



SITE Santa Fe Presents New Commission by New Mexico-based artist,
Joanna Keane Lopez

SITElab 15: Joanna Keane Lopez: Land Craft Theatre

October 1, 2021- January 9, 2022

Public Opening, Friday, October 1, 2021, 5- 7 pm



*Joanna Keane Lopez The Adobe Color Laboratory, 2021 (Installation Detail) Installed at Blue Star Contemporary, San Antonio, TX
Image Courtesy of the artist*

For Immediate Release - SITE Santa Fe, NM August 18, 2021 - SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present: SITElab 15: *Joanna Keane Lopez: Land Craft Theatre* a site-specific commission by artist Joanna Keane Lopez, curated by Brandee Caoba.

New Mexico-based artist Joanna Keane Lopez explores the boundaries between large-scale installation and adobe architecture. Her practice celebrates the legacy of the *adobera* and *enjarradora* (women who are masters at constructing and preserving earthen buildings) and reclaims adobe and wildcrafting traditions.

Land Craft Theatre examines notions of home and functions as a stage for stories of connection through the intersection of architecture and the theatrics of landscape.

Comprising two large-scale sculptural installations (adobe and paper), Keane Lopez incorporates plant and insect dyes, land-sourced colored clays, and hand-harvested *aliz* (a traditional clay plaster) from New Mexico.

Keane Lopez's colorful adobe sculptures invite visitors to move freely around and between them, inspiring reflection and playfulness while reveling in the simplicity and strength of mud as material. Her vibrant cloud-like paper sculptures suspend from the ceiling forming complex layered compositions. *Land Craft Theatre* enriches the viewer's understanding of land-sourced materials, such as adobe and botanical dyes, bringing into focus every aspect of the creative process and the intimate dialogue between artist and material.

"Land Craft Theatre is an exploration and deepening of my passion with large-scale installation, adobe architecture, paper and dyes, both earthen based and botanical. I'm devoted to the process, the intrinsic relationship to community these materials embody, and to continuing and reimagining what these practices of land can become through sculpture." - Joanna Keane Lopez

In collaboration with Issac Logsdon, Assistant Program Director of Santa Fe, New Mexico's Cornerstones Community Partnerships, Keane Lopez will host a two-day hands-on workshop on building with adobe. This community workshop focuses on soil composition, laying adobes, mixing and applying mortar, cutting adobe bricks, mudding, and building four half-moon-shaped adobe walls.

Limited edition *adobecitos* (a do-it-yourself miniature adobe architecture kit) by Joanna Keane Lopez will be available for sale at curated: The Store at SITE Santa Fe.

Opening event information forthcoming.

About the Artist

Joanna Keane Lopez (b. 1991, Albuquerque; in New Mexico) is a multidisciplinary artist whose work brings together large-scale installation, adobe architecture, and land-sourced practices as a reimagining of landscape and place. By working with materials of *adobe*, *alíz*, paper, and plant and mineral-based dyes her practice addresses concepts of sculpture in engagement with the land. Through the passing down of knowledge of vernacular architectural techniques of the greater Southwest, Keane Lopez creates work that seeks healing and reparation of fragmentation towards land, home, family, and community that is connected to her own multi-generational roots in New Mexico. Keane Lopez has been supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She has exhibited nationally at institutions which include: The Momentary of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, SITE Santa Fe, the National Hispanic Cultural Center Art Museum, and Blue Star Contemporary, and participated as artist in residence at A-Z West and Ucross Foundation.

About SITElab

SITElab is an experimental exhibition series presented in the gallery space located off the lobby of SITE Santa Fe's building. SITElab showcases new directions in the work of established and emerging artists and features experimental, interdisciplinary, and community-based projects.

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.

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