

Liverpool Biennial

Teacher/Adult's Side (1)

KS4 Dance – Choreographing Gumbia

The Learner will choreograph their own group dance, inspired by the Latin American genre of music called Gumbia and the artwork of Erick Beltrán.

Estimated time = 1 hour

Curriculum Extract:

Choreography:

- Respond creatively to a stimulus or stimuli.
- Refine and synthesise ideas.
- Generate, select, develop and structure movement material.
- Select and use appropriate aural settings.
- Communicate choreographic intention.
- Be wholly responsible for the creation of a complete dance which includes movement material and an aural setting.

Appreciation:

- Use appropriate dance terminology and/or subject specific language in written communication
- Appreciate different styles of dance and different approaches to choreography and production
- Communicate in written contexts about the choreographic processes

Key Terms:

- **Intersection** – A place or area where two or more things (such as streets) cross each other.
- **Deconstruction** – Breaking something down into parts to understand its meaning.
- **Kaleidoscopic** – Quickly changing form and colour.
- **Perception** – The way in which something is understood or interpreted.
- **Mass** - The mass of an object is the amount of matter or 'stuff' it contains. The more matter an object contains, the greater its mass. An elephant contains more matter than a mouse, so it has a greater mass.

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Children/Learner's Side (1)

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Artist:

Erick Beltrán

LB2021 Project:

Erick Beltrán presents a series of collaged digital images at the Lewis's Building and corresponding sound pieces in taxi cabs around Liverpool. Beltrán's work revolves around his interpretation of forms and figures, which is informed by his research into the intersection between multiple themes – Gumbia music, the movements of our bodies, physics and the spirits of the afterlife.

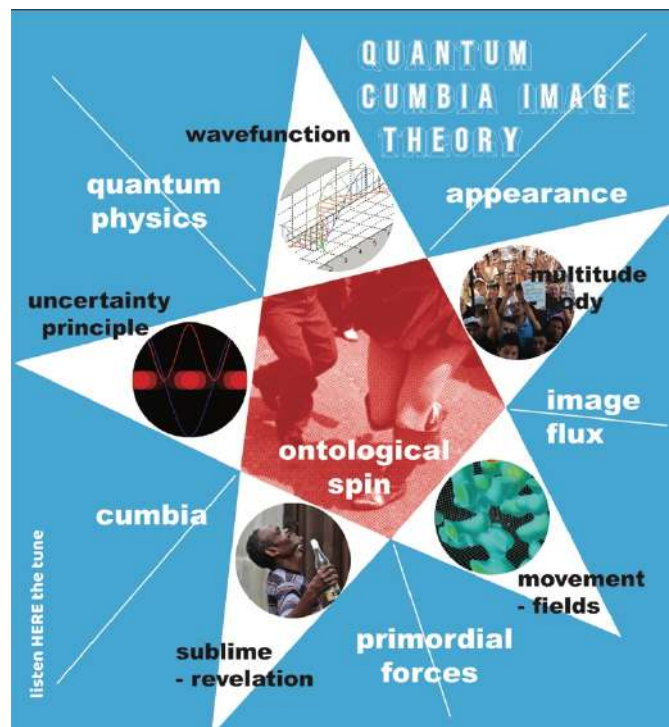
Hinged on his deconstruction of Gumbia, Beltrán brings to the fore that there are multiple ways of being in the world. Here, existence is interpreted by the body through ripples and rhythm – pulling and drawing people in as though they are possessed. Once the unit becomes multi-layered, it transforms into a state that is visually similar to a kaleidoscopic pattern.

Materials:

- Pen
- Digital device to conduct research on

What is Gumbia?

Gumbia is Colombia's national dance. Gumbia, just like Colombia, is a blend between European, African and indigenous cultures. It was born on Colombia's Caribbean coast where it was originally an African courtship dance that evolved with the addition of African, European and indigenous instruments and indigenous dance steps.



Gumbia Image Theory, Erick Beltrán (2021)

Activity Instructions:

Use the themes of Erick Beltrán's Liverpool Biennial 2021 project as inspiration, to choreograph your own group dance. Use the information below to help you formulate your own ideas.

1. Listen to the Gumbia track, 'La Cologiala' by Rodolfo Y Su Tipica RA7.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WF4YjtXtVxM>

2. Watch this video of a traditional Gumbia dance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN1PHJE1ZFE>

These videos will help you get into the rhythm of Gumbia, and present you with a starting point, for you to choreograph your own group dance, inspired by Gumbia. You can use the tracks provided or search for your own.

Look at the movements of the dancers in the second video and how they interact with each other, and how their clothing is important to the choreography.

3. Erick Beltran uses **physics and the laws of motion** as inspiration for his work, thinking about how the laws of motion affect Gumbian dance.

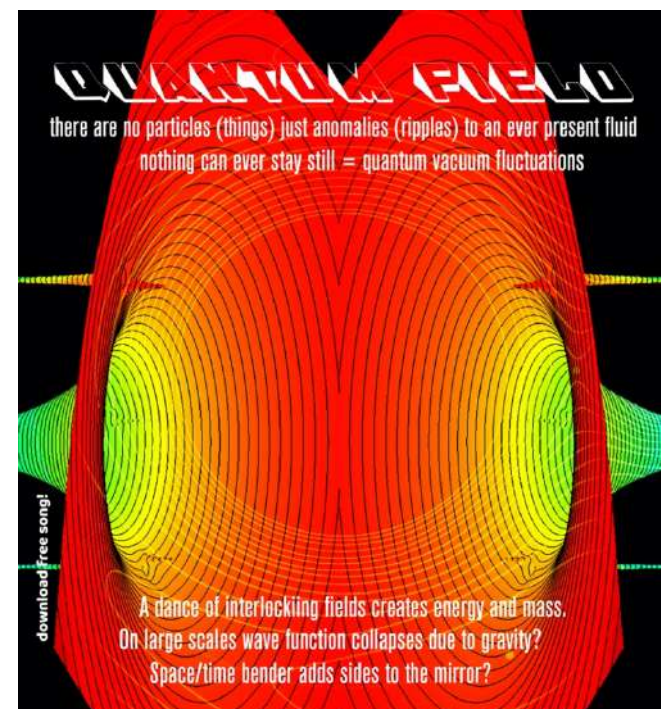
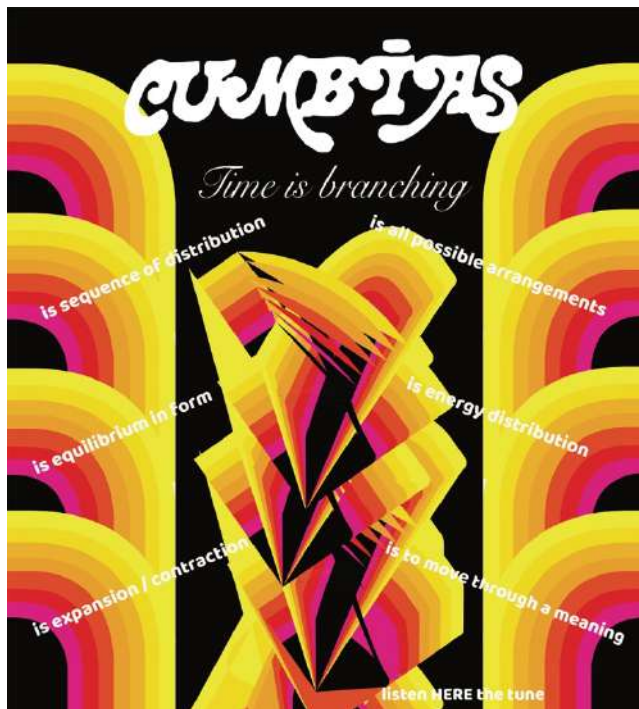
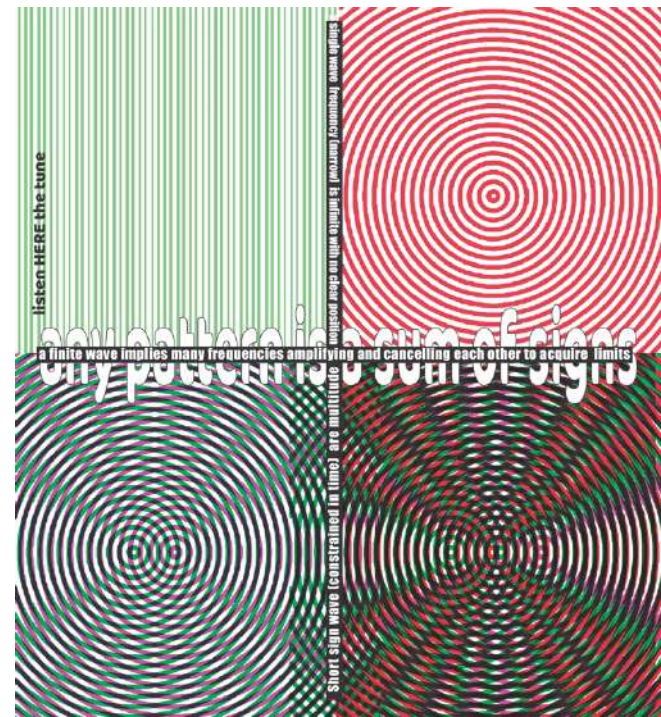
Newton's First Law of Motion states that *an object that is sitting at rest will stay at rest, and an object that is in motion will stay in motion until a force acts upon it*. When you choreograph your dance, think about which forces are acting upon your body in order to make it move the way it does.

- Gravity?
- Friction?
- Mass?
- Tension?

4. In addition to this, look at Erick Beltrán's digital collages below as a form of visual inspiration. Think about the following things to help you form ideas:

- **Colour** – How can you interpret these colours in movement? Are they bold? Vivid? Explosive?
- **Shape** – How can you interpret these shapes in movement? Are they jagged? Rounded? Smooth? Spiraling?
- **Text** – What does the text mean to you? What themes are present? How can you interpret specific words in movement? For example, *waves, energy, sequence, expansion, space, time*.

Images of Erick Beltrán's work



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Note down your ideas surrounding the theme of Gumbia music and dance below. You could draw your ideas or use this space to create a mind-map of your inspirations and how you plan to use them in your choreography.

- How many dancers will there be?
- What will they be wearing and how will this affect their movements?

Title of Dance: _____

Name of Track/Composer: _____

Use this list of vocabulary to help you think about the essential elements of dance:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/dance/gcse/dance/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary>

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Draw and describe the key motifs that you have selected. Justify how your motifs link to Gumbia Music and think about the forces that are being applied to your body, in order to make it move the way it does. How does this affect your motifs?

Motif 1:

Motif 2:

Motif 3:

Want to showcase your brilliant work? Email your creations to learning@biennial.com for the chance for your work to be displayed on our website or tag us on social media using the hashtag #LB2021. We can't wait to see your submissions!