

SOUTHERN GUILD

CAPE TOWN · LOS ANGELES

MEDIA ADVISORY

Southern Guild makes debut at
Frieze Los Angeles
February 20 – 23, 2025

First-time Los Angeles exhibitions for African artists
Manyaku Mashilo and Cheick Diallo
mark one year anniversary of Southern Guild Los Angeles
February 13 – May 3, 2025



INVITATION

Media Breakfast and Exhibition Viewing with Manyaku Mashilo
Friday, February 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Followed by

Panel Discussion | *Deconstructing Histories, Inventing Futures: Reimagining the Body as a Site For Collective Agency*
Friday, February 21, 2025, 10:00 a.m – 11:00 a.m.

at

Southern Guild

747 N. Western Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

RSVP to Lyn Winter, Inc., lyn@lynwinter.com

LOS ANGELES – In the midst of the unprecedented devastation caused by the LA wildfires, Southern Guild stands in support of the city's extraordinary creative community. To this end, in

the spirit of staying connected locally and internationally, providing a platform for its artists on the West Coast, and marking the first anniversary of the opening of its Los Angeles gallery, Southern Guild announces its debut participation at Frieze Los Angeles 2025 and first time solo exhibitions in LA for South African artist Manyaku Mashilo and Malian designer, sculptor and architect Cheick Diallo.

Founded in Cape Town in 2008, Southern Guild is the first South African gallery with a permanent US location and the only African gallery participating in the 2025 edition of Frieze Los Angeles.

At Frieze Los Angeles, the gallery will showcase the multi-disciplinary practices of five women artists Zanele Muholi, Zizipho Poswa, Manyaku Mashilo, Alex Hedison and Bonolo Kavula, contemplating themes of personhood, the reimagining of women's roles within domestic spheres, and vibrant material-led making.

Opening on February 13 – May 3, 2025, Southern Guild's exhibitions in Los Angeles include *The Laying of Hands*, a new body of large-scale paintings by South African artist Manyaku Mashilo. The exhibition, the artist's first solo in the U.S. and second with the gallery, will explore the themes of matrilineal connection, ritual, and heritage. The artist will be in Los Angeles for the Preview and opening.

Taama is a major retrospective exhibition of functional design by pioneering Malian designer, sculptor and architect, Cheick Diallo and his first solo exhibition in the U.S. Over the course of his three decades-long career, Diallo's impeccably crafted furniture and sculptural objects have redefined the possibilities for African design with their mix of conceptual ingenuity and centuries-old craftsmanship.

A presentation of works by South African visual artists Jozua Gerrard and Jody Paulsen will also be on view in the gallery.

About Southern Guild

Established in 2008 by Trevyn and Julian McGowan, Southern Guild represents contemporary artists from Africa and its diaspora. Initially based only in Cape Town, the gallery opened its second location in Melrose Hill, Los Angeles in February 2024, making it the first from South Africa with a permanent gallery space in the US. Southern Guild's programme focuses on furthering the continent's contribution to global art movements, with the gallery's artists exploring the preservation of culture, spirituality, identity, and ancestral knowledge within the current landscape. Works have been acquired by leading institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, LACMA, Art Institute of Chicago, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pérez Art Museum, Mint Museum, Harn Museum, Denver Art Museum, Vitra Museum, Design Museum Gent and National Gallery of Victoria.

Highlights from 2024, the gallery's first year in Los Angeles, include Zizipho Poswa's solo exhibition *Indyebo yakwaNtu (Black Bounty)* comprising five towering ceramic and bronze sculptures produced during her summer-long residency at the Center for Contemporary Ceramics (CCC) at California State University Long Beach in 2023; and *ZANELE MUHOLI*, an autobiographical panorama of the visual activist and artist as their creative practice evolves over time and across mediums. In November 2024, Muholi completed a month-long artist residency at the Hammer Museum during which they continued working on their prolific *Faces and Phases* series with a focus on LA-based subjects. These works, among others, will be featured in their upcoming 2025 solo exhibition with the gallery. Group exhibitions over the course of 2024 featured respected artists Andile Dyalvane, Madoda Fani, Porky Hefer, Ranti Bam, Sanford Biggers, Moffat Takadiwa, Zohra Opoku and Ange Dakouo among others.

Images left to right: Zanele Muholi, [Vika II. small. The Decks. Cape Town. 2019](#), Baryta print, 23.63 x 17.38 in. | 60 x 44 cm; Manyaku Mashilo, process image, 2025, and Zizipho Poswa with her work [Tsitsi \(Mercy\) Mushamba. Zimbabwe. 2022](#), Glazed stoneware, bronze 70.88 x 28 x 28 in. All images courtesy Southern Guild.

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