



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2023
Contact: Aneesa Shami Zizzo
Email: info@thestudio203.org

Sympoiesis: making with

Curated by Lesley Roberts and
Aneesa Shami Zizzo

On view February 25–April 8, 2023
Open Saturdays, 1pm–4pm and
by appointment

Studio 203

3440 Motor Ave STE 203
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Los Angeles, CA—Studio 203 is excited to announce *Sympoiesis: making with*, an exhibition exploring how one of humanity’s oldest craft and industrial forms—the making of

clothing—has shaped our relationship to the land, our bodies, and each other. Created in partnership with Southern California Fibershed, *Sympoiesis* presents a social practice following the threads that link our agricultural and economic ecosystems to our wellbeing and what we wear.

The exhibition title calls up author and scholar Donna Haraway’s neologism “sympoiesis,” or making-with; the idea that we are creatures of the earth in a dance of co-creation. For thousands of years, people have transformed animal- and plant-based fiber to craft garments that clothed and protected their bodies, offered decoration and ultimately engendered a radical and disruptive transformation of the earth. Such fiber-based work embodies generations of cultural skills and concepts; our disconnections from the sources of the material we wear and the knowledge of how that material is transformed is a rupture of our natural relationships to the earth and each other. This intimate exhibition is a journey through local ecosystems and craft traditions, entwining instructional didactics, handmade garments, weavings, video and tactile components to draw connections between soil, plant, animal, work, hand, and body.

Presenting these fibershed systems within the context of a gallery frames the work in a space more commonly associated with challenging or transformative experiences. Caring for our soil, raising healthy plants and animals, making our clothing and working with our hands is a profoundly grounding experience. These





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practices have the power to transform how we live in the world and how we understand our belonging to the world.

Works on display include a coat crafted by Patricia Mulcahy, Joyce Dulch, Liz Jones, Margaret Tyler, Stacy Swenck, and Mary Saxton of the San Diego Creative Weavers Guild; a ruana and accessories by Shannon Anderson, Teresa Camarillo, Michelle Gannes, Cindy Hahn, Melissa Hanson, Judy Hersh, Kait Hilliard, Deborah Low, Susie Meach, Allyson Swaney, Deb Thompson, and Betty Villafana of the Ventura County Handweavers and Spinners Guild; and sweaters from LA-based artisanal clothing brand Greg Lauren.

About Lesley Roberts

Lesley Roberts works and plays in the spaces between culture, material, and imagination. She is a creative strategist, community builder, and social entrepreneur. She is the founder of Material Encounters, director of the Southern California chapter of Fibershed, and co-founder and former Executive Director of Textile Arts | Los Angeles. She initiated Los Angeles Textile Month and the conferences Mindful Materials (2018), Materiality & Method (2019), and Material Dialogues (2020). She has been invited to speak at the UCLA Costume Design Department (Sustainability and the Eco-System of Fashion), American Craft Council (Future Insights: The Future of the Creative Economy), and Regenerative Rising (Women in the Wardrobe), among others. *Sympoiesis: making with* is her first curatorial endeavor.

About Aneesa Shami Zizzo

Aneesa Shami Zizzo is an artist and arts-based researcher in Los Angeles using recycled materials to create fiber art. Her work references the sublime and world mythologies to evoke a sense of the collective unconscious within her imagery. Zizzo's work has been exhibited nationally in galleries and museums. She recently created costumes for *Planet City* (2020), directed by Liam Young, which was commissioned for the NGV Triennial 2020 in Melbourne, Australia. Zizzo is also the co-owner and director of Studio 203, an artist-run project space in Los Angeles featuring exhibitions, workshops and performances.

About Southern California Fibershed

The Southern California Fibershed encompasses the region south of San Luis Obispo to San Diego. We seek to deepen the regenerative textile conversation by directly connecting wearers to the biological context of their wardrobe. We encourage community building and connections between textile artists, designers, fiber farmers, processing mills, suppliers, and business.

About Studio 203

Studio 203 was established in February 2020 to collaborate with forward-thinking individuals and support fellow artists. We are an artist-run project space offering thoughtful programming through exhibitions, workshops and performances. Our mission is to provide a platform for artists that thrives beyond the sphere of traditional art hierarchies.

Images: Installation views of *Sympoiesis*, photos by Stacey Meineke