

# POWER OF PLACE – STRENGTH OF BEING

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*Aboriginal languages have no word for “art”; rather the concept of art is spoken about through a combination of words describing the act of creating, functionalism, emotionalism, formalistic approaches, and imitative description. Be they functionally utilitarian or decorative, the designs and symbols and the act of creating all have deep rooted often-universal meanings throughout Aboriginal communities and other World art traditions. These creative works layered with meaning are meant to “speak” to the viewer.*

**Power of Place – Strength of Being** is an exhibition that explores World Indigenous and Western bead techniques, textiles, and various material objects. It includes contemporary, traditional, and historical examples, and their cultural contexts, and how ideas and methods have changed over time while acting as a visual reminder of a diverse creative expression that shows a vibrant mixture of culture, tradition, and exchange informed by ancient fundamentals, philosophies, and values that continue to be embraced today. The works connect various social, political, and cultural responses through metaphor, symbolism, and decorative element, and engage issues that are reflective of identity and place, forming a connection between art and tradition allowing the contribution of new meaning to the concepts of memory, reality, and responsibility.

This exhibition marks a pivotal moment as I approach the forth decade of my career with a new direction in my craft. Featuring a body of work that has been created in environments outside the museum archives and research centers where I have worked in the past. Over the past two-years I traveled to various “power” places around the world, places such as the inner circles of Stonehenge UK, Delphi Greece, the Great Pyramids of Giza and Chichen Itza Mexico. I investigated power places known only to locals in in sub-Saharan Africa such as East Africa’s