



evolution of SITE Santa Fe

art
PROFILE

reimagined biennial art shows

by Eve Tolpa



Maurice
Camelin,
Georgia on
My Mind,
mixed media,
32 x 32 x 20"



Takashi Murakami, Hymn to Kiyoko,
vinyl, lithium, lead, and cotton, 78 x 35 x 8"



SITE's exterior will see a makeover in 2017, orchestrated
by New York design outfit SHoP.

LAST YEAR MARKED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY of SITE Santa Fe, the country's first arts institution founded with the intention of bringing together curators and artists from around the globe for two-year-long exhibitions. "When it started," says Irene Hofmann, Phillips director and chief curator since 2010, "it was really a bold idea." In the two decades since, however, the organization's model has been reproduced many times all over the U.S., so in 2012, SITE established a new vision for its own international biennials: *SITELines: New Perspectives on Art of the Americas*. "The art world has mostly been focused on an East-West basis," explains Hofmann. "We decided to flip that to North-South."

Santa Fe's multilayered tricultural heritage provides an ideal context for exploring intersections between art and other disciplines, like architecture or anthropology. SITE's "ongoing relationship to the community," Hofmann says, "has meant that artists have made work in response to Santa Fe [and the] history here." In any given exhibition, she adds, roughly 10–20 percent of the artists represented are from New Mexico.

SITE's physical space has also evolved in relation to its location in the Railyard District, which has morphed from a cluster of warehouses to a cultural hub. Plans for extensions to the front and back of the building—designed by New York–based SHoP, named the world's most innovative architecture firm by *Fast Company*—are scheduled for completion in late 2017; they include an event space that opens up to the Railyard Park and a permanent façade with a dramatically angled prow that could easily become a symbol for contemporary art in Santa Fe. ■

SITELines 2016: much wider than a line, July 16–January 8, 2017, free with admission.
 SITE Santa Fe, 1606 Paseo de Peralta; sitesantafe.org



Miguel Gandert, *Malissa Armijo, Eloy Montoya, and Richard "el Wino"*
Madrid, Albuquerque, 1983, archival digital print

MIGUEL GANDERT

Award-winning documentary artist and photographer Miguel Gandert explores the contrasting lives of Hispanic people in Spain, Latin America, Mexico, and New Mexico in his most recent, primarily black-and-white photographs. Native to Española, New Mexico, Gandert currently works in Albuquerque, where he instructs photography, ethnography, media theory, multimedia journalism, and intercultural communications at the University of New Mexico. Renowned for his abilities at capturing the parallel fusions and tensions between the Spanish Colonial and Native cultures of the Americas, Gandert has been recognized by numerous public institutions, including the National Museum of American History and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

SITE Santa Fe, sitesantafe.org