

MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 TO PRESENT NEW LARGE-SCALE INSTALLATION BY DINEO SESHEE BOPAPE OPENING ON APRIL 5

LONG ISLAND CITY, New York, March 3, 2020—MoMA PS1 will present the first US museum exhibition of artist Dineo Seshee Bopape (b. 1981 Polokwane, South Africa) from April 5 to September 7, 2020. On view in the double-height Duplex Gallery, Bopape's new, site-specific installation is comprised of dense accumulations of soil and clay sourced from multiple sites across the Americas and Africa that mark historic rebellions by enslaved peoples.

Dineo Seshee Bopape's charged, poetic installations often combine video, sound, ceramic, found objects, and other substances both organic and inorganic. This new commission builds on the artist's recent work at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, *we can't afford not to mourn* (2019), which was comprised of a large soil cube casting shadows and reflections into and through the surrounding space. Bopape continues her research into ideas of sovereignty and self-possession—physical, spiritual, psycho-emotional, biological, and political—through soil and clay sourced from the sites of various slave rebellions. Bopape reconstitutes earth's matter in all of its changing and evolving states, from solid earth to soil to clay to dust, into new artistic form. The installation incorporates material from sites including New York City, which was a major hub for the transatlantic slave trade in the eighteenth century and the site of a famous 1712 slave revolt near present day Canal Street; Montreal, Canada, where in 1734 Portuguese-born slave Marie-Joseph Angelique set fire to her owner's home resulting in a massive fire that burned down much of what is now Old Montreal; and N'Der, Senegal, where in 1819 the women of the Walo tribe, knowing an incoming invasion from the Moors would result in their capture and enslavement, chose to die together by mass suicide, gathering in a home with their children and setting it on fire. Bopape's work at MoMA PS1 underscores how an individual remembering and honoring their personal sovereignty amounts to a potent act of rebellion.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dineo Seshee Bopape lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dineo Seshee Bopape was born in 1981 on a Sunday. If she were Ghanaian, her name would be Akosua/Akos for short. In the year of her birth, the Brixton riots took place; two people were injured when a bomb exploded in a Durban shopping centre. Bobby Sands dies, MTV is launched, the Boeing 767 makes its first air flight, Umkhonto we Sizwe performs numerous underground assault operations against the apartheid state. There was an earthquake in China that killed maybe 50 people. Hosni Mubarak was

elected president of Egypt, there was a coup d'etat in Ghana. Princess Diana of Britain married Charles. Bob Marley dies. Apartheid SA invaded Angola. AIDS is identified/created/named. Salman Rushdie releases *Midnight's Children*. In the region of her birth: Her paternal grandmother died. Julius Malema is born. Millions of people cried. Millions of people laughed! The world's population was apparently at around 4,529-billion.

Bopape spent her youth in Limpopo in varying social situations. At 12 years of age she began to follow a hunger for an elsewhere, beginning with Durban where she spent some years and studied painting and sculpture. She is a 2007 graduate of De Ateliers in Amsterdam and in 2010 completed an MFA at Columbia University, New York. She was the winner of the 2008 MTN New Contemporaries Award, and the recipient of a 2010 Columbia University Toby Fund Award. She has shown her work in major and minor national and international exhibitions.

SPONSORSHIP

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Special Thanks to Triton.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 champions how art and artists are at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of their time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists' diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982, and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit. Free admission for NYC residents made possible by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2086 or visit moma.org/ps1.

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