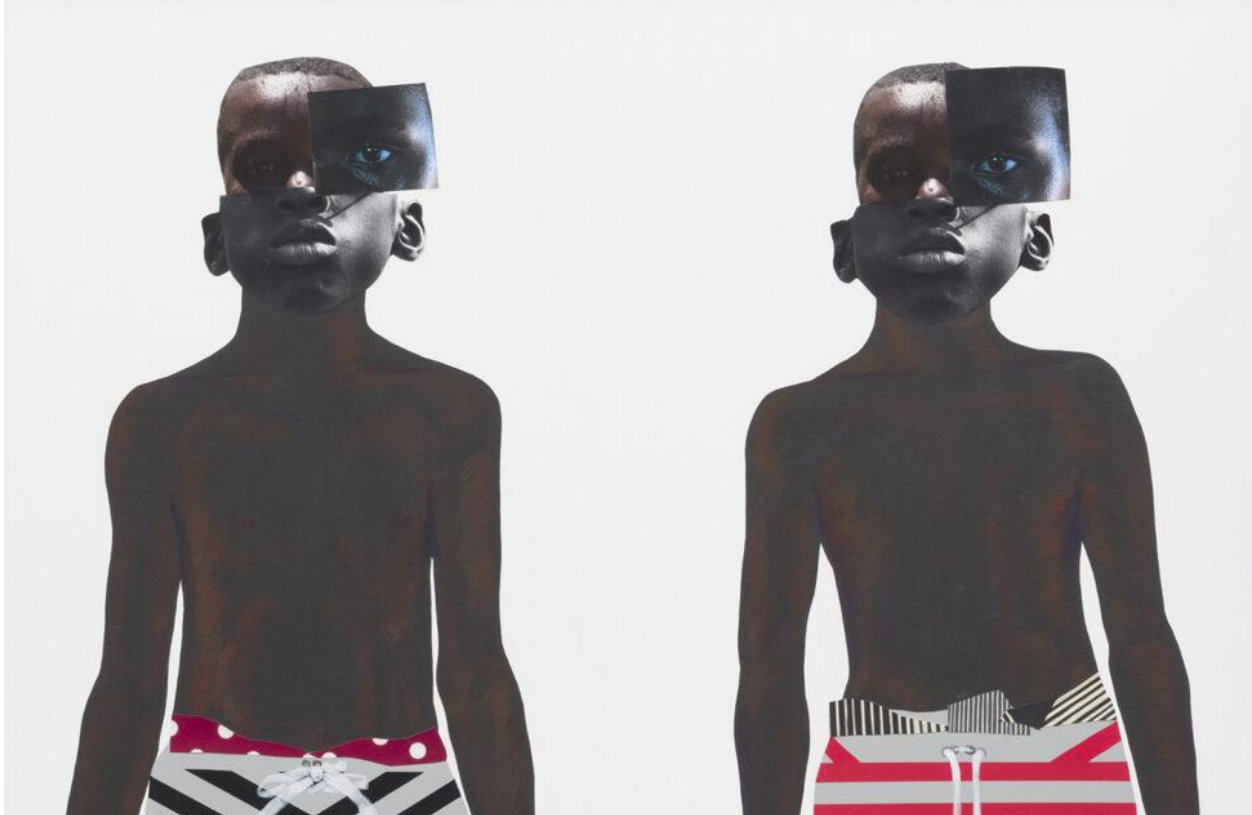


Deborah Roberts: *Come walk in my shoes* opens at SITE SANTA FE

Powerful solo exhibition embraces Black boyhood in the United States

Opening Celebration: Friday, August 11, 2023, 5:00 - 9:00 PM



(Santa Fe, NM, July 14, 2023) – SITE SANTA FE presents *Come walk in my shoes*, artist Deborah Roberts’ first solo exhibition in New Mexico. This exhibition will be on view from August 11 through November 6, 2023. Roberts’ figurative collages and paintings combine found images with hand-painted details to illustrate the varied experiences of Black boys in the United States. Creating and holding space for the full personhood of her subjects, Roberts’ work presents complex, multi-dimensional, and layered images of childhood, prominently featuring an innocence, vulnerability, and curiosity often denied to Black youth.

“Deborah’s work wrestles with stereotypes attached to Black children from an early age and reveals how systemic racism and adultification shape the way they grow up and experience childhood.” Brandee Caoba, SITE SANTA FE Curator

Come walk in my shoes showcases fifteen large-scale works of figurative collages (2018 – 2022) and is accompanied by *trumpet of consciousness*, from Roberts’ 2019 sculpture series. Made of wood, a metal car jack, and stacked books, *trumpet of consciousness* alludes to a 1960s lecture by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Roberts' work will expand beyond the gallery spaces to occupy SITE SANTA FE's public art initiative, the Billboard Project. Located on the western exterior of the building, Roberts expands the conversation on how Black children navigate their Blackness and childhood. These works question stereotypes and create a space for a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of the experience of Black children in America. Allowing her subjects to occupy space, explore, and be seen, Roberts offers a powerful critique of systemic injustices, society's expectations, and the many biases that continue to impact Black lives in the United States.

Come walk in my shoes is curated by Brandee Caoba, and organized by Jakia Fuller, Max Holmes, and SITE SANTA FE.

Opening Weekend Events

Opening Celebration

SITE SANTA FE

Friday, August 11, 2023, 5-9 PM

Celebrate the exhibition opening with live music, food by Albuquerque's Tikka Spice, and bar by Leaf and Hive.

INNOVATIVE THINKER SPEAKER SERIES:

A Conversation with Phillip Townsend and Ekow Eshun about Deborah Roberts' exhibition, moderated by Jakia Fuller

SITE SANTA FE

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 2 PM

Event details will be updated at sitesantafe.org.

About the Artist

Deborah Roberts (American, born 1962 in Austin, Texas) is a mixed media artist whose figurative works depict the complexity of Black subjecthood and explores themes of race, identity, and gender politics. Her work has been exhibited internationally across the US and Europe. Roberts's work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California. Roberts was named 2023 Texas Medal of Arts Award Honoree for the Visual Arts. Roberts was selected to participate in the Robert Rauschenberg Residency (2019) and is a recipient of the Anonymous Was A Woman Grant (2018), the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (2016), and the Ginsburg-Klaus Award Fellowship (2014). She received her MFA from Syracuse University, New York. She lives and works in Austin, Texas. Roberts is represented by Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, and Vielmetter Los Angeles.

Thank you

Support for *Come walk in my shoes* is generously provided by SITE SANTA FE's Board of Directors, the SITE SANTA FE Annual Exhibitions Fund, Elizabeth and Jamie Baskin, Suzanne Deal Booth, Dana and Jim Manning, and Marti Meyerson and Jamie Hooper. Additional funding is provided by the City of Santa Fe Arts and Culture Department and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

About SITE SANTA FE

Guided by artists, rooted in New Mexico, SITE SANTA FE celebrates contemporary creative expression. SITE SANTA FE aspires to be an internationally recognized destination for art and artists, and a community resource for creativity and learning.

Founded in 1995 to establish the first international contemporary art biennial in the United States, SITE SANTA FE is a non-collecting art institution committed to supporting new developments in contemporary art, encouraging artistic exploration, and expanding traditional museum experiences. Since its launch, SITE SANTA FE has presented 11 international biennials, more than 100 contemporary art exhibitions, and works by hundreds of emerging and established artists from around the world, and in New Mexico.

SITE SANTA FE presents a wide range of public and educational programs that include conversations with artists and curators, performances, film screenings, concerts, hands-on workshops, and collaborations with dozens of local schools and community organizations.

Image Credits:

Deborah Roberts, *Pool boys*, 2019, (detail), Mixed media collage on canvas, image courtesy of the artist and Vielmetter Los Angeles

VISUALS AVAILABLE

FURTHER INFORMATION ON SITE SANTA FE CAN BE FOUND AT SITESANTAFE.ORG

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