

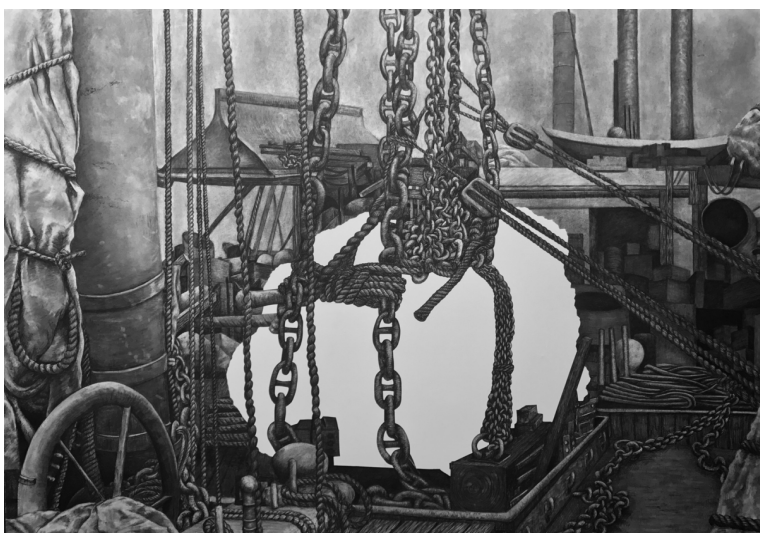
For Immediate Release

## SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS

### **SITElab 12: *Nina Elder: What Endures***

June 14 – September 15, 2019

**Public Opening, Friday, June 14, 6-7 pm**



*Nina Elder, Ahnighito (Cape York Meteorite) in transit to the American Museum of Natural History, 1897, 2017, Charcoal and pulverized meteorite on paper, made in consultation with the Illoqqortoormuit Community and the International Repatriation Project, Courtesy of the artist, Photo by the artist*

Santa Fe, NM, May 13, 2019 — SITE Santa Fe presents a solo exhibition **SITElab 12: *Nina Elder: What Endures*** from June 14 – September 15, 2019. The free Public Opening with the artist is Friday, June 14, from 6-7 pm.

New Mexico-based artist and researcher Nina Elder creates work that examines geologic time, the influence of human activity on the environment, and changing cultures and ecologies. Elder's cross-disciplinary practice takes the form of drawing, painting, narrative performance, creative publication and curated excursions.

*What Endures* features a collection of drawings from three bodies of work created over the past decade. These works highlight some of the most environmentally impacted and economically important places on earth, question what is sacred, and explore the artist's practice of "bearing witness" to the world.

Using unique pigments such as radioactive charcoal, industrial waste, pulverized meteorites, and forest fire ash, Elder creates large-scale meticulous drawings that illuminate the contemporary landscape and call attention to the environmental impacts of industry, military, economy and policy. Elder's drawings document the disconnect between the scientific and the sacred and function as memorials to displaced mountains, felled trees, and disrupted ecosystems.

Also included in the exhibition are seven drawings of meteorites that have been removed from Indigenous communities. Made through cultural consultation with Indigenous leaders, Elder's drawings record the unscrupulous acquisition of these celestial rocks, and illuminate the void that remains when the extractive demands of science are prioritized over cultural values.

Elder's newest body of work takes the form of large-scale lists. These lists are a part of her ongoing investigation into the act of bearing witness, and reflections on her personal experience of interdisciplinary research. Elder's 'incomplete lists' explore *Things That Protect, Things That Are Sensitive, Exponential Things, and Fleeting Things*. Created by carefully incising text into paper the lists are then pigmented using materials such as pulverized guns, glacial silt, and stardust. Elder's most recent list, *An Incomplete List of Things Found in New Mexico*, is featured as a limited-edition poster available at SITE Santa Fe's museum store.

#### About Nina Elder:

Nina Elder is an artist, adventurer, and arts administrator. Her work focuses on changing cultures and ecologies. Through extensive travel and research, resulting in meticulous drawings and interdisciplinary creative projects, Nina promotes curiosity, exploration, and a collective sense of stewardship. Nina advocates for collaboration, often fostering relationships between institutions, artists, scientists and diverse communities. She is the co-founder of the Wheelhouse Institute, a women's climate leadership initiative. Nina lectures as a visiting artist/scholar at universities, develops publicly engaged programs, and consults with organizations that seek to grow through interdisciplinary programming. Nina's art work is widely

exhibited and collected and has been featured in Art in America, VICE Magazine, and on PBS. Her research has been supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation, the Rauschenberg Foundation award for Arts & Activism, the Pollock Krasner Foundation, and the Mellon Foundation. She is currently an Art + Environment Research Fellow at the Nevada Museum of Art, a Polar Lab Research Fellow at the Anchorage Museum, and a Researcher in Residence in the Art and Ecology Program at the University of New Mexico.

### **About SITElab**

SITElab is an experimental exhibition series presented in a newly configured gallery space located off the lobby of SITE's building. SITElab showcases new directions in the work of established and emerging artists and feature new works out of artists' studios, experimental, interdisciplinary, and community-based projects. Nina Elder is the twelfth exhibition in the SITElab series.

### **About SITE Santa Fe**

SITE Santa Fe opened in 1995 to present what was then the only international biennial of contemporary art in the United States, and one of only a handful of biennials around the world. From the very beginning, SITE established a commitment to a risk-taking and visionary perspective that continues to drive its programs today. Year-round exhibitions and educational programs encourage the creative and intellectual potential of the audience and uphold the region's tradition of fostering avant-garde art.

As an institution with a year-round contemporary art program, SITE hosts an Art & Culture series of lectures and performances, as well as an extensive education and outreach program for local schools, all of which attract over 20,000 local, national and international visitors annually. Since its launch, SITE has presented over 100 exhibitions — including ten biennials — of works by over 750 international artists.

### **SITE's New Building**

In October 2017, after a year-long construction and an \$11.5 million capital campaign, SITE re-opened with a bold and expanded building designed by SHoP Architects. This expansion added 14,000 square feet of interior and exterior spaces to SITE's original beer warehouse building, bringing SITE's new square footage to 34,000. SITE's expanded building features a new entrance lobby, an expanded SITElab gallery, a new museum store, a coffee and snack bar, a new Auditorium, an Education Lab, and several outdoor gathering spaces.

### **Also on View:**

*Bel Canto: Contemporary Artists Explore Opera* is on view through the fall of 2019, an exhibition that examines themes of race, gender and class within the stories, traditions, architecture, and music of opera. The exhibition features the work of Vasco Araújo, Suzanne Bocanegra, Candida Höfer, William Kentridge, Guillermo Kuitca, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Matthias Schaller, and Bill Viola.

Among the works included are a film that provides a post-colonial take on Verdi; large-scale photographs of iconic opera houses that explore the architecture and order of social space; multiple installations that investigate the stories, music, sets and costumes of opera; drawings and collages that abstract opera design; and an installation of a fictional diva's dressing room that examines gender roles. The first large-scale exhibition of its kind, *Bel Canto* will engage opera aficionados and novices alike, offering unexpected glimpses behind the scenes and deep into the cultures and histories that have influenced this iconic art form over the years.

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