Nothing Dersonal.

11.06.16 30.07.16

KATHARIEN DE VILLIERS
EURIDICE KALA
BRONWYN KATZ
ALEXANDRA KARAKASHIAN
OLIVIÉ KECK
WALLEN MAPONDERA
SIWA MGOBOZA
MIRANDA MOSS
SETHEMBILE MSEZANE
MONGEZI NCAPHAYI
RUBY SWINNEY
KATLEGO TLABELA
CHRISTIAAN VAN EEDEN

RUANN COLEMAN

LHOLA AMIRA

smac

STELLENBOSCH

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Nothing Personal

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SMAC Gallery presents *Nothing Personal*, a group exhibition featuring a selection of young and emerging artists from Southern Africa, currently practicing within the region.

Featured artists: Featured Artists: Lhola Amira, Ruann Coleman, Katharien de Villiers, Euridice Kala, Bronwyn Katz, Alexandra Karakashian, Olivié Keck, Wallen Mapondera, Siwa Mgoboza, Miranda Moss, Sethembile Msezane, Mongezi Ncaphayi, Ruby Swinney, Katlego Tlabela, Christiaan van Eeden.

Please don't take this personally.

The term 'Nothing Personal' implies many things, but inseparable from its use, is the knowledge that the speaker is aware of the discomfort caused by the ensuing statement and yet, will speak the words anyway.

An informal prefix to insulting or offensive statements, whilst dragging a silent 'but' behind itself, the use of the term 'nothing personal but....' has come to be recognized as some kind of thunderous set-up, before a storm-like punch line. The peddler of such a phrase cloaks their statement in such a glaringly transparent manner, that their attempt at diplomacy is often more vexing than their intended blow.

The idea of 'the personal is political' was popularized following the titling of a paper authored by radical feminist and writer Carol Hanisch in 1969. Due to its accuracy and 'interpretation-ability', many social movements to date have adopted this title-turned-statement. This is mostly due to the use of the word 'personal', the definition of which largely depends on comparison and differentiation. The 'personal' relies on interpretation. 'Interpretation' relies on understanding and around we go...

The meaning of the word 'personal' is best understood in terms of 'self' and 'other' – both of which rest, almost solely, on context. This exhibition is therefore thematically placed at the intersection between the private and the public, or the personal and the political - respectively and interchangeably. The artists featured in this exhibition, each engages with context (as a concept) through direct reference or complete negation, both manners speak volumes to those that choose to listen.

The phrase 'nothing personal but...' is frequently used in a local context to express criticism that will certainly offend, whilst implying that one either can not, or has not applied time and forethought to the delivery. The manner in which each of the artists in this exhibition silently apply this statement to their work, is based on audience understanding, context, and the artist's own interpretation of 'self' and 'other'.

On encountering a series of black and white photographs titled; *Being Lhola Amira I-VI* (2016), the juxtaposition of site specificity and 'timelessness' is instantaneous. **Lhola Amira** is all of us and none of us simultaneously. Her appearing character represents a ubiquitous wonder, encompassing all conceivable gender, cultural and racial categorisations, while remaining resonant to the individual.

Ruann Colemann meticulously searches for form and balance within his understanding of his working environment as 'natural'. The artist's investigation of these concepts is evident in his work *Abacus 1.1* (2016) and *Loop* (2016), each piece representing both the material and the immaterial.

Katlego Tlabela takes his cue quietly affirming what he believes. His work claims no propaganda, but rather the displaying of experience and opinion. There is no offence, just an unassuming recording of what the young artist has experienced in his practice thus far.

Similarly **Siwa Mgoboza** tackles preconceived ideas of identity and cultural norms based around certain signs or, in this case, patterns and textiles. His work *Once Upon a Time in Africadia* (2016), offers a platform of which to reconsider ones own understanding of 'cultural norms', encouraging looking as opposed to just seeing.

Mongezi Ncaphayi's large-scale abstractions take a different tack. Working intuitively with the repetition of form and colour, the artist creates intricate works on paper by combining paint and printmaking techniques. A mix of organic painterly marks and ridged hand-drawn lines, each process overlapping the prior, forming a clear indication of process that is underpinned by an arrangement of pattern, line and shape that echo the tempo and rhythm of Jazz compositions, on a scale that pushes the traditional limits of work on paper.

Zimbabwean artist **Wallen Mapondera**'s assemblages provide a corresponding feeling of satisfaction in repetition, evoking interest in the pattern created through the use of such a banal material like cardboard boxing, appropriated into multiple 'window' forms through which one can see the rarely seen space between wall and artwork.

Alexandra Karakashian's paintings move seamlessly into view, presenting audiences with fascinating abstract compositions that ignites a contemplation of the environment through her use of materials like oil and salt.

Euridice Kala, from Mozambique, also makes use of minerals in her video installation titled; *Measuring Blackness and a Guide to Other Industries* (2015), but Kala nods to different connotations centered around racial definitions of colour, that reference commodities such as salt (historically considered extremely valuable). This work was shown at the 12th Edition of Dak'Art in Senegal this year and engages with the changing values used as descriptions or indicators of race and identity.

Sethembile Msezane intercepts similar presumptions and comparisons with her *Public Holidays* (2013) performance series. A documentation image of one of these performances titled; *Untitled (Heritage Day)* (2013, depicts the artist standing in front of the South African Parliament in Cape Town. The work highlights the relative nature of 'cultural heritage' in South Africa and begs the question 'whose heritage?'

Bronwyn Katz's video work *Grond Herinnering (Soil Memory)* (2016), also recently shown at Dak'Art 2016, continues the conversation, implying the constant reevaluation of history and discourse required for understanding.

Olivié Keck's *Over My Dead Body* (2014) and *Malarkey Dowry* (2011-2016) reveal the calming nature of compulsion. Lulling viewers back to an atmosphere of time as abstract, opposed to the immediate or urgent.

In both *Cloud Formations* (2016) and *Feng Shui for Chi II* (2016), **Katharien de Villiers**' use of industrial and synthetic materials combined with her own brand of 'home and garden hardware –reimagined', injects a measure of artistic playfulness into her aesthetic. The result is a weighted contrast between mass-production and artisanal hand-made objects, suggesting a tenuous opinion of the immediacy of contemporary societal art practices.

Christiaan van Eeden's work gently points out thoughtless assumptions around intended functions of various unrelated objects. This can be seen in; *New Age Lifestyle with a Vintage Feel (T's)& (C's)(2016)*, each item brings with it a complex context that allows Van Eeden to open a 'micro-stage' on which he 'curates' multiple contexts into a painting.

Ruby Swinney's paintings depict imaginings of semi-formulated memories of faceless individuals frozen mid-action, one cannot tell if this effect is caused by sights seen at a high velocity or in slow motion.

An installation by **Miranda Moss**, Although they didn't come in peace as least they brought some nice things thanks but no thanks I'm trying to quit (2016), hypnotizes as the mind tries to compute what the eye is seeing. Moss leads viewers on a journey starting with intrigue, to disbelief, followed by suspicion, and lastly contentment as understanding dawns.

But then again, it's Nothing Personal....

The exhibition opened on 11 June 2016 runs until 30 July 2016.

ALEXANDRA KARAKASHIAN

Collapse III 2016 Oil on Paper 100 x 70 cm

Collapse II 2016 Oil on paper 100 x 70 cm

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OLIVIÉ KECK

Over my Dead Body 2014 Coloured embroidery thread on linen 120 x 147 cm

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OLIVIÉ KECK

Malarkey Dowry 2011 - 2016 Hand embroidery on paper 29.7 x 21 cm Portfolio of 50

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KATLEGO TLABELA

Gods (After Okri) 2016 Black pearl pigment and enamel screenprint on canvas 65 x 80 cm

R 12 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

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SETHEMBILE MSEZANE

Untitled (Heritage Day) 2013 Photographic print 69 x 49 cm Edition 1 of 3

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SETHEMBILE MSEZANE

KwaSuka Sukela 2015 Mixed Media 66.5 x 47 cm

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WALLEN MAPONDERA

Kumba Kwababa Vangu (My Father's House) Diptych

2016 Cardboard Box 90 x 180 cm

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KATLEGO TLABELA

Negro Sunshine (After Lignon) 2016 Gold pigment and enamel screenprint on canvas 60 x 80 cm

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KATLEGO TLABELA

Everything is Alright 2016 Black pearl pigment and enamel screenprint on canvas 65 x 80 cm

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KATLEGO TLABELA

Leaders (After Treason Trial) 2016 Black pearl pigment and enamel screenprint on canvas 80 x 80 cm

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KATLEGO TLABELA

Man, What a Time 2016 Black pearl pigment and enamel screenprint on canvas 65 x 80 cm

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LHOLA AMIRA

Being Lhola Amira I - VI

2016 Gicleé black and white print on 310g Hanhemuhle German etching paper 31 x 33 cm Edition of 3 (2 APS)

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BRONWYN KATZ

Water Leesing 2015 HD Video, Sound, TV Monitor & Concrete 5 min & 32 sec Edition 3 of 10 (3 AP)

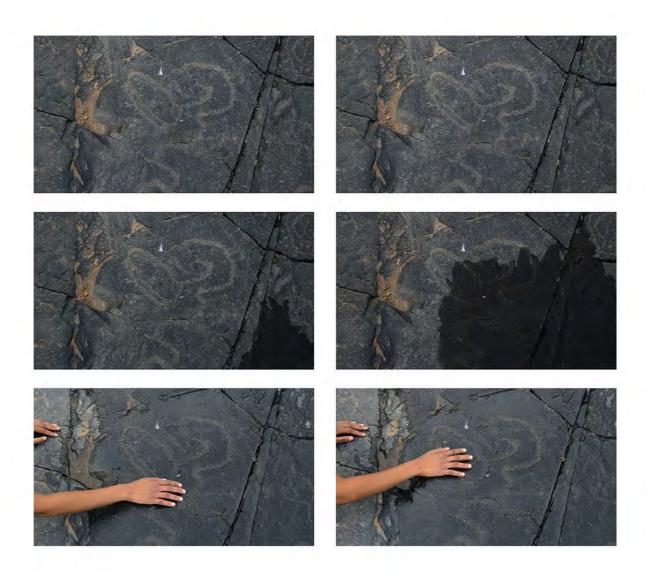
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BRONWYN KATZ

Grond Herinnering (Soil Memory) 2015 HD Video, Sound, Wide screen Projection 5 min & 51 sec edition 5 of 5 (3 AP)

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A Lesser Mystery 2016 Oil on tracing Paper 92 x 68 cm

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The Disappeared 2016 Oil on tracing paper 73 x 102 cm

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The Abduction 2016 Oil on tracing paper 67 x 137 cm

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Communion 2016 Oil on tracing paper 93 x 69 cm

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Under Indulgence Over Control 2016 Mixed Media 160 x 120 cm (painting) Dimension variable (sculpture)

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Swipe 2016 Plascon "Colonial Dream", Oil, Glue, Canvas 120 x 90 cm

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New Age Lifestyle With A Vintage Feels (Ts) 2015 - 2016 Oil, glue and canvas 180 x 130 cm



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New Age Lifestyle With a Vintage Feel (Cs) 2015 - 2016 Mixed Media 174 x 100 cm



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KATHARIEN DE VILLIERS

cloud formations 2016 Mylar film 'clouds' (14) Dimensions variable

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KATHARIEN DE VILLIERS

DIY 2016 Enamel and chrome on porcelain bathroom tiles (9) 60 x 60 cm Edition 1 of 4

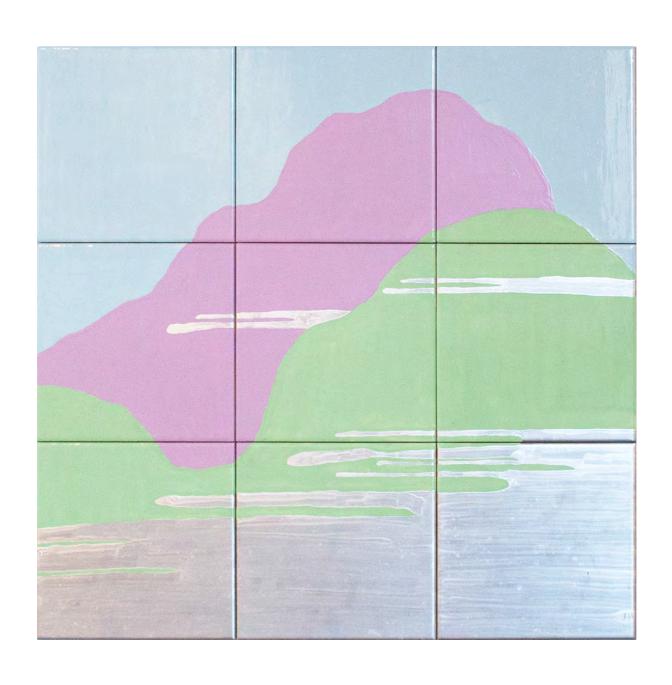
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KATHARIEN DE VILLIERS

Feng Shui for Chi II 2016 Oil and enamel on steel venetian blinds with fluorescent light 130 x 96 cm

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MONGEZI NCAPHAYI

Untitled 2016 Mixed Media on Paper 200 x 140 cm

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MONGEZI NCAPHAYI

Untitled II 2016 Mixed Media on Paper 200 x 140 cm

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Although they didn't come in peace at least they brought some nice things thanks but no thanks I'm trying to quit 2016

Pacific breeze cigarette, devils ivy / money plant, mist, pine, imbuia wood and nail polish $120 \times 32 \times 32 \text{ cm}$

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Poubelle Blanc 2016 Plaster, cigarette butts, spray paint, acrylic and glitter on board with recovered frame 27 x 27 cm

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Thumbnail 2016 Fake fingernail, spray paint and recovered frame 17 x 17 cm

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Sincerely, 2016 Acrylic, spray paint, glitter, spray foam, cigarette butts and fake fern on board 30 x 30 cm

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Shady Side 2016 Preserved Icelandic moss and spray paint on recovered frame 17 x 17 cm

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The Postcards Were Lying 2016 Oil, Spray Paint, National Geographic, Postage Stamps 33 x 33 cm



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RUANN COLEMAN

Abacus 1.1 2016 Found rope, nail and Kiaat wood Dimensions Variable 50 x 16 x 26 cm

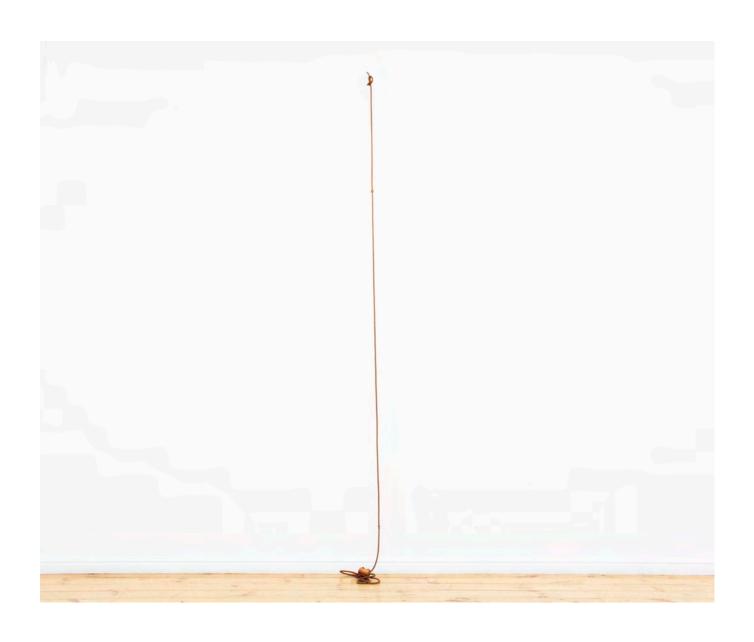
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RUANN COLEMAN

Loop 2016 Found pipe and bronze tinted mirror 100 cm Diameter

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Measuring Blackness and a Guide to Other Industries 2016 Photographic print (text) Edition of 6

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EURIDICE KALA

Measuring Blackness & a Guide to Other Industries 2016 Mixed Media (video and photography)

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SIWA MGOBOZA

Les Etres D'Africadia V Libertina La Reina 2016 Photographic print on epsom hot press natural paper 183 x 146 cm

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SIWA MGOBOZA

Once Upon a Time in Africadia 2016 Isishweshwe (three cats cotton) collage, tulle and pine ply 180 x 140 cm

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