

Book Launch, Children and Teen's Workshop

# ZANELE MUHOLI

## CONNECT THE DOTS

Sunday, 16 April 2023 | 10am - 12pm

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago  
at Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave

Southern Guild, in collaboration with Norman Teague Design Studio and Michael Graham/Balloon, invite you to the launch of the dot-to-dot workbook published by visual activist and artist Zanele Muholi. *Connect the Dots* is a workbook of dot-to-dot images inspired by the photographic self-portraits from Muholi's ongoing portrait series, *Somnyama Ngonyama* (Hail, the Dark Lioness). The individual pages are perforated so that they can be torn out and shared. This edition of the book is produced as a limited edition of 250 books, with each cover stamped and editioned, ensuring it is a collectible even after the pages are used.

Muholi envisions *Connect the Dots* as a communication tool designed to bring people together and to share with one another. Their ultimate aim is for collectors or interested organizations to purchase the books on behalf of schools and educational institutions. The project forms part of the artist's mission to help develop a younger generation of aspiring artists, thinkers and activists.

"Behind the dots is a treasure trove of stories that lie behind each portrait. This book will keep you or anyone, entertained, connecting to self and sharpening the mind. Welcome to the magical world of dots, portraits and words. Enjoy the winding but fulfilling maze of connecting dots!"

- Zanele Muholi

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## ZANELE MUHOLI

Zanele Muholi is a South African artist and visual activist whose practice focuses on the documentation and celebration of the lives of South Africa's Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities. This is in keeping with their overall mission to contribute to decolonising the canonical representations of Black bodies – in particular, Black femme bodies and women.

Born in Umlazi, Durban in 1972, Muholi currently lives in Cape Town. They studied Advanced Photography at the Market Photo Workshop in Newtown, Johannesburg, and in 2009 completed an MFA in Documentary Media at Ryerson University, Toronto. Beginning in 2006, Muholi responded to the continuing discrimination and violence faced by the LGBTI community by photographing Black lesbian and transgender individuals, resulting in the ongoing portrait project, Faces and Phases. Their self-proclaimed mission is “to re-write a Black queer and trans visual history of South Africa for the world to know of our resistance and existence at the height of hate crimes in SA and beyond”. These arresting portraits are part of Muholi's contribution towards a more democratic and representative South African homosexual history. Through this positive imagery, Muholi hopes to offset the stigma and negativity attached to queer identity in African society.

Solo exhibitions of Muholi's work have taken place at institutions including the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate Modern, London; Autograph ABP, London; Seattle Art Museum; Mead Art Museum, Amherst; Gallatin Galleries, New York; Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Kulturhistorek Museum, Oslo; Einsteinhaus, Ulm; Schwules Museum, Berlin; Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris; National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavik; and Casa Africa, Las Palmas. Muholi's work is included in the collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Brooklyn Museum, Carnegie Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum, Yale University Art Gallery, Museum of Modern Art New York, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa and others.

Muholi has won numerous awards including the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2017), ICP Infinity Award for Documentary and Photojournalism (2016), Africa'Sout! Courage and Creativity Award (2016), Outstanding International Alumni Award from Ryerson University (2016), Fine Prize from the Carnegie Museum of Art (2013), and Prince Claus Award (2013), among others. Their work has been exhibited at Documenta 13, the South African Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale and the 29th São Paulo Biennale.

Muholi was shortlisted for the 2015 Deutsche Börse Photography Prize for their publication Faces and Phases 2006-14 (Steidl/The Walther Collection). Other publications include Somnyama Ngonyama (Aperture, 2018), Zanele Muholi: African Women Photographers #1 (Casa Africa and La Fábrica, 2011); Faces and Phases (Prestel, 2010); and Only half the picture (Stevenson, 2006). Muholi is an Honorary Professor at the University of the Arts/Hochschule für Künste Bremen.