where WILDNESS took place.



While in residency at the *New Museum*, Tsang created *Full Body Quotation*, which referenced *Paris Is Burning*.



The poster for the feature-length film *WILDNESS*.



American Realness

WU TSANG GIVES NEW MEANING TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Everyone knows there's an art to hosting a party, but few realize that a party can be art. When Wu Tsang throws a bash, he acts as both host and creator. The Los Angeles-based artist's work—which often incorporates DJs and references to drag culture—will be featured in both this year's Whitney Biennial and *The Ungovernables*, the *New Museum's* triennial of emerging young artists. The fact that a trans-identified, multiracial performance artist is being recognized at such prominent institutions means Tsang's message of art-based activism will be heard by the privileged masses he critiques.

"I've been looking at the idea of hosting and hospitality, the social practice, but also the metaphor—channeling the voice like a medium would," Tsang says.

For four years, Tsang hosted a party called WILDNESS that attracted a fashionable set to an L.A. bar that was previously a refuge for the Latina transgender immigrant community. "I wanted WILDNESS to be this living room," he says. "I wanted people to jump up on stage, so that this performance community could grow." Tsang documented the convergence of cultures, resulting in a feature-length art film, also titled WILDNESS, which will screen in May at the Whitney Museum.

In *Full Body Quotation*, a video piece at the *New Museum*, a pile of young performers recite lines—"I have the right to show my color, darling"; "I want my name to be a household product"—in a choral collage that channels the 1990 documentary *Paris Is Burning*. "Wu has a special sensitivity for looking at and revisiting something that became cliché—like 'The personal is political'—and bringing it back to the table," explains Eugenie Joo, the *New Museum's* curator who has mentored Tsang.

Though the art world may be familiar with Tsang's work, consider this your personal invitation. **JERRY PORTWOOD**

The Whitney Biennial is open March 1–May 27, and *The Ungovernables* is currently open and ends April 23 at the *New Museum*, both in Manhattan.

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