

BILLIE ZANGEWA TO OPEN NEW EXHIBITION, *FIELD OF DREAMS*, AT SITE SANTA FE

The immersive new solo show represents metamorphosis in the artist's iconic raw silk collages

(Santa Fe, NM, November 9, 2023) – SITE SANTA FE presents *Field of Dreams*, a solo exhibition of new and recent works by Johannesburg-based artist Billie Zangewa, on view November 17, 2023 - February 12, 2024. Billie Zangewa creates intricate collages of hand-stitched raw silk fragments. Silk is a material created through transformation as the “leftovers” of chrysalis construction, and the use of this highly charged material speaks to Zangewa's process of transforming and metamorphosing life's challenges and complex emotions into art. Both the artist and the material share the process of transformation.

Billie Zangewa says, “My show at SITE SANTA FE is exploring the relationship between humanity and nature as well as questioning how we can heal the rift between us and come together as nature's children.”

The works in *Field of Dreams* are a departure from Zangewa's recent figurative compositions that have centered on themes of domestic life. After spending two years home-bound due to the pandemic, Zangewa has shifted her gaze to a ponderance of the human condition and the interconnectivity of all living things. These multimedia works also call attention to the sociopolitical challenges facing societies today and the way these influences impact individuals and whole communities from one generation to the next.

For the first time, Zangewa introduces beveled, antiqued mirrors designed to echo the organic shapes of the silk portrait, creating an immersive and reflective experience, both literally and metaphorically.

SITE SANTA FE Curator Brandee Caoba says, – “Billie has said that “*the ultimate act of resistance is self-love.*” For me, these words reverberate throughout the exhibition. *Field of Dreams* is a powerful exploration of the human condition and the intricate web of interconnected life on Earth. It's a poignant reminder of our shared existence and a call to embrace equality and unity, transcending the divisions that have divorced us from ourselves, each other, and the natural world.”

SITE SANTA FE will present an Artist Talk on Saturday, November 18, in which Billie Zangewa will discuss this new body of work with SITE SANTA FE's Curator Brandee Caoba.

About the Artist

Billie Zangewa (b. 1973, Blantyre, Malawi; lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa) creates intricate collages composed of hand-stitched fragments of raw silk. Her figurative compositions explore contemporary intersectional identity and challenge the historical stereotype, objectification, and exploitation of the black female form. Her work is a radical celebration of resilience, commonality, and kinship through the language of textile collage.

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 130 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.

Thank you

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VISUALS AVAILABLE

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