

PROOF

Group Exhibition

SMAC Gallery is proud to present *PROOF*, an exhibition of print in South Africa. Printmaking continues to hold a prominent place in South African art discourse as the most accessible and – for many – affordable art form. *PROOF* seeks to highlight the medium of printmaking and the various ways in which artists have engaged with and expanded upon the medium over the years. Included are prints by young artists – such as Keneilwe Mokoena, Mongezi Ncaphayi, Georgina Gratrix, Bonolo Kavula, and Amber Moir – as well as works by more established printmakers such as William Kentridge, Maggie Laubser, Walter Battiss, Sue Williamson, and Norman Catherine.

Contemporary printmaking remains an important medium in South Africa, with artists turning to new digital approaches, renewing age-old techniques, and printing on as well as with alternative materials and tools. Today, artists use a myriad of printed formats, from the traditional intimacy of a single sheet of paper to large-scale installation based works.

The nature of traditional methods of printmaking is collaborative, going far beyond the process of markmaking. Due to the immobility of the hardware required (such as presses and acid baths), printmaking often



Mongezi Ncaphayi | Nostalgia for the Impossible | 2015 Screenprint | 91 x 63 cm



William Kentridge | *Scribble Cat* | n.d. | Linocut | 43 x 66 cm Ed. 6/20

requires artists to come together to produce their work. The inevitable result is the bleeding of concepts and styles between the group. The print studio therefore became, and remains, a melting pot for discussion and the sharing of ideas. Thus, printmaking became the ideal medium for socio-political engagement. This tradition of socio-political commentary continues in the works of Anton Kannemeyer and Conrad Botes, both using the medium of print to communicate their own brand of satire.

The medium was among the focus of numerous community skills-development workshops, most notably the Rorke's Drift Art and Craft Centre in KwaZulu-Natal, the Polly Street Art Centre in Johannesburg, and the Community Art Project (CAP) in Cape Town. The effect of these centres and projects was to empower communities with the skills to communicate through the arts and the medium of print. All three of the aforementioned workshops boast an impressive alumnus of facilitators and artists, including renowned artists such as Peter E. Clarke, Lionel Davis, Patrick Holo, and Garth Erasmus from CAP; Cecil Skotnes, Larry Scully, Fred Schimmel, Ezrom Lagae, and Lucky Sibiya from Polly Street; and Sam Nhlengethwa, Kay Hassan, and Pat Mautloa from the Rorke's Drift Art and Craft Centre.

In addition to the community and group-based nature of printmaking, the medium was, and continues to be, widely utilised due to the relatively cost-effective and simple production methods – with particular reference to lino and wood cut. These methods are used extensively today, both as a means to produce multiple pieces at a lower cost, but also as a reflection on the idea of mass-production, consumerism, and consumption. With newer technologies, the digital print is almost unavoidable

in modern day life. While many view this plethora of imagery and print as excessive and an exhausting symbol of capitalist society, the means to mass-produce imagery allows for an abundance of public art.

For much of their history, fine art prints have been a private art form, designed for connoisseurs and collectors, published in limited editions, and hidden away in portfolios. The 20th century saw the development of a more public role for prints, with the adoption of affordable processes and materials. With the digitisation of processes in the 21st century, the idea of the limited edition print has all but fallen to the wayside. While we continue with the tradition of editioned prints, there is little proof that further editions will not be made; as everyone knows, it is near impossible to wipe something once it has been digitally published.

The practice of printmaking over the last decades is no longer considered the poor cousin to painting, sculpting, or photography but is coming out of the shadow as an individual art form with a remarkable

SYCH AN HONEST EXPRESSION
OF MY INTERESTS

range of expressive possibilities. Many accomplished painters – such as Georgina Gratrix or Johann Louw – have found in printmaking a fresh lens through which to filter their subject matter. Artists such as Katlego Tlabela, Sue Williamson, and Bonolo Kavula continue to explore the scope of the medium of traditional print through investigating the potential of scale, surface, and alternative materials.

With the advent of new digital developments, one finds that the medium of print suddenly encompasses a great many artists who would not otherwise have called themselves printmakers. While, at a glance, Asha Zero's paintings seem to whole-heartedly embody digital print media through collage, on closer inspection it becomes apparent that Zero is using the medium of paint to mimic the medium of print – with exquisitely unusual and meticulous mark making. In *PROOF*, we see Zero producing a print-of-a-painting-of-a-print, thus parodying the techniques of both print and painting and disputing the territory of both mediums. Zero evidences the contemporary dispute of edition vs. reproduction.

"In recent years printmaking has co-opted painting and sculpture, dress and domestic furnishings, commerce and cyberspace. Dynamic and democratic, the world of printmaking now includes the billboard and the badge, the masterpiece and the multiple, the priceless and the give-away."

While the medium of print in South Africa remains deeply connected to the voice of the people – the inheritance of the likes of Polly Street, Rorke's Drift, and CAP filter through new workshops, schools, and printing houses – it continues to evolve and offers an animated and crucial bond between the individual, the community, the gallery, and the museum.

 Saunders, G & Miles, R. 2016. Printmaking in the 21st century. V&A Museum Article.

> STELLENBOSCH First Floor, De Wet Centre, Church Street, Stellenbosch, 7600 T+27 (0)21 887 3607

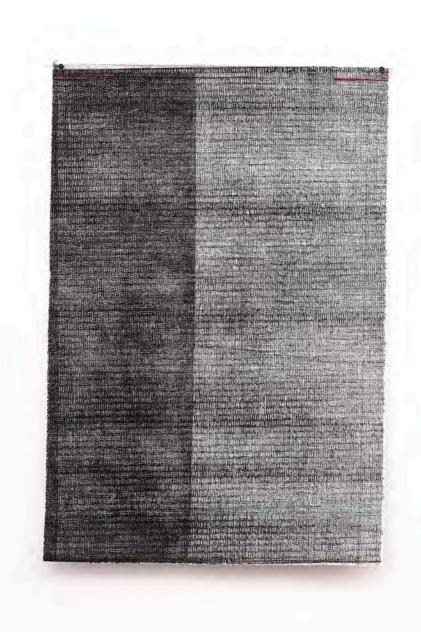
Bonolo Kavula

I wrote you every day for a year 2017 Relief Ink on Canvas 158.5 x 90 cm Unique



Bonolo Kavula

Counting the Days I 2017 Linocut and Woodblock Print on Canvas 29.5 x 20.6 cm ED 1/1



Bonolo Kavula

Counting the Days II 2017 Linocut and Woodblock print on canvas 29.5 cm x 20.6 cm ED 1/1



William Kentridge

Scribble Cat n.d. Linocut 43 x 66 cm ED 6/20



Anton Kannemeyer

Super Rich Man 2011 Lithograph 50.5 x 50.5 cm ED 11/25



Mongezi Ncaphayi

Nostalgia for the Impossible 2015 Lithograph 89 x 62 cm ED 3/8



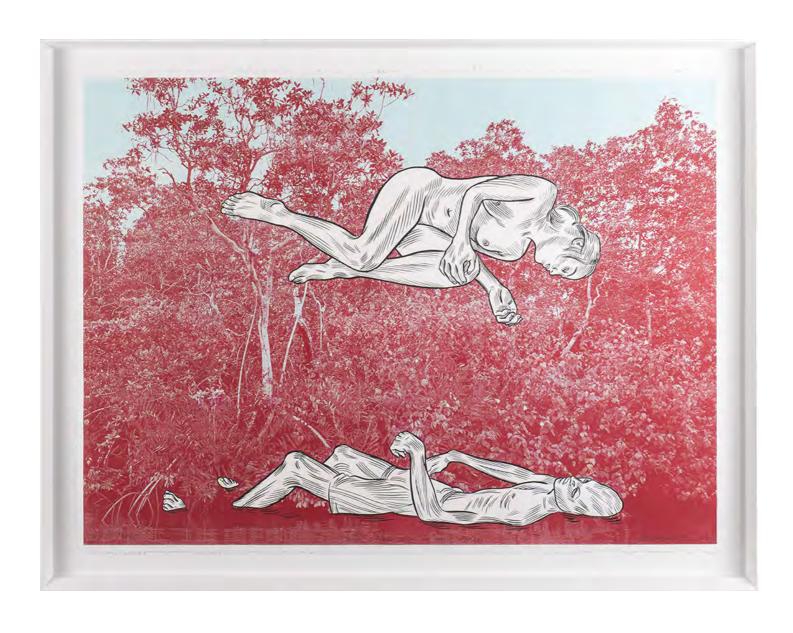
Mongezi Ncaphayi

Jour de Grâce 2014 Lithograph 89 x 62 cm ED 1/2 AP



Conrad Botes

The Other Side of the World 2016 Three Colour Lithograph 57 x 76,4 cm AP 1/1



Walter Battiss

Bird Flight n.d. Screenprint 26 x 20 cm ED 16/125



Walter Battiss

Last Orgy n.d Colour Screenprint 44 x 60 cm ED 10/50



Norman Catherine

'Incognito' 1999 Silkscreen 75 x 106 cm ED 38/45



Norman Catherine

'I must be dreaming' 1991 Silkscreen 107.5 x 77 cm ED 3/5



Michael Taylor

Pea pod party 2016 Woodcut & linocut on Zerkall Litho 76 x 55,3 cm ED 1/20



Asha Zero Bit Coupon 2016 Screenprint 56 x 76 cm ED 9/25



Conrad Botes

Hurricane 2017 Three Colour Lithograph 34 x 56 cm ED 3/20



Conrad Botes

Time 2018 Three Colour Lithograph 35,6 X 54,3 cm ED 11/15



Michael Taylor

In Good Company 2016 Woodcut on Torinoko White 128 x 98 cm ED 16/18



Larry Scully Untitled 1975 Print on Paper 70 x 50 cm ED 58/75



Amber Moir

As the Morning Comes to Rest III 2018 Pitch Rolled Watercolour Monotype on Calico 104 x 54 cm ED 1/1



Amber Moir S M C

Reading the Air I 2018 Pitch Rolled Watercolour Monotype on Calico 54 x 24 cm ED 1/1



Amber Moir S M C C

Reading the Air II 2018 Pitch Rolled Watercolour Monotype on Calico 54 x 24 cm ED 1/1



Sanell Aggenbach

Sweet Surrender no.1 2017 Photogravure Print 49.5 x 37.5 cm AP 4/6



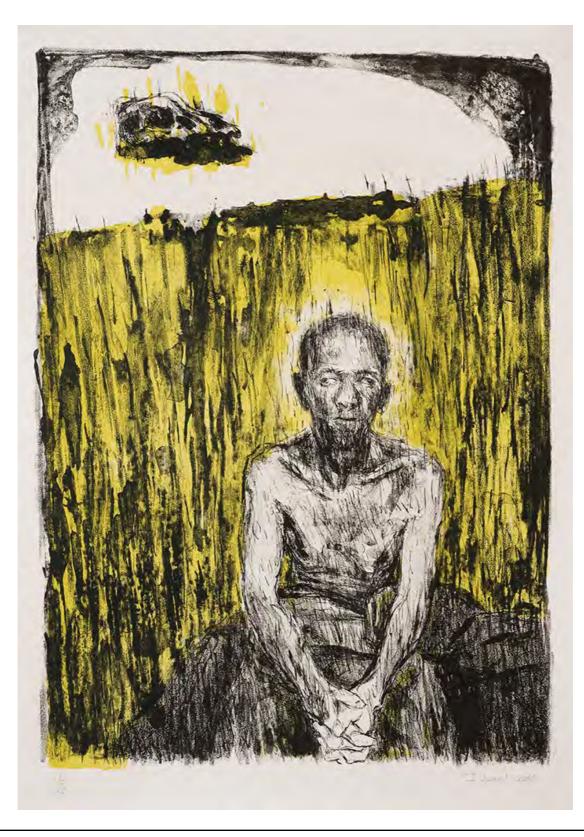
Johann Louw Vooroorbukkend 2004 Etching 22 x 30 cm Unique



Johann Louw Klein Selfportret 2006 Etching 18 x 15 cm ED 5/30



Johann Louw Willem Skedel 2010 Lithograph 68 x 50 cm ED 14/20



Anton Kannemeyer

Year 2000 1999 Lithrograph 49 x 67,5cm ED 1/2

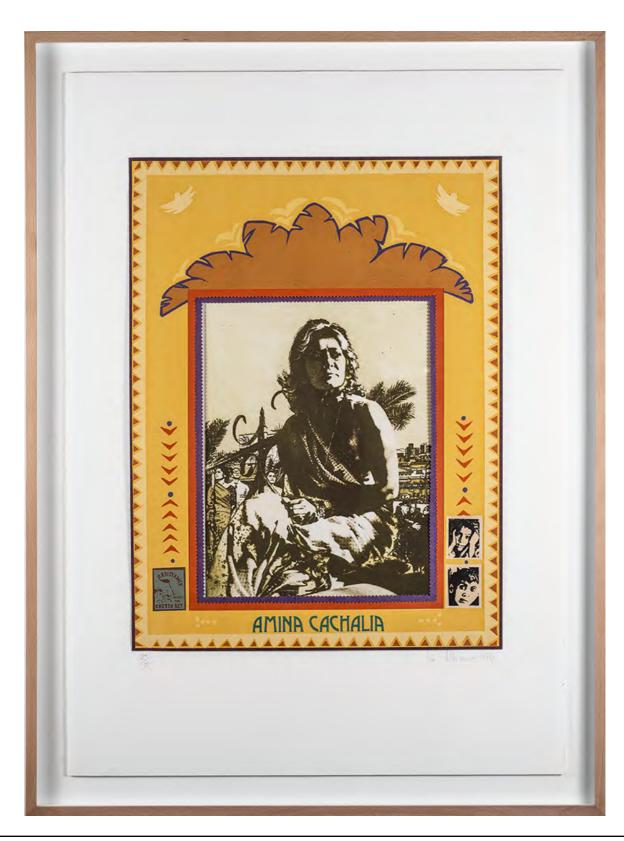


Sue Williamson

A Few South Africans: Amina Cachalia 1984 Photo Etching & Screen Print Collage

100 x 70 cm ED 30/35





Katlego Tlabela

smac Portrait of Julia Richardson (For Mama)

Offset Photo-Lithograph on Pure opale Woven Pure White Paper 108 x 80 cm ED 2/10



Katlego Tlabela

Untitled (The Fist) 2016 - 2017 Offset Photo Lithograph on Opale Woven Pure White Paper 108 x 80 cm ED 9/10



Georgina Gratrix

Untitled n.d. Screenpint 49.5 x 34cm ED 1/10 (Edition 1 SOLD)

smac



T +27 (0)21 887 3607

Georgina Gratrix

Untitled n.d. Screenprint 49.5 x 34 cm ED 1/10

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T +27 (0)21 461 1029

Peter Clarke

Passing Through Colour-reduction Linocut 55 x 43 cm ED 2/25



Gregoire Boonzaier

Tree 1979 Linocut 36 x 28 cm ED 1/1



Gregoire Boonzaier

Tree 1979 Linocut 36 x 28 cm ED 1/1



Peter Clarke

Thistle Down 1999 Colour Reduction Linocut 28 x 38 cm ED 17/30



Maggie Laubser

Swan and Arum Lillies n.d. Linocut 22.5 x 27 cm ED 82/100



Cecil Higgs

Untitled n.d. Linocut 15.5 x 11 cm ED 82/100



Jacobus Hendrik Pierneef

Ant Hill n.d. Linocut 21 x 15 cm ED 82/100



Fred Schimmel

Pool of Silence 1980 Screenprint on Paper 73 x 56.5 cm AP 1/1



Berenice Michelow

Untitled 1975 Screenprint 70 x 50 cm ED 171/250



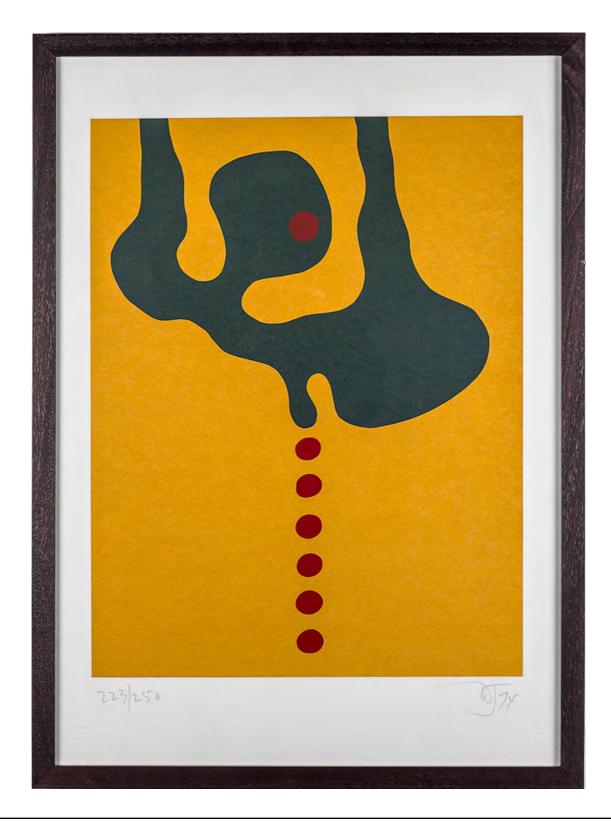
Aileen Lipkin

Abstract 1975 Screenprint 70 x 50 cm ED 35/65



Wopko Jensma

Untitled 1974 Serigraph 70 x 50 cm ED 223/250



Cecil Skotnes

Mask 1970 Serigraph 77 x 51 cm ED 74/100



Lucky Sibiya *Untitled*

1973 Print on Paper 77 x 54.5 cm Unique



Walter Battiss

Neo-Marabaraba n.d. Silkscreen Print on Paper 50.5 x 65 cm ED 91/250

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1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 T+27 (0)21 887 3607 1st Floor, The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Road Woodstock, 7925 T+27 (0)21 461 1029 1st Floor, The Trumpet 19 Keyes Avenue Rosebank, 2196 T +27 (0)10 594 5400

Walter Battiss

3 Nudes n.d. Silkscreen print on Paper 44.5 x 55 cm ED 8/79



Fred Schimmel

Untitled 1993 Camborandum Print on Handmade Paper 64 x 50 cm Unique



Fred Schimmel

Untitled 1993 Camborandum Print on Handmade Paper 65 x 50 cm Unique



Fred Schimmel

Untitled 1993

Camborandum Print on Handmade Paper 66 x 50 cm Unique





Fred Schimmel

Untitled (Lady in a Blue Frame) 1975 Screenprint on Paper 70 x 50 cm ED 18/65



Fred Schimmel

Mexico City Blues 1976 Screenprint on Paper 50 x 70 cm ED 13/40



Georgina Gratrix

She Monster 2014 Monotype on Paper 140 x 99 cm Unique



Walter Battiss

'Mr Icarus I Presume' n.d. Screenprint on Paper 20 x 29 cm ED 16/125



Keneilwe Mokoena

Cells 6 2017 Watercolor monotype on Zerkall 20 x 28 cm Unique



Keneilwe Mokoena

Cells 5
2017
Watercolor monotype on Zerkall
20 x 28 cm
Unique



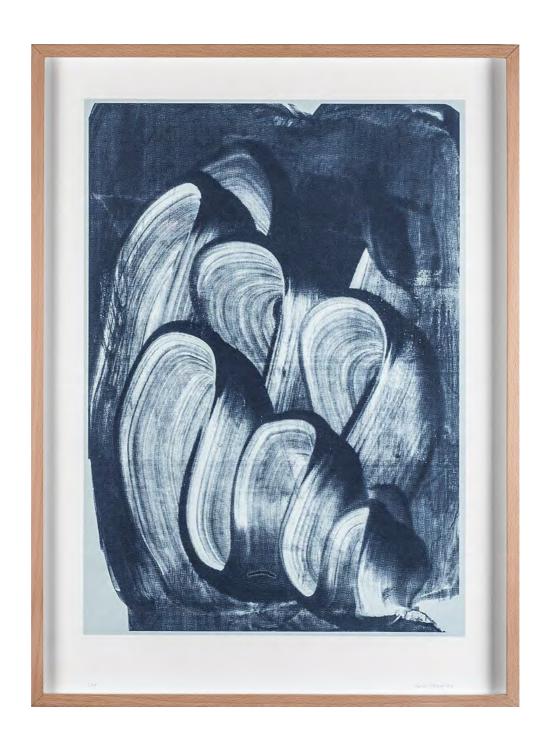
Colijn Strydom

Untouched by Noon II 2018 Silkscreen on Paper 60 x 43 cm ED 1/10



Colijn Strydom

Untouched by Noon I 2018 Silkscreen on Paper 60 x 43 cm ED 1/10



Conrad Botes

Behind a Curtain 2005 Screenprint 47 x 38 cm ED 23/30



Conrad Botes

Liberal Communist 2016 Three Colour Lithograph 55 x 75 cm AP 2/3



Anton Kannemeyer

Bourgeois Horror 2005 Silkscreen 49 x 55 cm AP 2/3

