

# VAN DOREN WAXTER

SANTA FE  NEW MEXICAN



## Mixed Media — Tailor-made masterpiece: Alan Shields' labyrinth

Michael Abatemarco | December 13, 2013

Alan Shields (1944-2005) is known for his three-dimensional paintings, collagelike works in which he employed materials such as thread, pipe cleaners, scraps of cloth, glass beads, handmade paper, and even Velcro. Shields learned to sew from his mother and sisters while growing up in Herington, Kansas. Using a sewing machine to craft his works, he became prominent in the New York art scene in the 1970s.

*Maze*, created in the early 1980s, is an interactive installation of pathways lined with two-sided paintings on unstretched canvas that offers visitors the immersive experience of being inside a painting. New perspectives, colors, and forms greet them at every turn. More than 30 years after its inception, *Maze* comes to SITE Santa Fe for SITElab 3 — along with the video work *Into the Maze*, a recorded performance by the Stephen Petronio Dance Company set to original music by Tom Laurie. The company has collaborated with visual and performing artists such as Cindy Sherman, Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed, and Anish Kapoor. In *Into the Maze*, eight dancers dressed in Shields' wearable art objects interact with the large-scale installation.

This is the third installment in the SITElab series. Designed to give visitors a taste of the kinds of contemporary exhibitions presented at SITE between major shows, SITElab is an ongoing series of experimental exhibitions of work by established and emerging artists presented in a newly designed gallery space off the lobby at SITE. SITElab 3 opens Wednesday, Dec. 18, and runs through Jan. 12, 2014. There is no charge for admission. SITE Santa Fe is at 1606 Paseo de Peralta; call 505-989-1199 and see [www.sitesantafe.org](http://www.sitesantafe.org).