

ART & CULTURE



EYE SPY Skiers and riders stopping in to Elk Camp Restaurant on Snowmass Mountain this winter will experience a feast for the eyes as well as the palate—a whimsical, 30-foot-by-9-foot mural by New York-based artist Shinique Smith. Heidi Zuckerman, director of the Aspen Art Museum, approached Smith to create the installation as part of an ongoing collaboration with Aspen Skiing Company, called *Art in Unexpected Places*. “The wall seemed intimate and an interesting space to work with,” Smith recalls. Starting with only a general idea about colors and emotion, and arriving with materials, such as little pieces of fabric that she’d “been saving for something special,” Smith proceeded to turn the restaurant into a temporary art studio, with the wall as a canvas. “I worked the wall like I would a painting, starting with black in a coloring-book sort of way and using the full extension of my arm to add color and collage elements,” she says. After five days on the mountaintop, working mostly alone from morning to night, the natural beauty of her surroundings seeped into the art. “It was funny because, in the end, I realized: Hmm... this could be what skiing is like,” she muses. “There could be some imagining here, some lyrical shifting up and down the hills that appears by osmosis.” The concept of shifting and moving in waves eventually inspired the mural’s title, “Resonant Tide.” “It kept coming back to me in the process of naming the work,” Smith says. Adds Zuckerman, “It activates the space in such brilliant and surprising ways. It’s *Art in Unexpected Places* at its best.” To hear more about the mural, join Shinique Smith, Heidi Zuckerman and Mike Kaplan, president and CEO of Aspen Skiing Company, at Elk Camp Restaurant Feb. 26 from 4:30-5:30PM for a conversation about the mural and a signing of the new *Art in Unexpected Places II* book. —Linda Hayes

OPEN DIALOGUE

Smith says that the mountainous surroundings inspired her creation, which includes a dancer and a skier alongside black paint outlines, splashes of pinks and violets and cuts of paper and cloth.