

CITY DOME

Dineo Seshee Bopape

}}}} [when spirituality was a baby]

24.11.18 — 10.02.19

Dineo Seshee Bopape's new installation at Collective has been created in relation to the rich history of timekeeping, spirituality, geology and astronomy at the Observatory site. Combining carefully selected materials and forms, the work considers notions of cosmology, astronomy and astrology in complex ways generally ignored or discredited by Western science.

Through her expansive practice, Dineo has explored memory (personal, collective, known and unknown), narration, and representation as contingent forms. Drawing on a diverse range of visual and conceptual matter, her work often utilises commonplace materials (soil, bricks, timber) and archival images, as well as natural and technological systems as support. Through her installation-based work, Dineo's immediate environment becomes a radical site of activation, bringing the celestial and the earthly, the bodily and the metaphysical, the personal and collective into coalescence. More recently, Dineo has shifted her attention

to matters of sovereignty in the age of the Anthropocene and its attendant issues of land and landlessness that shape our present.

Located in the historic City Dome, her new installation combines an array of 'raw materials', sculptural forms, and symbols in a constellation of relationality, each containing a specific connection to cosmological and spiritual apparatus. Produced over a period of nine months, the installation appears as a site of ritual, a shrine or sanctuary that contains its own universe of interactions, energies and substances alongside those of the site. Time has shaped all elements of the installation. Physically, time has allowed elements of the work to dry, ferment and smoke; shaping them in unexpected and uncontrolled ways. Drawn from the aesthetics and structures of Afrodiasporic spiritual practices, the objects are plotted across the space in relation to particular star charts and astrological constellations.

Dineo Seshee Bopape was born in 1981, on a Sunday. If she were Ghanaian, her name would be Akosua/Akos for short. During the same year: the Brixton riots took place; two people were injured when a bomb exploded in a Durban shopping centre; Bobby Sands died; MTV was launched; the Boeing 767 made its first flight; Umkonto we Sizwe performed numerous underground assaults against the Apartheid state. The world's population was then around 4.5 billion. Today she is one amongst 7 billion. Other concurrent events of the year of her birth, and of her lifetime, are perhaps too many to fully know...

}}}} [when spirituality was a baby] is part of *Affinity and Allusion*, an exhibition presented across all of Collective's exhibition spaces, grounds and buildings.

}}}} [when spirituality was a baby] is commissioned by Collective with guest curator Osei Bonsu and is supported by The Elephant Trust and The Royal Overseas League through a residency at Hospitalfield.

Affinity and Allusion is sponsored by Baillie Gifford investment managers.

COLLECTIVE

CITY DOME

Bukhur
Black obsidian
Calendula
Candles
Carnelian (Nigeria)
Chalcopyrite (Mexico)
Charcoal
Charcoal tablet
Cinnamon
Citrine (Brazil)
Clay
Cloves
Crow feathers
Dinosaur bone (Utah, USA)
Earth
Glass beads
Glass bottles
Granite
Jute
Kombucha
Lace
Mammoth bone (North Sea)
Meteorite (Campo Del Cielo, Argentina)
Mpepho
Mundrabilla meteor
Muslin
Overhead projectors
Pins
Pigment in ultramarine, cerulean blue and cobalt
Plastic bottles

Pyrite (Peru)
Rooibos
Rose quartz
Satin
Sea water
Silk
Slide projector
Snowy owl feathers
Star anise
Stone clay
Straw
String

Soil from:
Congo
Germany (Nuremburg)
Iceland
Palestine
South Africa (Limpopo)

Terracotta
Tin foil
225 million year old wood (Madagascar)
Ukrainian verbena
Varnish
White sage
White sage and cedar wood
Window vinyl
Wire
Wool

