

JAMILAH  
SABUR:  
THE  
HARVESTERS

OCT 13, 2022 — APR 30, 2023

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THE BASS MUSEUM OF ART  
2100 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, FL 33139  
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JAMILAH SABUR:

*THE HARVESTERS*

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Working across various disciplines including performance, visual artwork, video and installation, Jamilah Sabur explores the intersections of geology, climatology, geography and memory with dynamics of power and capitalism.

For *The Harvesters*, Sabur weaves a series of interconnected works into an exhibition that confronts the labor of extraction, positioning the embodiment of physical labor and the mining of geological materials alongside extreme global weather patterns, metaphysics and planetary atmospheric shifts. Sabur examines climate change, particularly long-term changes in temperatures and weather patterns, as an expression of geological rhythms and economies.

The title of the exhibition is a reference to the eponymous Pieter Bruegel painting from 1565. In Bruegel's painting we see adults harvesting wheat in the foreground, while a sport game is played by youths in the mid-ground and an active bay filled with ships is in the background. For Sabur the painting is of particular resonance as the central focus is the late summer's heat. Sabur found herself reexamining the painting in context of the current energy crisis and the record-breaking heatwave the planet has experienced this year.

Sabur uses the theme of harvesting as double entendre to connect with her ongoing interest in mining and

mineral extraction, especially in the context of post-colonial states and their conception of boundaries. Another idea present in the Bruegel painting and explored in Sabur's work is movement, the physical labor of harvesting, the worker's sweeping scythe to cut wheat, expressing rhythmic movements of embodiment. In one painting this figure is paired with a parabolic shape, referring to the Rossby wave, a planetary wave within the Earth's Ocean and atmosphere formed as a result of the rotation of the planet.

Taking the subject matter of the painting as a starting point, Sabur asks us to see what historical narratives fail to provide, inviting viewers to consider what is left in the margins. Sabur offers viewers a glimpse of the tenuous cultural and geographic connections that knit together and demonstrate a basic metaphysical human truth: humanity goes beyond material capital.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jamilah Sabur (b. 1987, St. Andrew Parish, Jamaica) lives and works in Brussels. Metaphysics, geology, and memory are recurrent themes in the work of Jamilah Sabur. Making critical contributions to the discursive spaces of labor and economies of movement, Sabur engages imaging on a planetary scale to re-calibrate our understanding of place, time and history.



Image credit: Pieter Bruegel, *The Harvesters*, 1565, oil on panel, 46.8 x 63.7 in.  
Source: Google Arts & Culture, provided by The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Sabur's work has been shown at galleries and institutions such as Pérez Art Museum, Miami, the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit and Fondation PHI, Montréal. Her recent solo exhibitions include *Eltanin*, Broadway, New York (2022), *DADA Holdings*, Nina Johnson, Miami (2021), *La montagne fredonne sous l'océan/The mountain sings underwater*, Fondation PHI, Momenta Biennale, Montréal, Québec (2021),

*Observations: Selected Works by Jamilah Sabur*, University of Maryland Art Gallery (2020). Sabur earned a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore (2009), and an MFA from the University of California, San Diego (2014). Her work is included in the permanent collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, The Bass Museum of Art, University of Maryland and TD Bank Group.



Aim your phone's camera at the QR code here for more information on the exhibition or visit:  
<https://thebass.org/art/the-harvesters/>

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