

# MASIMBA HWATI

Instruments of Memory /  
Simbi dzeNdangariro

20 . 08 . 16  
08 . 10 . 16

@smac\_gallery  
#smacgallery  
#masimbahwati  
#instrumentsofmemory



**smac**

STELLENBOSCH  
1st Floor, De wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

info@smacgallery.com  
www.smacgallery.com

## Masimba Hwati

### Instruments of Memory / Simbi dzeNdangariro

---

*Instruments of Memory / Simbi dzeNdangariro* is Zimbabwean artist Masimba Hwati's first solo exhibition in South Africa and his first with SMAC Gallery. A multidisciplinary artist with a focus on sculpture, Hwati questions typical definitions and imagery associated with post-colonial societies, particularly on the African continent.

In *Instruments of Memory*, Masimba Hwati presents a unique collection of sculptural assemblages that intricately bind preconceived, often mistaken, ideas of 'African' and 'Western' imagery. Each artwork further investigates themes of 'cultural symbiosis' or the exchange between seemingly opposing cultures of stereotypical memetic traits. Hwati's astute combinations of symbols and objects that are considered representative of endemically African cultures and more colonial-originating cultivations initiate this exchange.

As the title of the exhibition indicates, this new body of work grapples with the human experience of 'memory' and 'energies'. Hwati draws on these seemingly abstract concepts through each of his found objects, many of which he considers culturally 'traditional' to his upbringing. Hwati physically alters and then re-imagines these objects by juxtaposing them and changing the socio-cultural space and context they occupy.

Masimba Hwati's practice is primarily comprised of an in-depth relationship with symbols of his life experiences. His use of objects that are of a personal and cultural significance is what makes each work a collage of subjective representation within a collection of idiosyncratic interpretation. Hwati is a treasure hunter and his treasures are used and discarded objects – seemingly without value. This assumed 'non-value' is one of the many concepts that Hwati unceremoniously turns on its head, with the same gentle, sardonic humour exhibited by the early 20th century Dadaists. Just as one hears whispers of the 'readymade' and reads of critics neatly boxing this artist and his practice into a prescribed 'Afro-Dada or -Futurist' category, Hwati thoroughly explains many of his personal associations with each component of his artwork. He makes clear that the objects before him are not just found objects, but artifacts.

Works in the *Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe* (2016) series are contextual combinations of specific thoughts and feelings. The English translation of this title; 'That which has horns cannot be wrapped' is a well-known Shona phrase that has an obvious literal association with the animal horns fixed to each artwork. However, perhaps less conspicuously, this title also alludes to the wheelbarrow handles attached to a festooned boxing bag filled with sand, communicating the experience of an attempt to move a load forward but being hindered by the load itself.

*Antennas & Memes VI* (2016), cradles a plastic, Taiwanese-made Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle toy, while simultaneously touting the horns of African buck and animal bones. The context of each of these elements is altered, either unexpectedly or quite predictably, by both its repositioning and its annexure.

Every object, item, medium or material in Hwati's sculptures has been "conceptually diagnosed" and deemed fit to form part of the artist's complex personal narrative, while simultaneously directing a collective experience. The Shona proverb; 'Zvikomo zvemutunhu umwe zvinotambidzana mhute', ties itself to Masimba Hwati's *Instruments of Memory*, both in its meaning and its entangled translation. Loosely translated, the meaning reads; "mountains of the same range give each other mist". Hwati interprets the meaning of this proverb as "influence is a result of proximity, and that all things are connected". His understanding of the proverb offers viewers a starting point with which to approach this exhibition.

In its entirety, *Instruments of Memory / Simbi dzeNdangariro* displays undertones of Hwati's experience and understanding of current socio-political circumstances in his home country as well as many other African countries. As opposed to a focus on particular issues, Hwati wrestles with the roots of feelings of unrest, support, disappointment and hope. Through what would appear to be an almost absurd conglomeration of unusual objects, Masimba Hwati is able to mine crucial meaning and a rare universal accessibility without shedding his individual and distinct heritage.

---

**Masimba Hwati** is a multidisciplinary artist with a focus on sculpture. His work questions prescribed definitions and imagery associated with various post-colonial societies, particularly on the African continent. Born in 1982 in Harare, Zimbabwe, he graduated from the Harare Polytechnic in 2003. Hwati presented his first solo exhibition; *Facsimiles of Energy* in 2011 at Gallery Delta – Foundation for Art and Humanities in Harare, Zimbabwe. Prior to that, his work formed part of the Harare Biennale at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe in 2005. Notable group exhibitions include; *Vibes, Pledges and Oracles* at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, in 2007; *Colour Africa: Zeitgenössische Kunst Aus Simbabwe* at the Kulturallmende in Munich, Germany and *Food for Thought* at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, both in 2011. In 2012, Hwati received an award for Multi Media – Tradition, Family and Religion, sponsored by the European Union. He also participated in *Between the Sheets: 2012 Artists' Books Exhibition* at Gallery East in North Freemantle, Australia.

Following his solo exhibition *Quantumlogik* at Gallery Delta in Harare in 2014, Hwati was one of three artists selected for the Zimbabwean Pavilion exhibition; *Pixels Of Ubuntu/Unhu*, curated by Raphael Chikukwa, at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015. Showing for the first time in South Africa, his work featured in the group exhibition *TREK: Following Journeys* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town. Also in 2015, Hwati participated in the Zimbabwean Cultural Centre of Detroit (ZCCD) Artist Exchange programme in Detroit, USA and was an invited speaker at the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series at the Penny. W Stamps School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan, USA.

Masimba Hwati presented *don't worry, be happy*, an exhibition for this year's Cape Town Art Fair Special Projects Section *Tomorrows/Today*, curated by Ruth Simbao and Azu Nwagbogwu. Hwati's presentation was subsequently selected as the winner for this section.

## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes I*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
239 x 12 x 6 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes II*

2016

Mixed Media

253 x 44 x 20 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



**Masimba Hwati**

*Antennas & Memes III*

2016

Mixed Media

219 x 17 x 10 cm

**STELLENBOSCH**

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

**CAPE TOWN**

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes IV*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
158 x 50 x 20 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes V*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
194 x 35 x 35 cm

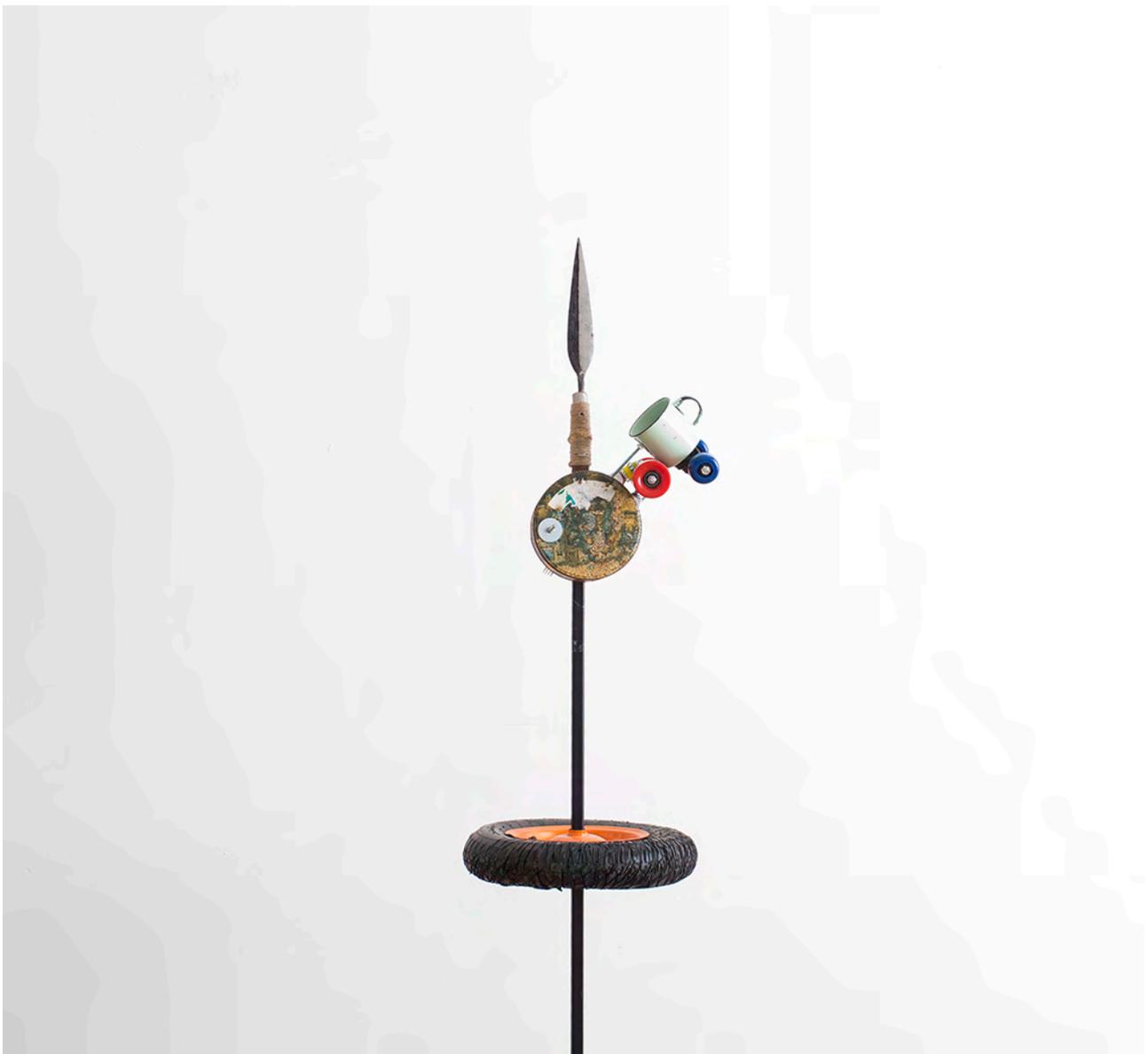
### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes VI*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
265 x 42 x 33 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes VII*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
268 x 100 x 100 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



**Masimba Hwati**

*Antennas & Memes VIII*

2016

Mixed Media

226 x 25 x 25 cm

**STELLENBOSCH**

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

**CAPE TOWN**

The Palms

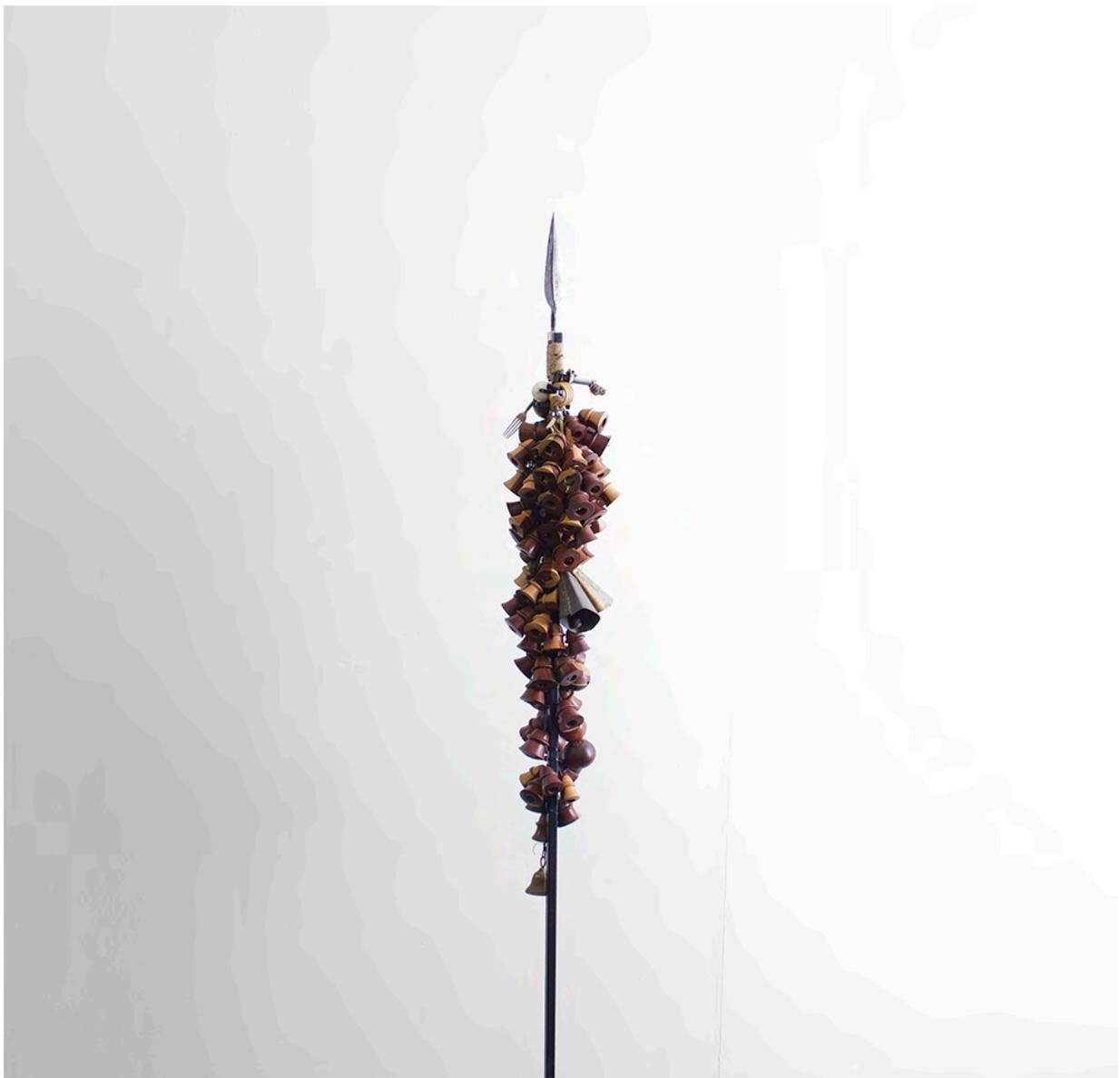
145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes IX*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
204 x 38 x 34 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



**Masimba Hwati**

*Antennas & Memes X*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
248 x 46 x 22 cm

**STELLENBOSCH**

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

**CAPE TOWN**

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XI*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
235 x 23 x 17 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XII*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
227 27 x 6 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XIII*

2016

Mixed Media

226 x 50 x 22 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

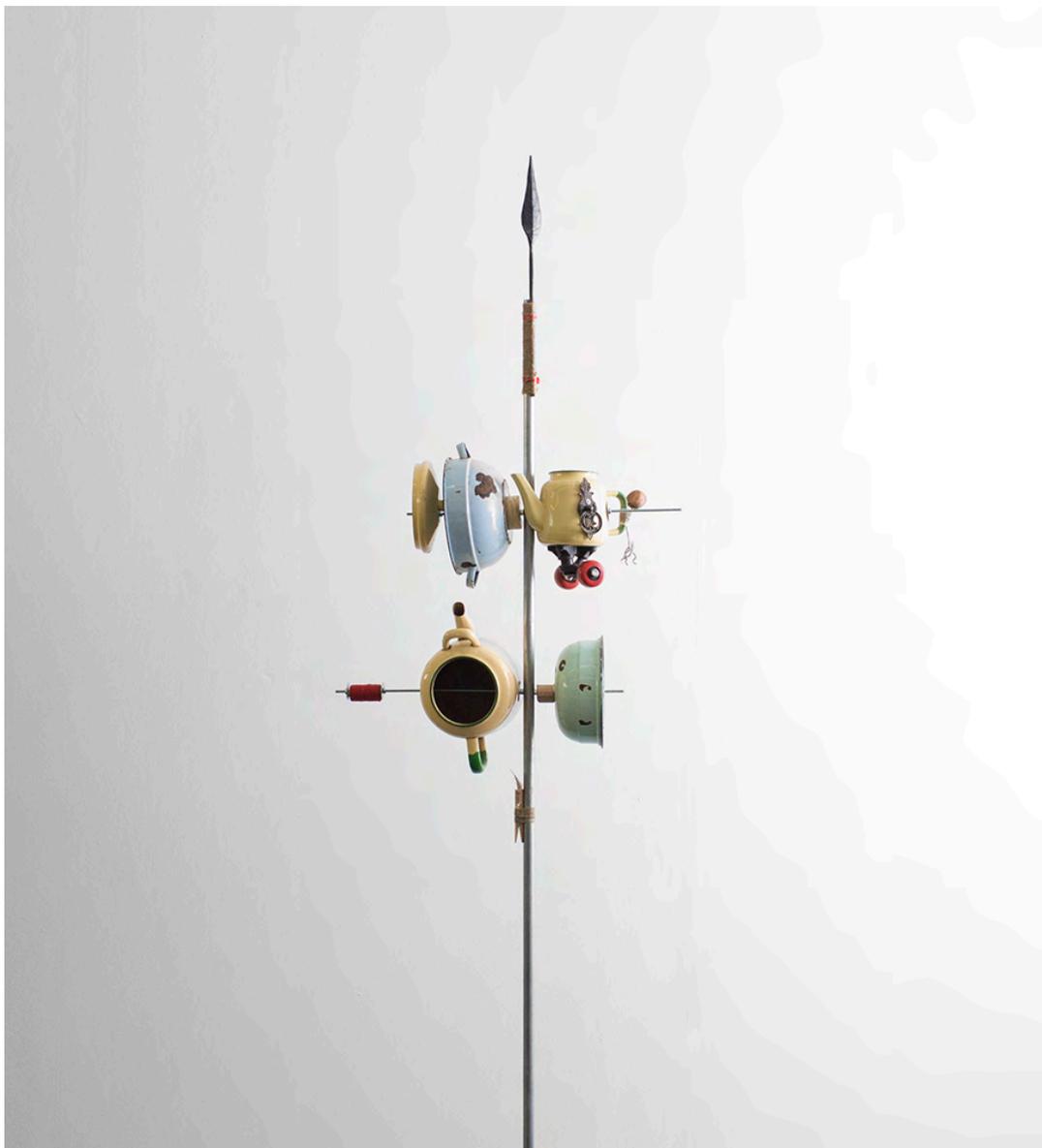
145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XIV*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
218 x 62 x 10 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XV*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
260 x 22 x 20 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XVI*

2016

Mixed Media

225 x 32 x 14 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Antennas & Memes XVII*

2016

Mixed Media

244 x 52 x 43 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe I (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

170 x 73 x 44 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe II (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

133 x 100 x 72 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe III (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

160 x 60 x 35 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe IV (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

150 x 72 x 46 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe V (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

158 x 55 x 50 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Rinamanyanga Hariputirwe VI (That Which Has Horns Cannot Be Wrapped)*

2016

Mixed Media

168 x 90 x 45 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Putugadzike (Tea)*

2016

Mixed Media

43 x 305 x 83 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



**Masimba Hwati**

*Don't Worry be Happy*

2016

Mixed Media

66 x 160 x 60 cm

**STELLENBOSCH**

1st Floor, De Wet Centre

Church Street

Stellenbosch, 7600

F +27 (0)21 887 7624

T +27 (0)21 887 3607

**CAPE TOWN**

The Palms

145 Sir Lowry Rd

Cape Town, 7925

T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)

[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)



## Masimba Hwati

*Neo-tribal V*  
2016  
Mixed Media  
39 cm

### STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre  
Church Street  
Stellenbosch, 7600  
F +27 (0)21 887 7624  
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

### CAPE TOWN

The Palms  
145 Sir Lowry Rd  
Cape Town, 7925  
T +27 (0)21 422 5100

[info@smacgallery.com](mailto:info@smacgallery.com)  
[www.smacgallery.com](http://www.smacgallery.com)

