

PERSPECTIVES 2



5 MARCH - 11 APRIL 2015

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***Perspectives 2* - as its title suggests, the second in a series of group exhibitions titled *Perspectives* - features works by Walter Battiss, Zander Blom, David Goldblatt, Pieter Hugo, Anton Kannemeyer, Moshekwa Langa, Stanley Pinker, Robin Rhode, Penny Siopis and Portia Zvavahera.**

Many of the works included in *Perspectives 2* have been exhibited in the gallery over the past 12 years; others by gallery artists were exhibited further afield. They return to be offered to new collectors to start new conversations, and from this group several themes emerge.

The notion of seriality is prominent. Walter Battiss' watercolours painted at Leisure Bay in KwaZulu-Natal are studies of colour and light at different times of the day. Zander Blom's large-scale abstract painting *Untitled* [1.300] offers repetition in mark-making and so allows the viewer's eye to circulate through it. The serial format is integral to Anton Kannemeyer's lithographic comic strip *Nag van die Wit Skrik* and to Penny Siopis' iconic *Shame* series. And seriality is of course at the heart of Robin Rhode's work, represented here by the video of his early performance *Street Gym*.

The phallus is another amusing aesthetic element that recurs here. Most obviously in Anton Kannemeyer's infamous *White Nightmare: Black Dicks*, it is also the provocation for Zanele Muholi's two photographs taken in 2006 (both *Untitled*), and Meschac Gaba's woven sculpture of the Voortrekker Monument from his *Tresses* series.

A few works with references to mysticism are exemplified by the devotional iconography in Portia Zvavahera's

His Presence, a painting first shown in the Zimbabwean Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). Moshekwa Langa's trance-like paintings similarly imagine a realm beyond comprehension, and the sparse black gestures of Zander Blom's *Untitled* [1.288] draw inspiration from the mark-making of South African modernist Ernest Mancoba's lifelong meditation on the essence of human form.

A group of works picture scenes of pleasure. Stanley Pinker's *The Bather* is a small, joyous painting of a nude sitting alongside a lake, and is a portrait of intimacy and relaxation calmingly rendered in a spring palette. Battiss' colourful renderings of women from the Bajun Islands on the Kenyan coast, and his watercolours of Leisure Bay, his holiday destination, offer comparably hedonistic sensibilities. This motif extends to the primary-coloured nude gathering in Battiss' sgraffito oil on canvas *Figures and Clouds*. Considering the context in which they were painted, during grand apartheid, these scenes of delight - in their colour, form and imagery - are a counterpoint to the political intensity of the 1960s.

From David Goldblatt's series *Intersections*, a bleached landscape provides a reflection on a post-apartheid South African context, yet is ostensibly without a subject. From a younger generation of South African photography, Pieter Hugo's portrait of human and animal interdependence in Nigeria from his widely exhibited *Hyena Men* series has the notion of spectacle as subject.

May viewers enjoy drawing their own connections between these works on exhibition.

ZANDER BLOM
(1982-)

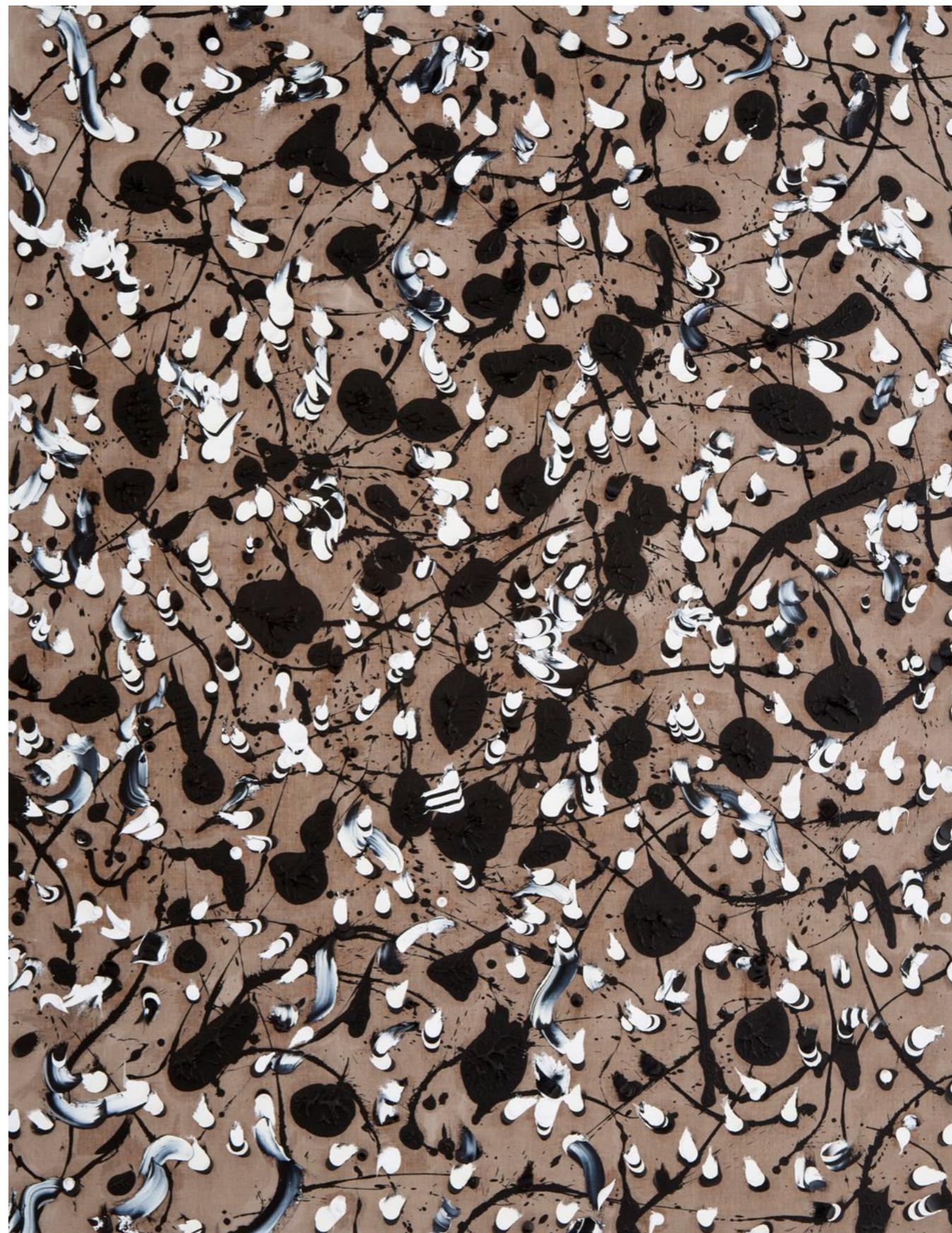
Untitled [1.300]

2012

Oil on linen

239 x 182cm

Signed and dated on reverse



EXHIBITED

New Paintings, Stevenson, Cape Town, 2012

ILLUSTRATED

Zander Blom: Paintings Volume I, p89 and p232,
Stevenson, Cape Town and Johannesburg, 2013



Installation view, *New Paintings*, Stevenson, Cape Town, 2012

**MOSHEKWA LANGA
(1975-)**

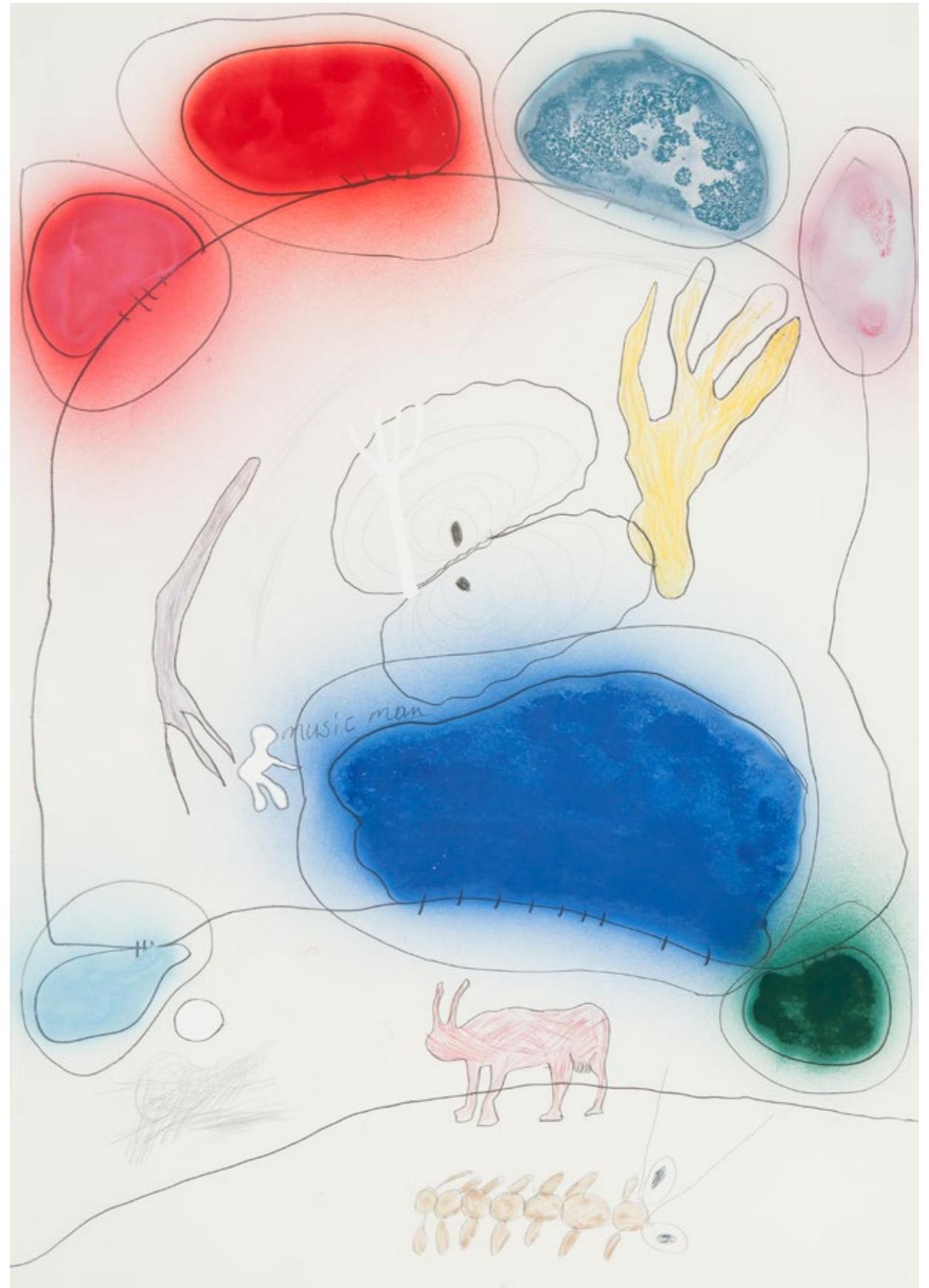
Music Man

1998/9

Mixed media on paper

140 x 100cm

Signed and dated on reverse





Works in a similar style were included in Langa's seminal solo exhibitions at the Renaissance Society, University of Chicago (pictured), and the Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (both 1999).

**PORTIA ZVAVAHERA
(1985-)**

His Presence

2013

Oil-based printing ink on paper

150 x 114cm

Signed and dated

PROVENANCE

National Gallery of Zimbabwe

EXHIBITED

Dudziro: Interrogating the Visions of Religious Beliefs,
Zimbabwean Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale, 2013,
curated by Raphael Chikukwa

ILLUSTRATED

Dudziro: Interrogating the Visions of Religious Beliefs,
p37, Edizioni Charta, Milan, 2013



**ZANDER BLOM
(1982-)**

Untitled [1.288]

2012

Oil on linen

174 x 120m

Signed and dated on reverse



Ernest Mancoba, *Untitled* (undated)

EXHIBITED

New Paintings, Stevenson, Cape Town, 2012

ILLUSTRATED

Zander Blom: Paintings Volume I, p233, Stevenson,
Cape Town and Johannesburg, 2013



**WALTER WHALL BATTISS
(1906-82)**

African Women, Bajun Islands,

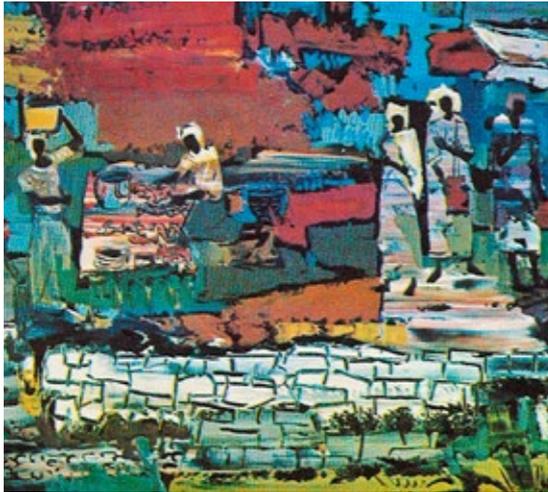
East Coast of Africa

1964

Incised oil on canvas

41 x 51cm

Signed



Walter Whall Battiss, *African Paradise*,
1961, detail



EXHIBITED
Adler-Fielding Galleries, Johannesburg, 1964

**MOSHEKWA LANGA
(1975-)**

Two Figures Under Tree

2000

Mixed media on paper

140 x 100cm

Signed and dated on reverse



**WALTER WHALL BATTISS
(1906-82)**

Figures and Clouds
Incised oil on canvas
48.5 x 58.5cm
Signed

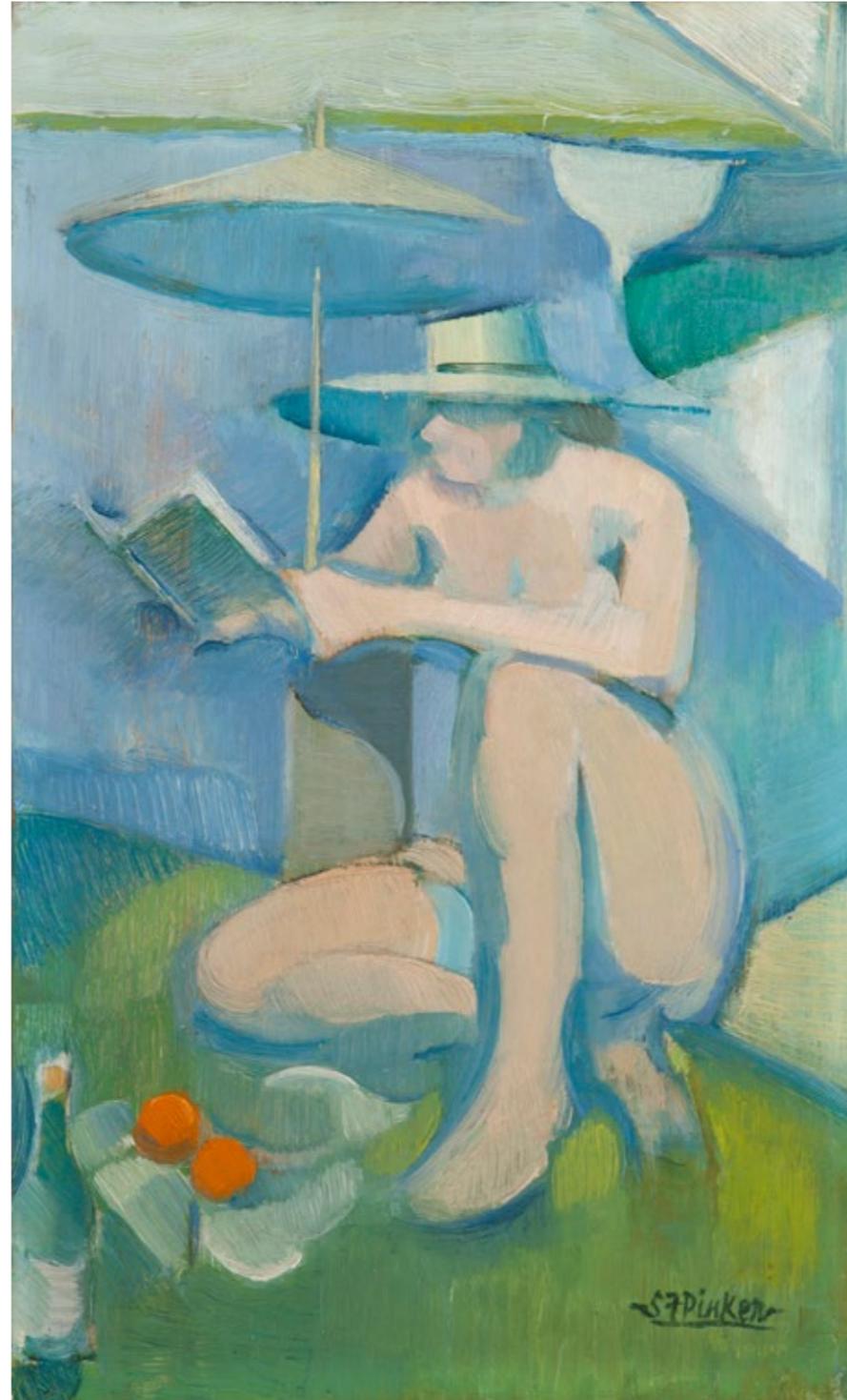


Walter Whall Battiss, *Summer*, 1959



**STANLEY PINKER
(1924-2012)**

The Bather
Oil on board
33.5 x 20cm
Signed



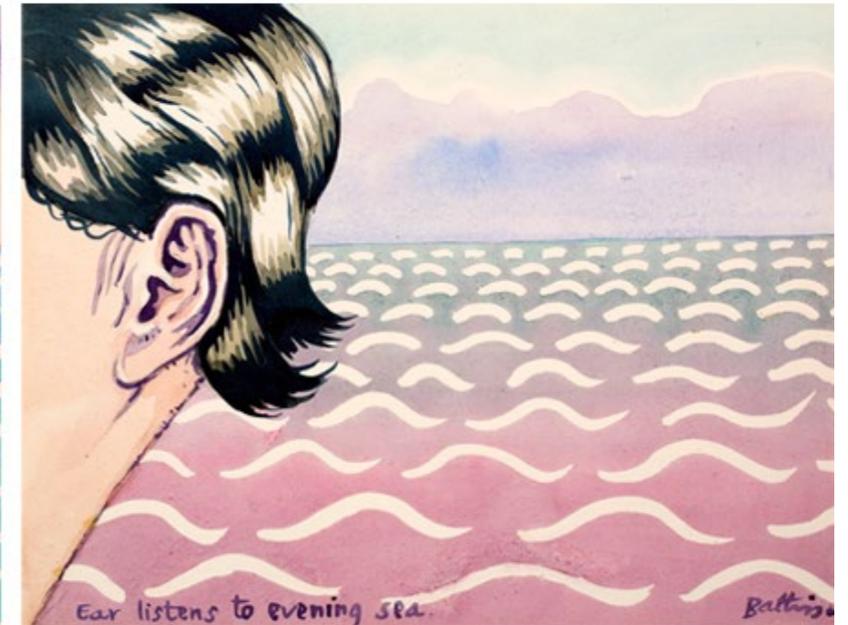
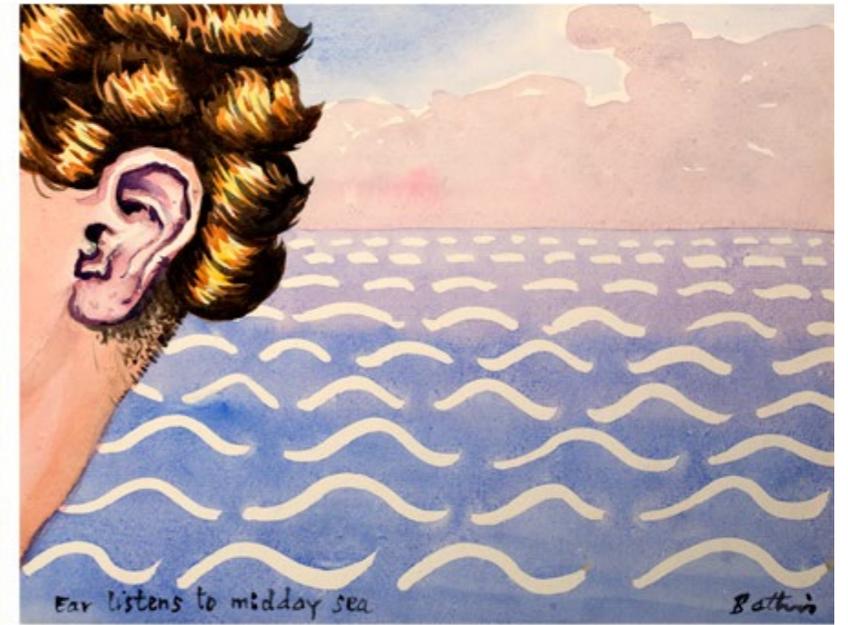
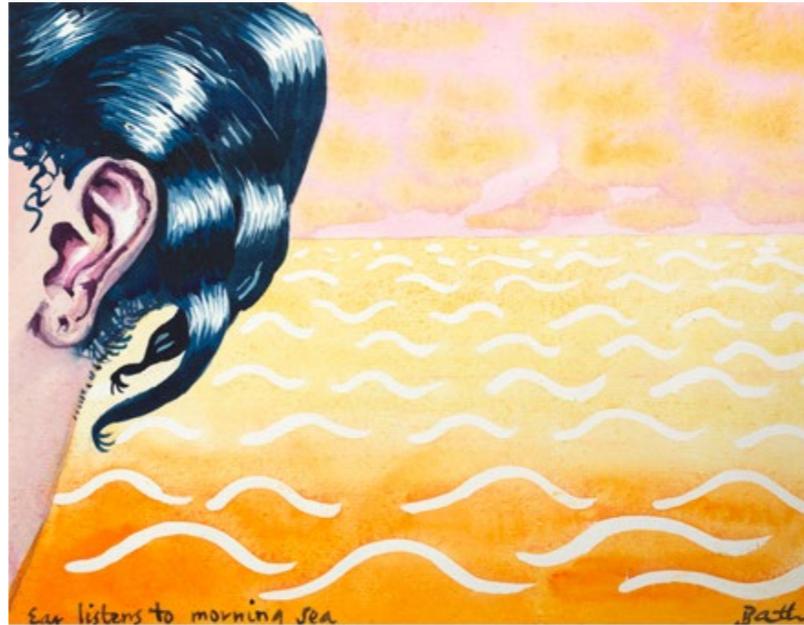
**WALTER WHALL BATTISS
(1906-82)**

*Mrs Thomas Leisure Bay - Ear Listens
to Morning, Midday, Afternoon and
Evening Sea*

Watercolour on paper

21 x 27cm each

Signed



**ROBIN RHODE
(1976-)**

Street Gym

2004

Digital animation

Duration 35 sec

Edition 4 of 5 + 2AP



EXHIBITED

Fair Play, MAXXI, Rome, 2014

Catch Air, Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio, 2009

COLLECTIONS

Guggenheim Museum, New York

**PENNY SIOPIS
(1953-)**

Shame series

2002

Mixed media on paper

Set of 9

18.5 x 24.5cm each



Other paintings from the *Shame* series are currently included on Siopis' retrospective exhibition *Time and Again* at the Iziko South African National Gallery, and have previously been exhibited at the Freud Museum, London (*Three Essays on Shame*, 2005), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo (*Prism: Drawing from 1990-2011*, 2012), and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (*Public Intimacy: Art and Social Life in South Africa*, 2014).

STELLENBOOSCH: 1992



GEBASEER OP 'n WARE VERHAAL SOOS VERTEL
DEUR JELLO BIAFRA. VERWERKING & ART WORK DEUR JOE DOG ©

**ANTON KANNEMEYER
(1967-)**

White Nightmare: Black Dicks
2007

Acrylic on canvas
138 x 150cm
Signed and dated



EXHIBITED
Summer 2007/8, Michael Stevenson
Contemporary, Cape Town, 2007-8

**ZANELE MUHOLI
(1972-)**

Untitled

2006

C-print

41 x 55cm

Edition 1 of 8 + 2AP

Untitled

2006

C-print

20 x 30cm

Edition 1 of 8 + 2AP



EXHIBITED

Only Half the Picture, Michael Stevenson
Contemporary, Cape Town, 2006

ILLUSTRATED

Only Half the Picture, p46, Michael
Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, 2006

**MESCHAC GABA
(1961-)**

Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria

2007

Braided artificial hair and mixed media

60 x 28 x 28cm



Voortrekker Monument, Pretoria



EXHIBITED

Tresses and Other Recent Projects, Johannesburg Art Gallery

Tresses, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town

ILLUSTRATED

Meschac Gaba: Tresses and Other Recent Projects, p53,

Michael Stevenson/Johannesburg Art Gallery, Cape Town

and Johannesburg, 2007



Installation view, *Tresses*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, 2007

**DAVID GOLDBLATT
(1930-)**

Framework for a new dwelling, near Flagstaff,

Transkei, Eastern Cape. 9 October 1975

Printed circa 2005

Silver gelatin print on fibre paper

Image size 44 x 56cm

Signed and dated on reverse



EXHIBITED

Intersections Intersected, Michael Stevenson
Contemporary, Cape Town, 2008

ILLUSTRATED

David Goldblatt: South Africa the Structure of Things
Then, p92, Oxford University Press, Cape Town, 1998

**PIETER HUGO
(1976-)**

*Abdullahi Mohammed with Gumu,
Ogere-Remo, Nigeria, 2007*

C-print

Image size 100 x 100cm

Paper size 110 x 112cm

AP2 of 9 + 2AP



ILLUSTRATED

*Pieter Hugo: The Hyena & Other Men,
Prestel, Munich, 2007*

**DAVID GOLDBLATT
(1930-)**

Mother and child, Vorstershoop, North

West Province. 1 June 2003

Archival pigment ink on cotton rag paper

Image size 99 x 120.5cm

Paper size 111 x 135cm

Edition 6 of 6 + 2AP

Signed and dated



EXHIBITED

Intersections, Michael Stevenson

Contemporary, Cape Town, 2003

Events of the Self: Portraiture and Social

Identity, Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, 2010

ILLUSTRATED

David Goldblatt: Intersections, p45,

Prestel, Munich, 2005

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