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Broward County visual artist, Onajide Shabaka, curates the exhibition, **“DIRT Yuta Suelo Udongo Tè”** in the Miami Design District.

Exhibition Venue:

Spear Building

3815 NE Miami Court

Miami Design District 33137

Opening Reception: 8 June, 2013 - 7-9 pm (Second Saturday Art Walk). Exhibition runs: June 1-28, 2013

20 May, 2013 - **“DIRT Yuta Suelo Udongo Tè”** curated by Onajide Shabaka. There is a challenge facing this

exhibition. Statements about life, death, history and the ephemerality of it all are loaded with symbolic baggage before you do anything with them. Visual artist and curator Onajide Shabaka invited artists to take up the challenge and investigate various aspects of dirt, and certainly not all on the physical level. After a recent conversation with artist William Cordova, Shabaka felt a need to resurrect this material and all of its various notions because he has been hoarding a supply of red oxide colored dirt shipped back to Miami from the foundation of a demolished building in Ely, Minnesota. Lugging that dirt around since Shabaka’s visits to Minnesota also carry weighty references that are evoked in this exhibition, “Dirt Yuta Suelo Udongo Tè.” These linguistic references are: English, Talaandig (Philippines), Spanish, Kiswahili, and Kreole (Haiti), and serve as a linguistic marker to the various notions and connotations of dirt in different cultural contexts.

The participating artists:

Dona Altemus - mixed media (Miami)

Edouard Duval Carrié - painting (Haiti/Miami)

Robert Chambers - mixed media (Miami/Denmark)

William Cordova - mixed media (Miami)

Veronica Scharf Garcia - ceramics, sculpture (W. Palm Beach)

Mark Hahn - photography (Arizona)
Alette Simmons Jimenez - mixed media (Miami)
Lori Nozick - sculpture (Miami)
Kim Nicolini - photography, drawing (Miami)
David Rohn - photography, performance (Miami)
Onajide Shabaka - mixed media, drawing (Fort Lauderdale)
Jovan Karlo Villalba - painting, sculpture (Miami)
Debra Wilk - poetry (Sanford)

It's hard to define "dirt," since it represents the dissolution of everything else, the final stop, the end of entropy, the common conclusion of the thousand natural shocks that the flesh is heir to. Dirt became contemporary art with the Earthworks of the late 1960s, a kind of formalism that moved out of the gallery, into the ground and then out of town. Nature is dirt, after all — as a timeless balm against the fragmentation of media culture. The dirt salve is the subject of at least four recent books and this exhibition.

Exhibition Venue: The Spear Building, Miami Design District. The Miami Design District is a neighborhood dedicated to innovative fashion, design, architecture and dining experiences. The Miami Design District is owned by Miami Design District Associates, a partnership between Dacra, founded and owned by visionary entrepreneur Craig Robins, and L Real Estate, a global real estate development and investment fund, specializing in creating luxury shopping destinations. Together Dacra and L Real Estate have actively transformed the once-overlooked area of Miami into a vibrant destination for residents and visitors by presenting the best shopping, cultural and culinary experiences within an architecturally significant context.

Exhibition Curator: Onajide Shabaka is a visual artist, curator, and writer. His art practice makes references to the anthropological, geological, and biological through a challenging and visceral aesthetic, with a grounding in African Atlantic culture. His writing and curatorial practice focuses largely on contemporary art and culture, and subject specific research. Since 1998 his practice has included art writing and independent curatorial work, both of which are important aspects of his art practice.

Miamiartexchange.com / Artlab33.com: Miami Art Exchange has been online since October, 2000 focusing on the visual arts in South Florida, Miami-Dade, Broward and, southern Palm Beach counties with reviews, articles, interviews, photographs of openings and special events, podcasts, and artists studio visits. Artlab33 is a nomadic curatorial project interested in exhibiting strong contemporary art, and providing down-to-earth, experimental, collaborative environment for artists. Miamiartexchange.com and Artlab33.com are sibling web project sites, collaborating and sharing information and goals.

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Best regards,

Onajide Shabaka