

EQUILIBRIUM

A Free State Art Collective
exhibition at **ark.** contemporary

2 April - 30 May 2022 | 342 Kriek Street, Rosendal

EQUILIBRIUM

Who would have thought that we, the children and grandchildren of those who endured despicable regimes of power would witness the madness unfolding in the world. Us "moderns" who take high-tech, designer drugs and our 15 minutes of fame for granted.

And here we are, more than two years into the pandemic and rudderless, at the mercy of deranged leaders who unashamedly sow division and lies.

We are a world jagged and broken, polarised and totally off balance.

Each and every one of these artists have spent an enormous amount of time conceptualising and dreaming up these artworks. Each one has a story, a narrative connecting to our times, visions from their inner worlds in response to where we are in our evolution, or sometimes, devolution.

From the deeply personal and intimate, to the cosmic. From responses to the pandemic, to commentary on the political crossroads we face in South Africa. From gazing at how our childhood innocence is broken down, to celebrating the beauty of being black. War, spiritual yearning, migration, the population of bees disappearing as we speak and honouring the ones they love.

It's all here – our lifelong search for equilibrium – in our relationships, in the governance of our people, in the custodianship of our one and only planet, in our attitudes.

'Equilibrium' is a word embedded and imbued with deep, layered meaning and scholars in the fields of mathematics, physics, science and psychology have been unravelling its mystery for centuries.

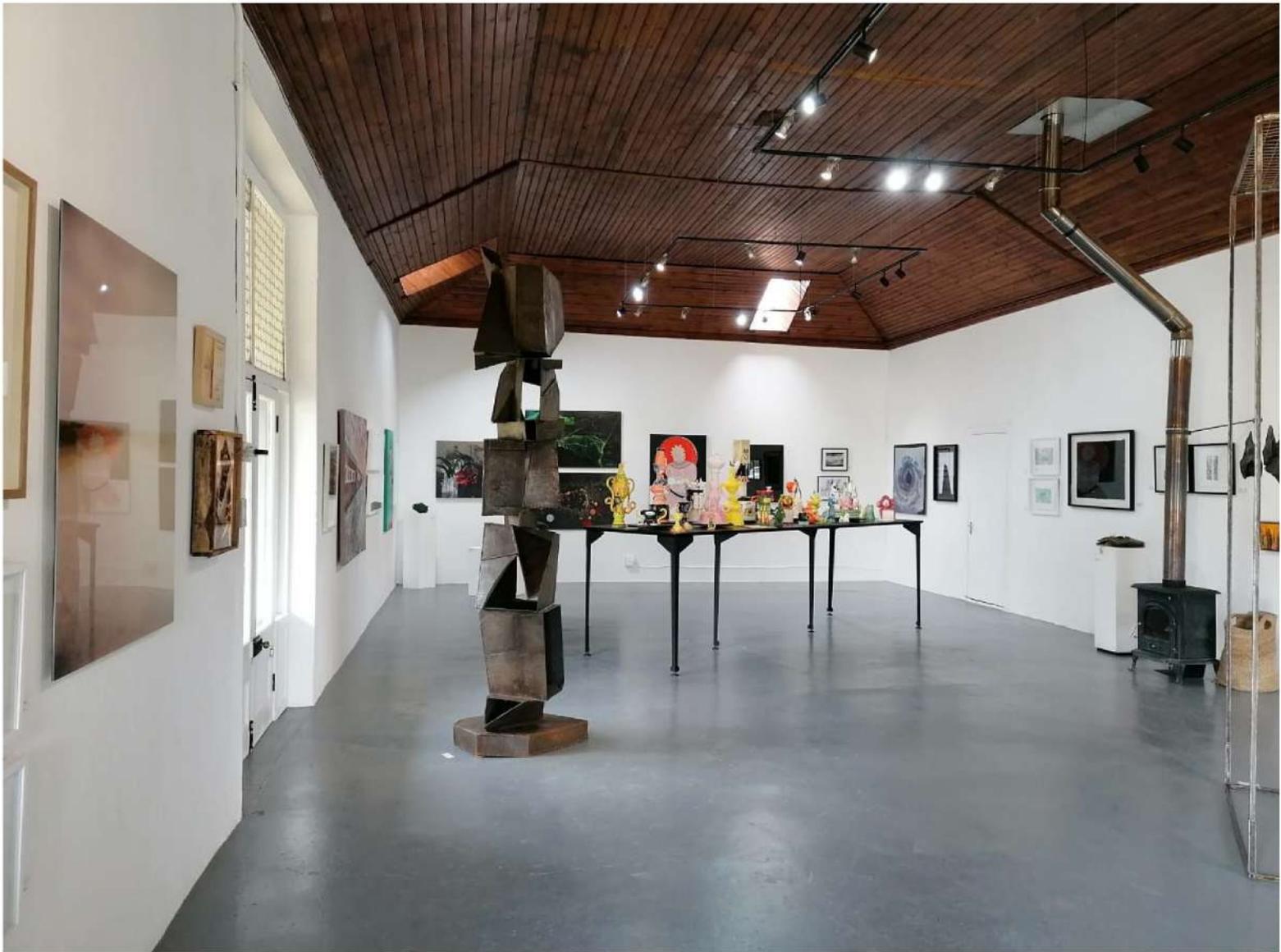
Nature's fine balance is teetering on the edge of collapse. Our universal psyche is bombarded with the politics of derision and division, with small hope of finding common ground. And on a personal level, the state of equilibrium seems elusive and one is ever attempting to attain it.

In the words of writer, photographer and conservationist Kevin Kelly, "Equilibrium is dead". Or is it? Perhaps it is a dynamic interplay between states of illusion and reality?

FREE STATE ART COLLECTIVE

The Free State Art Collective was started in early 2018. Initially a handful of artists were approached in Bloemfontein, with the vision of travelling them beyond the Free State. The idea was simple – create a collective of artists, regardless of where they had studied, or hadn't. Regardless of age, culture, belief system or gender, this is a group of HUMANS who make enquiring art. By standing together, the Free State Art Collective can break down perceptions about the Free State and try our part in erasing divisions which still run deep in our land.

Karen Bruschi, Founder of the Free State Art Collective



'Equilibrium'

A Free State Art Collective Exhibition

Ark Contemporary, Rosendal

© Jonathan Noble



Kay Fourie

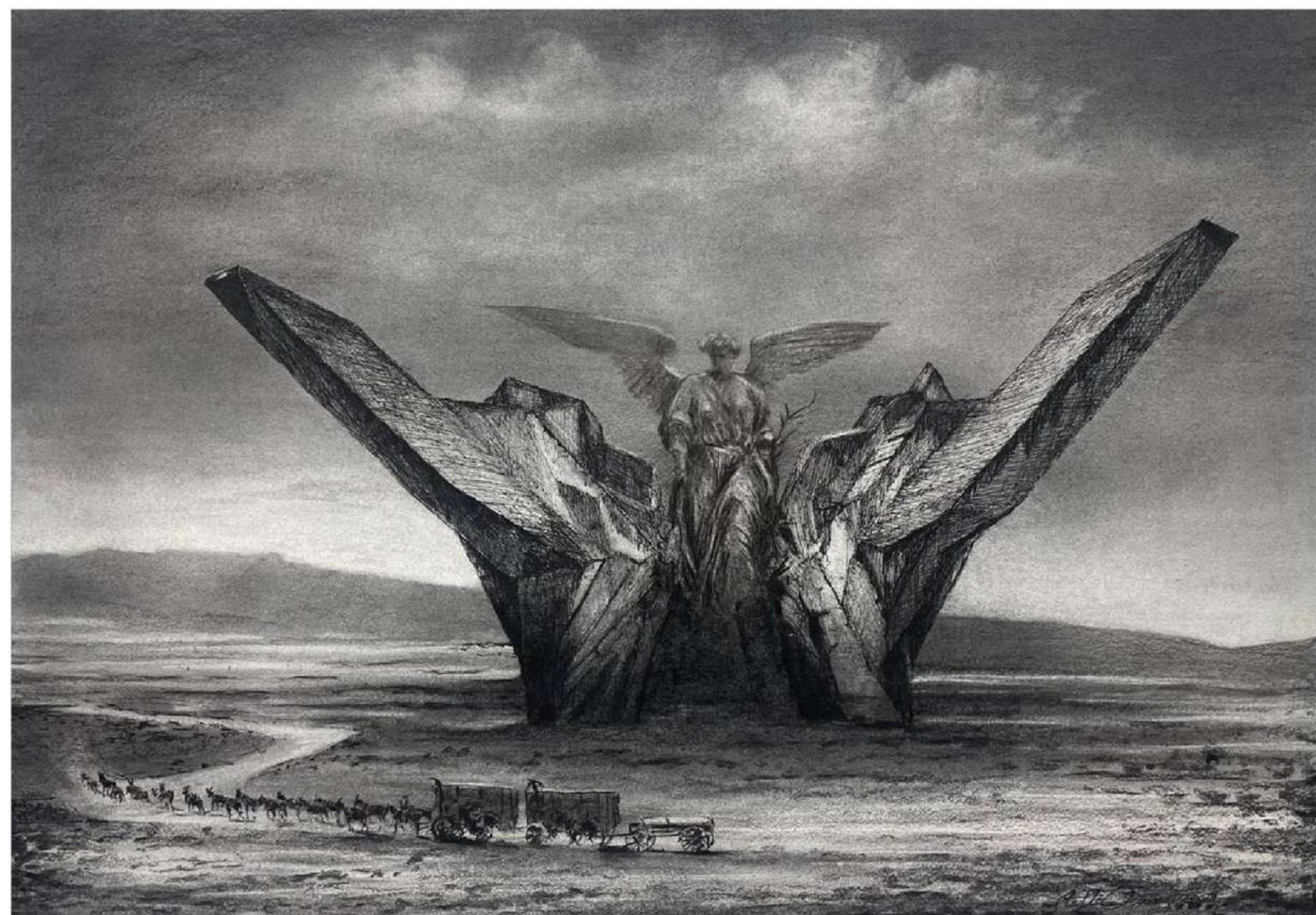
Horing Mandala, 2017.

Charcoal on Academia, 50 x 70cm.

R2,800 (SOLD)



Micaela Gabriela Balie
True Nature (Diptych), 2020.
Colour pencil on Fabriano, 29.7 x 42cm x 2.
R5,600



Stella Olivier
Split, 2022.
Charcoal and ink, 55 x 75cm.
R5,800



34

Swarm LXXXI-LXXXV

Rehm



34

Swarm XCI-XCV

Rehm

Mandie Immelman
Swarm LXXXI-LXXXV, 2022.
Silkscreen (Ed of 5), 70 x 30cm.
R1,680 (unframed)
R3,680 (framed)

Swarm XCI-XCV, 2022.
Silkscreen (Ed of 5), 70 x 30cm.
R1,680 (unframed)
R3,680 (framed)

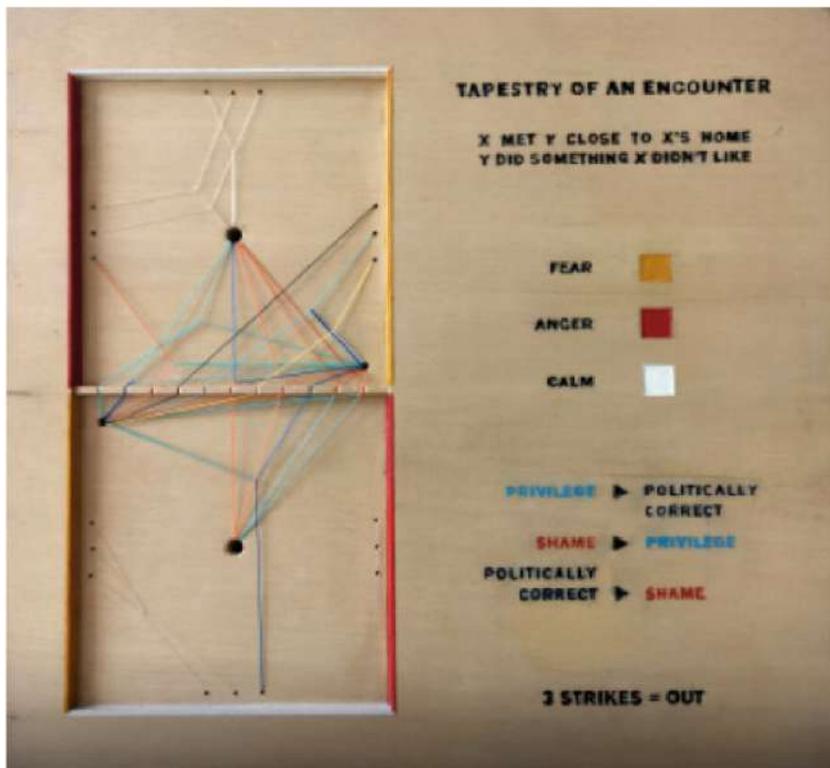


André Rose

Road to Emmaus, 2022.

Analogue photograph (Holga 120N) digitally transferred and printed on Hahnemuhle photo rag, Diasec Process (Ed of 3), 118.9 x 92.9cm.

R19,600



Miné Kleynhans
Tapestry of an Encounter, 2020.
 Balsa wood, enamel paint and nylon
 thread, 31 x 29 x 2.5 cm.
 R7,000
 © Miró van der Vloed



Xola Brilliant Sello
Mamotumi, 2021.

Perspex glass, ink, wooden plank, Fabriano and LED light, 47.5 x 41.5 x 7.8cm.
R5,900



Louis Olivier

Upright Arrangement, 2014-2017.

Bronze sculpture (Ed of 1), 187 x 20 x 23cm.

R320,000



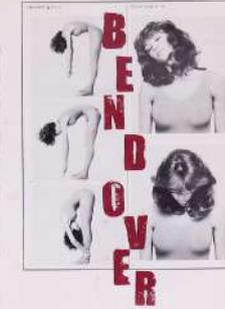
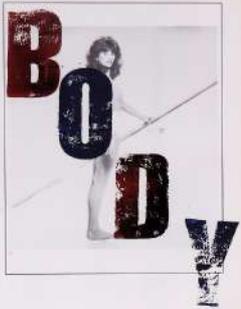
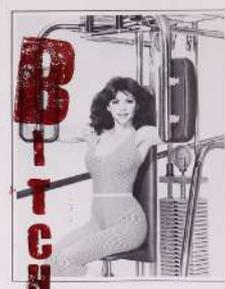
'Equilibrium'
A Free State Art Collective Exhibition
Ark Contemporary, Rosendal
© Miró van der Vloed



Petra Schutte
The Great Move, 2022.
Pigment ink, pastel and Gouache on Fabriano, 46 x 62.5cm.
R9,100



Cecilia Maartens
Forlorn Playground, 2018.
Oil on canvas, 120 x 150cm.
R14,000



Baitumetse Moloabi

Ntho tse snaXXX: Labels

(Funny/bad things that should not be spoken about), 2020.

Woodprint on found images, 125 x 40cm.

R14,000

Ntho tse snaXXX: O Maponapona

(You are naked), 2020.

Woodprint on found images, 125 x 40cm.

R14,000



Daniëlle Pretorius

Josef in die swembad

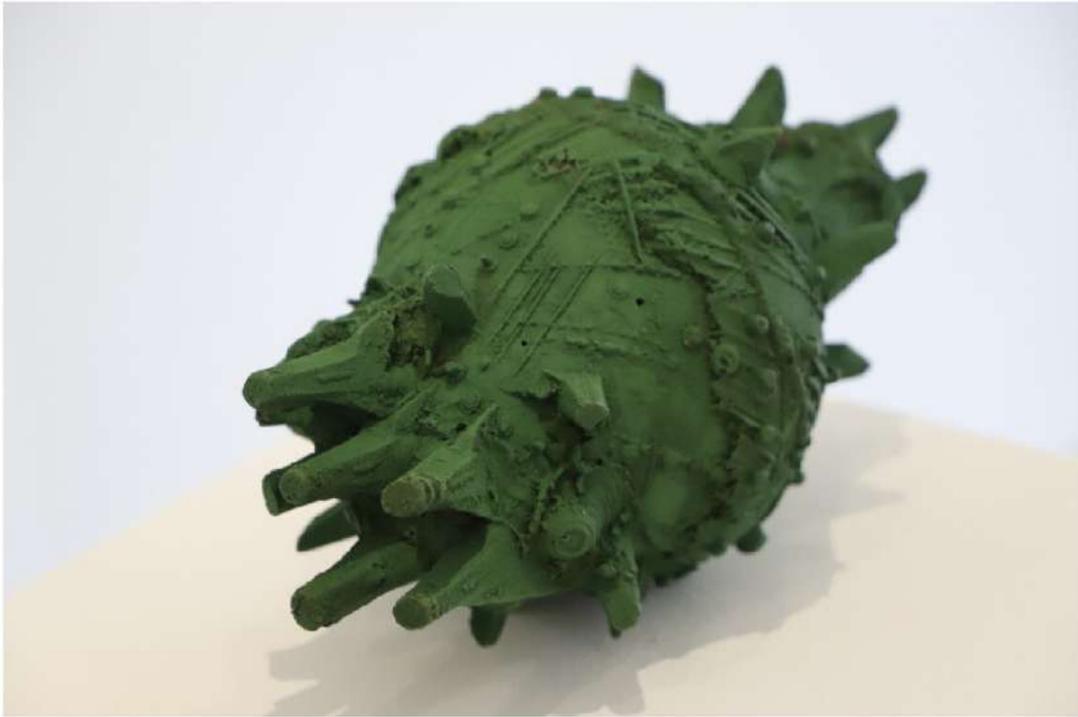
(Josef in the swimming pool), 2022.

Oil and gesso on canvas, 120 x 70cm.

R12,600



Adèle Opperman
Begrensde deel van ruimte
(Limited space), 2018.
Ballpoint pen on Fabriano, 77 x 47cm.
R11,200 (SOLD)



Zanoxolo Sylvester Mqeku
Typification 5, 2021.
Chrome oxide on
sandcast terracotta clay,
30 x 15cm.
R5,600
© Miró van der Vloed



Michèle Nigrini
From where I stand, 2021.
Mixed media on wood, 80 x 80cm.
R19,500



Zanoxolo Sylvester Mqeku

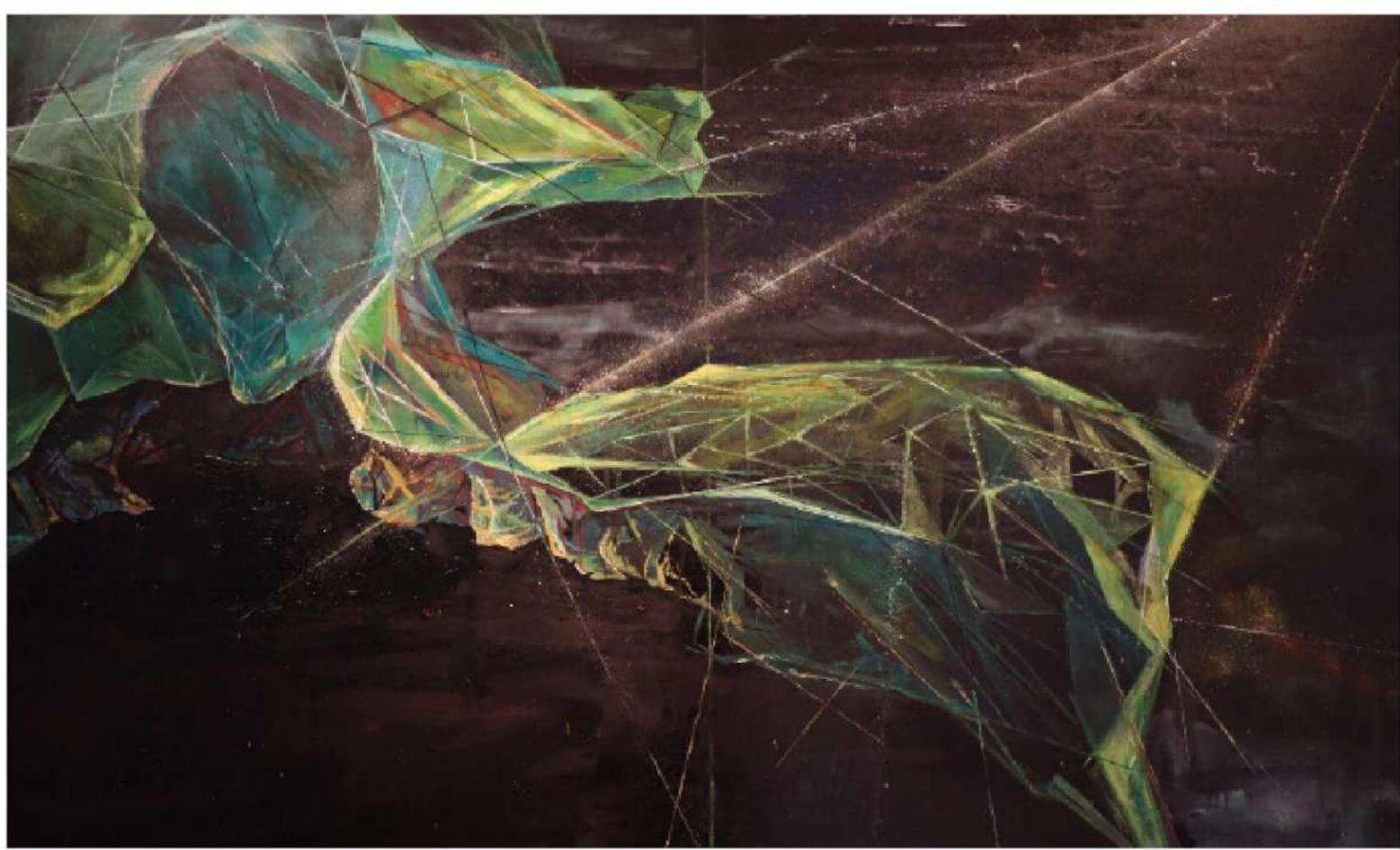
Immortal Coil I, 2021.

Multimedia on sandcast terracotta clay, 30 x 60cm.
R5,600

Immortal Coil II, 2021.

Multimedia on sandcast terracotta clay, 30 x 60cm.
R5,600

© Miró van der Vloed



Louiza Combrinck
Imagining Place,
Landscape from Above, 2020.
Oil and enamel on board, 85 x 138cm.
R7,000 each



Nandipha Jantjies | Neferuda
Mothapo wa mokhubu (Umbilical cord), 2021.
Acrylic, ink and wool on canvas, 84.1 x 118.8cm.
R8,400



Wessel van Huyssteen

Viktor's Cadenza, 2019.

Shredded black background paper and glue on board
and B3 paint, 75 x 55cm.

R18,020



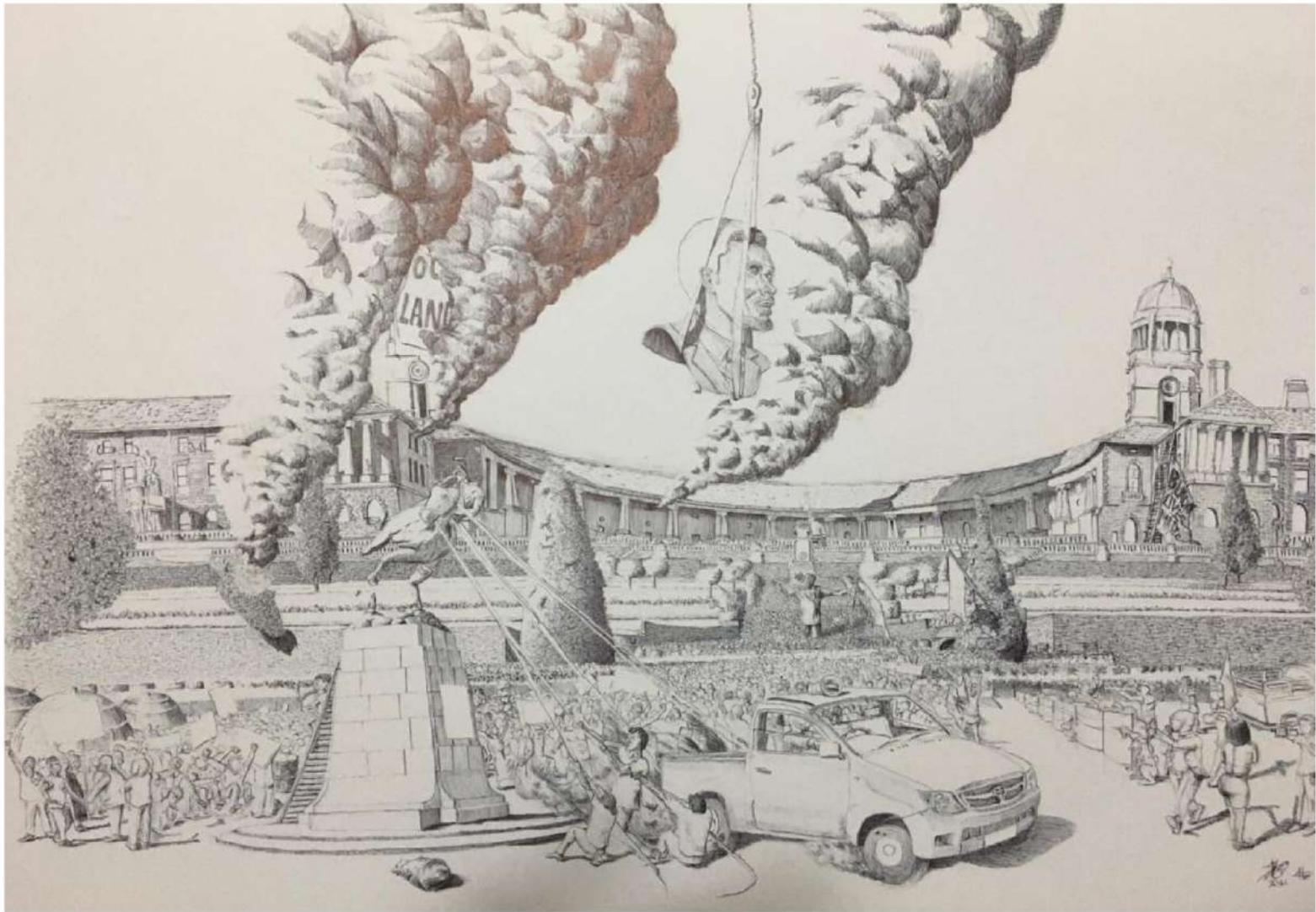
Leon Witthuhn

Uncertain Destiny, 2021.

Digital photograph (Ed of 5), 34.5 x 41.5cm.

R1,400

(Ed 1/5 SOLD)



Sphatho Mzantsi
Ukuwa kuka Rhulumente
(The Collapse of Government), 2021.
Ballpoint pen on Cartridge, 43 x 55cm.
R4,900



'Equilibrium'
A Free State Art Collective Exhibition
Ark Contemporary, Rosendal
© Miró van der Vloed



Lesego Motsiri

BloemCity HeartBeat_22 / Amalgamation_22, 2022.

Digital drawing on Alubond (Ed of 3), 100 x 100cm.

R14,700



Bongani Tshabalala

Montsho, 2021.

Digital photograph (Ed of 5 + 2AP), 42 x 59.4cm.

R14,000



Grietjie Lee
The Spell, 2022.
Watercolour, 33 x 16.5cm.
R3,080

Summer, 2021.
Watercolour, 29 x 16.5cm.
R3,080

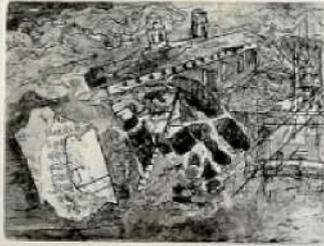


Wessel van Huyssteen

The stitch and the din, 2022.

Mixed media (cotton, supawood, B3, polyester), 76.5 x 97.4cm.

R23,760



AP

"INCENDIARY"

ELRIE JOUBERT
2021

Elrie Joubert

Incendiary, 2021.

Copper plate etch on Fabriano (Ed of 5),
30 x 30cm.

R2,100 (unframed)

R3,200 (framed)



Ruin, 2021.

Copper plate etch on Fabriano (Ed of 5),
30 x 30cm.

R2,100 (unframed)

R3,200 (framed)

(Edition 1/5 SOLD)



Pauline Gutter
Solar Flair, 2022.
Oil on canvas, 20 x 12cm.
R4,200



Pauline Gutter
Helsinki, 2022.
Oil on canvas, 20 x 12cm.
R4,200

Riot, 2022.
Oil on canvas, 43 x 23cm.
R7,700





Johandi du Plessis
Bound 2015
Resin, human hair, artificial hair and clay
NFS

Johandi du Plessis

Bound, 2015.

Resin, human hair, artificial hair and clay, 6.5 x 37 x 26cm.

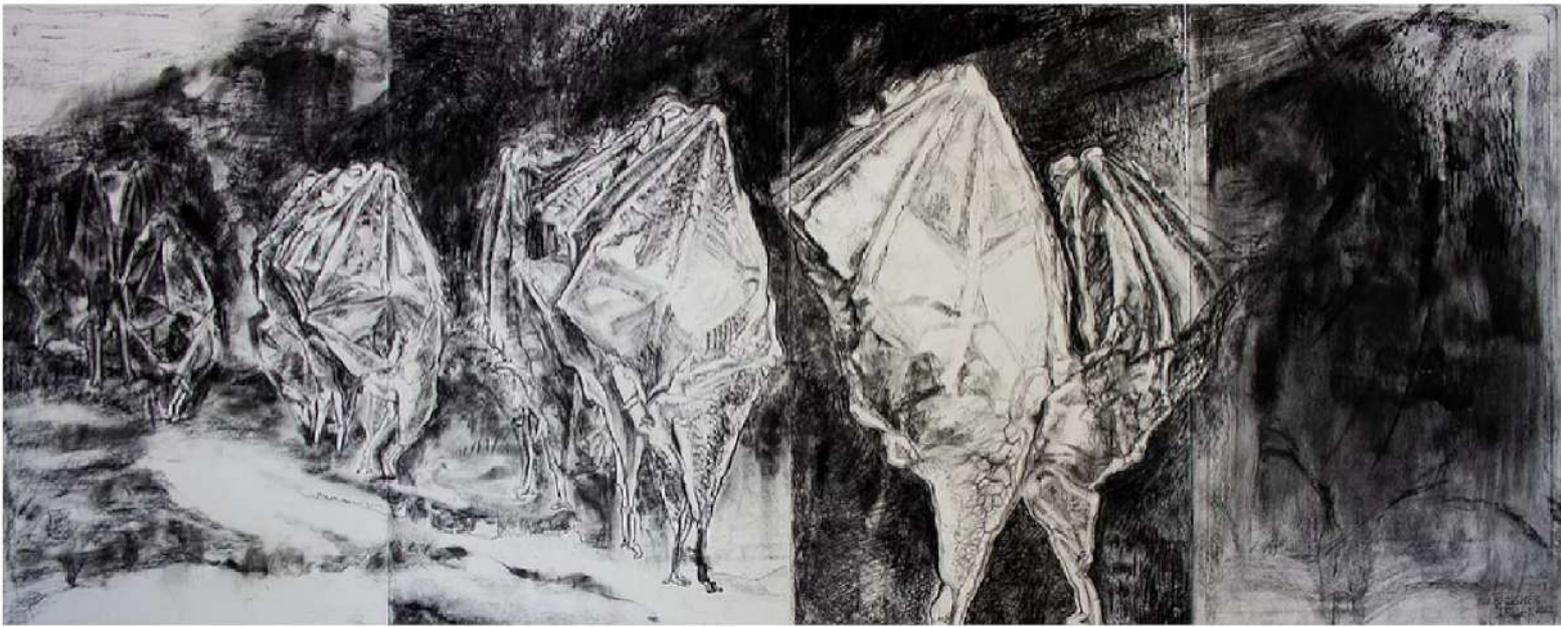
NFS



Martie Bitzer

Unraveling i, 2021.

Digital drawing on Hahnemühle (Ed of 3), 90.5 x 87cm.
R7,000



Janine Allen | The Brusher
Caverning, 2020.
(detail images, panel 1 and 3 below)
Charcoal, Pitt and Gun metal, 70 x 180cm.
R15,400



Neo Theku

I think we have time!, 2021.

Digital photograph (Ed of 5), 86.5 x 66.5cm.

R10,500



Kay Fourie

Vlermuise (Bats), 2022.

Resin, gut, graphite powder sculptures submerged in steel cage,
3m(h) x 1.2m(w) x 1.2m(l).

R19,600 for entire installation / R840 per bat

© Jonathan Noble



Elrie Joubert

Free State Fix, 2019.

1000 found objects in clear gelatine capsules, displayed on lazercut plexiglass, 124 x 46 x 80cm.

R21,000



Xola Brilliant Sello

Rellow 'Boima', 2021.

Perspex glass, ink, wooden plank, Fabriano and LED light,
32.5 x 23 x 7cm.

R4,900

Thato, 2021.

Perspex glass, ink, wooden plank, Fabriano and LED light,
38.6 x 34 x 7.7cm.

R5,500



Belinda van Zwijndrecht
Diamonds on the souls of her shoes, 2022.
Oil and mirror on canvas, 134 x 164cm.
R21,000



'Equilibrium'
A Free State Art Collective Exhibition
Ark Contemporary, Rosendal
© Jonathan Noble



'Equilibrium'
A Free State Art Collective Exhibition
Ark Contemporary, Rosendal
© Miró van der Vloed

A / WAY FROM HAPPINESS

MAGDA VAN DER VLOED X MIRÓ VAN DER VLOED

At a family table, an open conversation occurs
between mother and son.

We cultivated this dialogue through cherished hours spent together in the studio, separate starting points converging in a playground that can be found at the
centre of our installation.

Through an exploration of the liminal spaces we inhabit as children and then experience again in adulthood, we attempt to capture the moment golden nostalgia fades and is marred by reality.

Happiness in all its subjective glory is something we yearn for yet seem to move away from. It is within this fine balance we teeter precariously, having found a moment of repose in the glint of the glaze.

Miró van der Vloed

Big top energy, big bottom energy 2022

Porcelain

26cm x 18cm x 9cm

R3 696



Magda van der Vloed

Eina 2022

Porcelain

20cm x 16cm x 28cm

R3 960



Miró van der Vloed

Number one wall flower 2022

Porcelain

24cm x 15cm x 31cm

R2 904 - SOLD



Magda van der Vloed

Still life of a melting poodle 2022

Porcelain

25cm x 20cm x 27cm

R4 884



Miró van der Vloed

The suppressed guilt award 2022

Porcelain

27cm x 18cm x 12cm

R2 640



Magda van der Vloed

Voetsek! 2022

Porcelain

25cm x 22cm x 35cm

R4 884 - SOLD



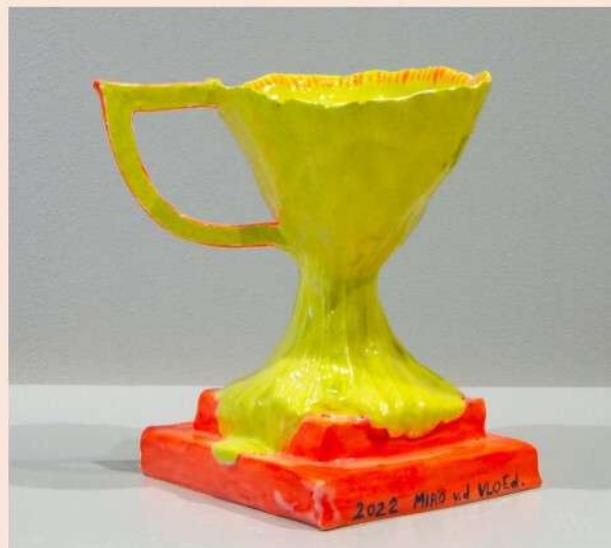
Miró van der Vloed

Moffie van die jaar 2022

Porcelain

14cm x 11cm x 14cm

R1 716



Magda van der Vloed

All fun and games 2022

Porcelain

24cm x 24cm x 79cm

R8 976



Miró van der Vloed

Tightest rosebud 2022

Porcelain

9cm x 6cm x 13cm

R1 320 - SOLD



Magda van der Vloed

Hazel-grace 2022

Porcelain

24cm x 17cm x 15cm

R2 376



Miró van der Vloed

Natkoek van die jaar 2022

Porcelain

20cm x 20cm x 58cm

R3 960



Magda van der Vloed

All the King's horses 2022

Porcelain

15cm x 12cm x 12cm

R2 376



Miró van der Vloed

Grootste voël 2022

Porcelain

27cm x 27cm x 64cm

R4 488



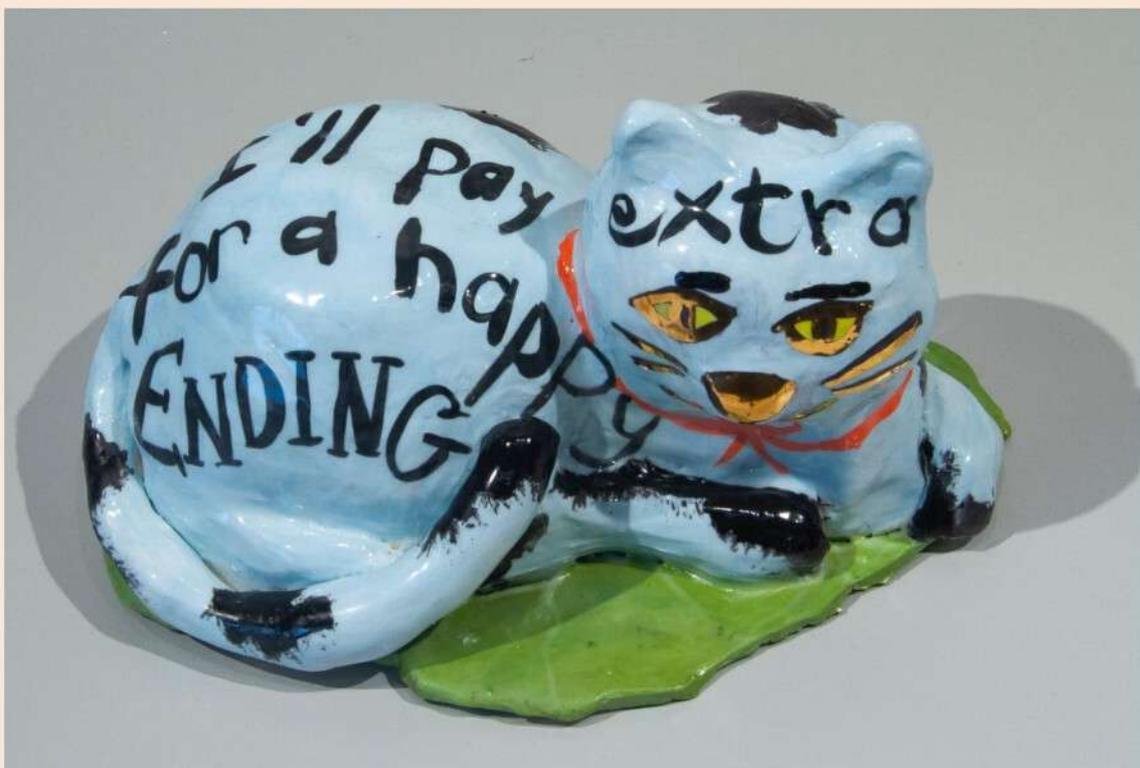
Magda van der Vloed

Happy ending 2022

Porcelain

22cm x 15cm x 12cm

R3 300



The pretending everything's fine when it's not award 2022

Porcelain

20cm x 20cm x 66cm

R4 884



Magda van der Vloed

PARA DYS 2022

Porcelain

23cm x 13cm x 38cm

R4 488



Miró van der Vloed

Best orgasm face 2022

Porcelain

20cm x 15cm x 22cm

R2 640



Magda van der Vloed

Lang tranen 2022

Porcelain

25cm x 22cm x 40cm

R8 580 - SOLD



Miró van der Vloed

No. One cry-baby 2022

Porcelain

37cm x 20cm x 42cm

R4 884



Magda van der Vloed

Shitshow 2022

Porcelain

20cm x 6cm x 8cm

R1 848 - SOLD



Miró van der Vloed

A for effort Asshole 2022

Porcelain

32cm x 15cm x 54cm

R4 884



Magda van der Vloed

The birth of Venus 2022

Porcelain

22cm x 16cm x 22cm

R2 244



Miró van der Vloed

Baddest bitch in town 2022

Porcelain

7cm x 6cm x 14cm

R1 320 - SOLD



Magda van der Vloed

Child's play 2022

Porcelain

8cm x 8cm x 34cm

R2 244 - SOLD



Miró van der Vloed

2nd in everything 2022

Porcelain

7cm x 4cm x 14cm

R1 320 - SOLD



Magda van der Vloed

Away from happiness I 2022

Porcelain - Yellow

10cm x 10cm x 13cm

R1 320



Magda van der Vloed

Away from happiness II 2022

Porcelain - Turquoise

11cm x 11cm x 15cm

R1 320



Magda van der Vloed

Away from happiness III 2022

Porcelain - Orange

14cm x 11cm x 15cm

R1 584



Magda van der Vloed

Heat stroke 2022

Porcelain

17cm x 16cm x 16cm

R2 244



Magda van der Vloed

Choir boy 2022

Porcelain

25cm x 7cm x 10cm

R2 244 - SOLD



Magda van der Vloed

Bath time 2022

Porcelain

19cm x 10cm x 31cm

R2 508



Magda van der Vloed

Crocodile tears 2022

Porcelain

22cm x 11cm x 22cm

R2 244



Magda van der Vloed

Eternal happiness

Porcelain

21cm x 19cm x 21cm

R2 244



Magda van der Vloed

Son of a preacher man 2022

Porcelain

13cm x 15cm x 26cm

R2 376



Magda van der Vloed

Stilte asseblief 2022

Porcelain

18cm x 8cm x 36cm

R2 640





'Equilibrium'
A Free State Art Collective Exhibition
Ark Contemporary, Rosendal
© Jonathan Noble



18 of the 40 Members of the Free State Art Collective at the opening of 'Equilibrium'

Back from left to right - Xola Brilliant Sello, Daniëlle Pretorius, Louis Olivier (Ark Contemporary), Wessel van Huyssteen (Ark Contemporary), Kay Fourie.

Middle from left to right - Louiza Combrinck, Belinda van Zwijndrecht, Bontle Tau, Cecilia Maartens, Neo Theku, Elrie Joubert, Magda van Vloed (Ark Contemporary), Miró van der Vloed, Stella Olivier (Ark Contemporary).

Front from left to right - Pauline Gutter, André Rose, Karen Brusch (Founder of FSAC), Grietjie Lee (Ark Contemporary), Baitumetse Moloabi, Michèle Nigrini (Ark Contemporary), Lesego Motsiri.

© Debbie Agenbag

Thank you

Thank you to the incredible, dynamic people of Rosendal and the Free State Art Collective who made the opening of 'Equilibrium' a beautiful, collective experience and who moved mountains to make magic.

Thank you to the artists and support team of Ark Contemporary for entrusting FSAC with their space, offering their support and guidance along the entire process, and who helped to hang and light the exhibition.

Thank you to Belinda & Amy who gave us the gift of their music-weaving and to Charles Leonard who spun the black gold for us at our celebration gathering.



Free State Art Collective

Back from left to right - Belinda van Zwijndrecht, Bongani Tshabalala, Mandie Immelman, Nandipha Jantjies | - Neferuda, Martie Bitzer, Spatho Mzantsi, Elrie Joubert, Zanoxolo Sylvester Mqeku, Leon Witthuhn, Louiza Combrinck, Janine Allen | The Brusher, Daniëlle Pretorius, Mothobi Mefane.

Middle from left to right - Zizicelo Sifumba, Pauline Gutter, Baitumetse Moloabi, Wessel van Huyssteen, Miró van der Vloed, André Rose, Neo Theku, Miné Kleynhans, Lyrene Kühn-Botma, Bontle Tau, Cecilia Maartens, Lesego Motsiri, Petra Schutte.

Front from left to right - Lana Combrinck, Nkululeko Nkebe, Marius Jansen van Vuuren, Adèle Opperman, Jaco Spies, Adelheid von Maltitz, Xola Brilliant Sello, Michèle Nigrini, Micaela Gabriela Balie, Teboho Mokhothu, Grietjie Lee, Johandi du Plessis, Kay Fourie.

www.freestateartcollective.co.za

www.instagram.com/free_state_art_collective

www.facebook.com/freestateartcollective

For enquiries, please contact Karen Bruschi on **+27 84 017 0728** or info@freestateartcollective.co.za



Ark Contemporary

This newly formed contemporary art gallery space in Rosendal, Eastern Free State comprises of six full-time artists - Michèle Nigrini, Magda van der Vloed, Grietjie Lee, Stella Olivier, Wessel van Huyssteen and Louis Olivier.

www.instagram.com/arkrosendal

www.facebook.com/arkContemporary

For enquiries, please contact Elke Botha on arkcontemporary@gmail.com

ark.contemporary