

Pride, Ray. "Today In The Culture, June 7, 2022: Michi Meko at Kavi Gupta | Repurposing Historic Architecture | Chicago Children's Choir is Egypt Bound," *Newcity*, 7 June 2022

Today In The Culture, June 7, 2022: Michi Meko at Kavi Gupta | Repurposing Historic Architecture | Chicago Children's Choir is Egypt Bound

JUNE 7, 2022 AT 7:00 AM BY RAY PRIDE



Michi Meko at Kavi Gupta

ART

Michi Meko's "Dark Was The Night, Cold Was The Ground" At Kavi Gupta

Kavi Gupta is presenting "Dark Was The Night, Cold Was The Ground," a solo exhibition and catalogue of new work by Michi Meko, Joan Mitchell Foundation Grantee and Artadia Award winner. Featuring works created entirely during the pandemic, the exhibition reflects on Meko's ideas and experiences during isolation. "Solitude is a strange currency—enriching to those who can mobilize its potential; a liability to those who cannot. For many of us, the forced isolation imposed by the pandemic exacerbated existing feelings of loneliness. When Meko saw the world going into quarantine back in 2020, he decided to embrace the inevitable. Packing a go bag and heading by himself deep into the north Georgia woods, he instigated an isolation within an isolation and found visibility within invisibility."

"Being Black in the wilderness is an idea I've been trying to chase down or play with for a long time," he says. "2020 gave me a green light to just take off and see what that's like. I wrote a book of field notes and took photographs and made drawings. A lot of it was trying to hear my voice and understand what that meant—to hear one's own voice in wild spaces. What does a Black man sound like in a wilderness, versus the voice of John Muir or Ernest Hemingway?" Meko transforms the gallery to evoke a lonesome campfire in the mountains, symbolically and abstractly depicting both the geographical and psychological wildernesses through which Meko has traveled. Through July 30.