



a contemporary art space

SITE SANTA FE PRESENTS

SUZANNE BOCANEGRA: I WRITE THE SONGS

June 18 – September 18, 2011

Public Opening: Friday, June 17, 5 – 7 pm

SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present *Suzanne Bocanegra: I Write The Songs*, an exhibition surveying the works of the New York-based artist, from June 18 – September 18, 2011. There will be a media preview and walkthrough with the artist on Thursday, June 16, from 11 am - 12 noon. The free public opening is Friday, June 17, from 5 – 7 pm.

MAY 24, 2011

SITE Santa Fe
1606 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

For more than twenty years, Suzanne Bocanegra has created works in a range of media which exhibit a deep engagement with music, performance, art history, and material culture. *I Write the Songs* primarily focuses on works made within the last ten years and includes six multi-dimensional pieces.

Please Note: All information is subject to change. Please confirm with the Press Office prior to publication.

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SUZANNE BOCANEGRA *All the Petals From Jan Bruegel the Elder's Sense of Smell*, 1618, 2003
Gouache, beeswax, paper, fabric, pins
154 x 230 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Translation and collaboration are integral to Bocanegra's process and her work often involves the active transformation of two-dimensional objects such as paintings, drawings and fabric, into three-dimensional installations, soundscapes, and performances. The resultant works create expansive experiences attuned to the structure of artworks that in many cases have a strong personal resonance for the artist.

The works in Bocanegra's *All the Petals* series (2001-08) deconstruct 17th century paintings by Jan Bruegel the Elder. In one work, Bocanegra creates a silk sculpture based on all the flower petals in the 1618 painting *Sense of Smell*. Focusing in on one aspect of the painting highlights what may be overlooked, while provoking a deeper understanding of the structure of the composition.

Similarly, *Little Dot* (2010), the most recent work in the exhibition is inspired by Georges Seurat's 1889 *Young Woman Powdering Herself*, a painting Bocanegra grew up looking at in the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The painting is a paradigmatic example of Pointillism, a painting technique invented by Seurat in which individually articulated dots of color are closely juxtaposed



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to create a composition. Through prolonged examination of a reproduction of the painting with a magnifying glass, Bocanegra identified the colors and numbers of dots used to construct the painting. *Little Dot* is an installation of ballet shoes in fourteen different colors corresponding to the fourteen different colors used in the painting. The shoes sit on poles with markings indicating how many times a particular color was used in the painting, and serve as a script for a dance periodically performed en pointe by a ballet dancer who interacts with the installation. SITE is delighted to collaborate with The School of the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet on this project. Two students from the School will perform *Little Dot* in the galleries at intervals throughout the exhibition.

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Other works involve amateur and professional musicians in the translation process. *After Rerememberer* used the patterns in a fragment of a Danish textile to create an hour-long performance involving an accordionist, a weaver on an amplified loom, and fifty untrained violinists, among other elements. *I Write the Songs*, first performed at the River to River Festival in New York, featured the FLUX Quartet interpreting the drawings created on sheet music by audience members as music.

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Bocanegra's work has been featured in exhibitions at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Serpentine Gallery and the Hayward Gallery, in London as well as the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, and UCLA's Hammer Museum among others. Her performances have been presented at several international venues, including the Museum of Modern Art New York, the River to River Festival, New York, and the Athelas Festival in Copenhagen. Bocanegra lives and works in New York.



SUZANNE BOCANEGRA *Little Dot*, 2010
Installation at the Tang Museum, 2011
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Peter Serling

Suzanne Bocanegra: I Write the Songs is organized by Ian Berry, Malloy Curator of The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College in collaboration with the artist. Support for the exhibition was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, the Overbrook Foundation, and the Friends of the Tang.



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Sunday, May 29, 2011, 1 – 4 pm

Suzanne Bocanegra performance: *I Write the Songs*
On the Santa Fe Plaza

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SITE will produce an artist performance by Bocanegra entitled, *I Write the Songs*, an event that will engage visitors to the Santa Fe Plaza in the creation of a spontaneous musical performance. Anyone who passes through the plaza that day will be invited to make drawings on sheet music. These drawings will then be interpreted by the FLUX Quartet who will play continuously through the event. Documentation and drawings from this performance will be included in the exhibition *Suzanne Bocanegra: I Write the Songs*, at SITE. The first iteration of this performance was commissioned in 2009 by The Drawing Center in collaboration with the River to River Festival, New York.

The FLUX Quartet (Tom Chiu, Felix Fan, Conrad Harris, Max Mandel) was founded by violinist Tom Chiu in the 90's. Named partly as an homage to the 60's Fluxus art movement, the quartet was founded with a quest similar to that of some of the original Fluxus artists: a search for a living art for all people with an embracing "anything-goes" spirit. To that end, FLUX has always been committed to projects of unique vision that defy aesthetic categorization.

Images available upon request.
www.sitesantafe.org

Funding

SITE Santa Fe's Foundation Council has designated its support to this exhibition in honor of Phillips Director Irene Hofmann.

This exhibition is generously funded by the Board of Directors as well as by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Art & Culture series is made possible by a generous endowment from the Marlene Nathan Meyerson Family Foundation. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

About SITE

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Thursday and Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday, 10 am – 7 pm; Sunday, 12 pm – 5 pm; closed Monday – Wednesday. The Museum is open on Wednesdays from June through August. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.