



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TORONTO, ON – “Salt of the Earth” - Bishara Elmi’s premiere installation that explores the tension between belonging and displacement is the next exhibit for 2017-18 SPACE SHAPES PLACE: a national series of vibrant commissions at Tangled Art Gallery.**

**Salt of the Earth by Bishara Elmi**

**Exhibition dates:** October 26 – November 25, 2017

**Opening Artist Talk:** October 26, 6:00-8:00 pm

**Media Preview:** October 26, 3:00-5:00 pm

**Second Saturday Social:** November 11, 1:00-4:00 pm

**Location:** Tangled Art Gallery S-122, 401 Richmond St W,  
Toronto, ON

Dirt is the central material that Elmi works with in Salt of the Earth; signifying how this element is loaded with multiple meanings and legacies that span across continents to the artist’s homeland in Somalia. This new installation is comprised of crafted domestic objects made from earth that enact a “home” space. These dirt sculptures Elmi labours over in the making of the work could fall apart at any moment within the installation, and the sense of stability that comes with home could cease to exist.

**About Space Shapes Place**

Space Shapes Place is a national exhibition series of commissioned works by Deaf, Mad and disability artists, supported by Ontario 150 and the Toronto Arts Council’s Open Door program. Spanning ten months in



Tangled Art Gallery, the series will feature multidisciplinary creations by artists from across the country, exploring themes of disability identity, history, culture, community and lived experience across Canada. Curated by Artistic Director Barak adé Soleil, the commissioned artists were selected from a nationwide call for proposals.

### **About Second Saturday Socials:**

Centering the interests of our Blind and low vision communities, Second Saturday Socials are one of Tangled Art + Disability's public engagements fostering meaningful exchanges between artists and audiences within the disability, Mad and Deaf communities. On November 11, we will host our next social with **Bishara Elmi** as our featured artist.

**Elmi** will lead a workshop using materials explored during the process of making Salt of the Earth. Participants will also have the opportunity to take in the work being exhibited through a live description tour. Sweet and savory refreshments will be served to deepen the social interactions.

### **About The Artist:**

Bishara Elmi is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, educator, and public speaker working in visual forms and with numerous materials and creative processes, currently residing in Toronto by way of Mogadishu. Elmi also works individually and within collectives centering BIPOC youth, women and femmes voices and stories and has created many spaces for these types of storytelling and skill sharing to take place.

### **About Tangled Art Gallery:**

Tangled Art Gallery is Canada's first fully accessible disability arts gallery dedicated to advancing accessible programming and curatorial practices.



Tangled Art Gallery is proud to be barrier-free, cost-free, and open to the public. All events include ASL Interpretation, Attendant Care, and trained sighted guides. Service animals are welcome. We ask that you help us make our events scent free.

### **CONTACT / INTERVIEWS**

For images, interviews, or more information please contact:

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*Please note: Bishara Elmi's pronouns are ze and zir.*

### **UPCOMING AT TANGLED**

#### **Home:Body**

A series of performance art pieces happening at Tangled Art Gallery in December. Featured artists include dancer and choreographer Janelle Rouse, Performance Artist Cindy Baker, and emerging spoken word artist Jessica Leung.