



PHILLEMONT HLUNGWANI

KU TIRHA HI MATIMBA SWA VUYERISA

HARD WORK PAYS OFF



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3–25 March 2023



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Everard Read London presents an exhibition of new works on paper by South African artist, Phillemon Hlungwani.

One of South Africa's most accomplished contemporary artists, Hlungwani is known for his large-scale, charcoal drawings depicting scenes from rural life which powerfully convey a sense of community.

This exhibition comprises 18 new works and speaks to the artist's deep love and respect for his people and in particular, the women, who are the life-giving force in communities across South Africa. Using proverbs in his mother tongue, xiTsonga, as titles, the works communicate an essential moral idea, conveying how members of a community are sustaining (or betraying) the values of its people.

With this new body of work, Hlungwani revisits the village of his birth, where his mother continues to reside. It is a modest village, indistinguishable from so many others in rural Limpopo Province, and indeed from countless others in South Africa and the rest of the continent. It is however the wellspring of Hlungwani's creativity; it serves both as his

muse and a refuge to which he returns from Johannesburg for inspiration and renewal.

Hlungwani's subject matter is familiar to us – rural children with bare feet, the village matriarchs swathed in blankets, and young mothers balancing loads on their heads. These all-too-familiar scenes have become memes for rural poverty, but, as always with Hlungwani's work, he seeks to remind us that even the poorest amongst us lead complex and rich inner lives.

Hlungwani's protagonists may live in starkly different environments to our own, but like us all, they have dreams, hopes and aspirations. They too have experienced joy, love, loss, and deep sadness. It is these universal themes in Hlungwani's work that touch us deeply. With a clear and un sentimental eye, the artist reveals, through the daily life of an unremarkable village, our shared humanity and connectedness.

This is Phillemon Hlungwani's second solo presentation with Everard Read London and his ninth with the Everard Read group.





Rivala hiti xaniseko ta tolo u tiphina eka nkarhi wa sweswi II
(Forget about yesterday's pain and enjoy the moments of the present II)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 120 x 160.4 cm



Tirha ku kondza u kuma leswi u swi lavaka evuton'wini II
(Work it out until you find the opportunities you want in life II)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 120 x 160.4 cm



Murhi wa vutivi I
(The tree of knowledge I)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 120 x 160.4 cm



Rivala hiti xaniseko ta tolo u tiphina eka nkarhi wa sweswi III
(Forget about yesterday's pain and enjoy the moments of the present III)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 100 x 150.7 cm





Tirha ku kondza u kuma leswi u swi lavaka evuton'wini I
(Work it out until you find the opportunities you want in life I)
charcoal and pastel on paper
90 x 150.5 cm



Nyoxi a yi phatsami eka xiluva xo vuna
(The bee does not fall on a withering flower)
charcoal and pastel on paper
75.5 x 160 cm



Rendzo
(Journey)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 75 x 105 cm



Murhi wa vutivi II
(The tree of knowledge II)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 75 x 105 cm



Rivala hiti xaniseko ta tolo u tiphina eka nkarhi wa sweswi I
(Forget about yesterday's pain and enjoy the moments of the present I)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 75 x 105 cm



Sonto nimixo na vamaqwerhu va mina
(Sunday morning with my siblings)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 75 x 105 cm





ku hava ku tlhelela endzhaku III
(No retreat III)
charcoal and pastel on paper
40.5 x 76 cm



ku hava ku tthelela endzhaku I
(No retreat I)
charcoal and pastel on paper
40.5 x 76 cm



ku hava ku tthelela endzhaku II
(No retreat II)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 40.5 x 76 cm



ku hava ku tthelela endzhaku IV
(No retreat IV)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 40.5 x 76 cm





Vutomi byi lava xivindzi IV
(Be bold in life IV)
charcoal and pastel on paper
40 x 40 cm





Vutomi byi lava xivindzi I
(Be bold in life I)
charcoal and pastel on paper
40 x 40 cm



Vutomi byi lava xivindzi II
(Be bold in life II)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 40 x 40 cm



Vutomi byi lava xivindzi III
(Be bold in life III)
 charcoal and pastel on paper
 40 x 40 cm



PHILLEMOM HLUNGWANI

b. 1975, Thomo Village, Limpopo Province, South Africa



Phillemon Hlungwani was born in Thomo Village, Giyani, in the Limpopo Province. He attended the local village schools, where he developed his skills under the guidance of his art teacher, and mentors Muxe Moses Mthombeni and Queen Mtileni. Hlungwani studied at the Johannesburg Art Foundation before studying printmaking under the mentorship of Kim Berman, the late Nhlahla Xaba and Osiah Masukameng at the Artist Proof Studio. Hlungwani later completed a teacher's training course in Art at the WITS School of Art. He has since been based at the Artist Proof Studio, where he has facilitated classes, been a unit manager for papermaking and was the coordinator for community outreach and special projects at the studio. He has also worked in a range of advisory and mentoring

projects. Sponsored by the prestigious Ampersand Foundation Fellowship, Hlungwani completed an extensive study tour of printmaking studios in the United States. In addition to his drawing and graphic work, Hlungwani has completed and facilitated many murals, including at the Standard Bank Art Gallery (for the Picasso in Africa exhibition) and a mural for Bell Dewar and Hall. He has been commissioned by the Johannesburg Development Agencies, MTN and the South African Governmental offices.

Awards include the King Korn competition (2000 and 2001) and the SABC Radio Station Munghana Lonene FM Log Design Award (2003). He was a finalist for the Absa Gallery competition in 2001, 2002 and 2009.



SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** *Manana, I Wa Nkoka Eka Mina (Mother, You Are So Special To Me)*, Knysna Fine Art, South Africa
- 2021** *A Wu Xi Tivi Lexi Nga Mbilwini Ya Mani*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2019** *Ntsako Wa Xibelani*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018** *Nwansati wa matimba a nga heli mongo*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Rirhandzu Ra Manana / the Love of Women*, Everard Read Gallery, London, UK
- 2016** *From Giyani to Alexandra*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg and Grande Provence Gallery, South Africa
- 2014** *Mi Kondzo Ya Tinghawi/In the Footsteps of Heroes*, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, South Africa
Qunu Drawings, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *Cullinan Drawings* sponsored by Petra Diamonds plc, John Martin Gallery, London, UK
- 2011** *New Works*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Solo Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
- 2009** *Recent Works*, The Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
Tshungulo wuyisiwa e mahlweni (The Healing Process), Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008** *Xitsonga I ndzuti wa Xigaza / The Tsonga is the Shadow of Xigaza*, ABSA Gallery in Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006** *Recent Works*, The Gallery Premises, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *First one-man show in Soweto*, sponsored by Kaya FM, The Sowetan, Sunday World and Absolut Vodka, Soweto, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** *Spring Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Offering, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2020** *The Portrait Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Imago, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Staring Straight to the Future, Everard Read Gallery Group Online Exhibition
TINY, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Odyssey, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2019** *Southern Aspect: A Group Exhibition*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2017** *Reality Check*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Winter Collection: Group Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Opening Gallery Exhibition*, CIRCA Gallery, London, UK
- 2015** *1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair London*, London, UK
- 2014** *FNB Johannesburg Art Fair*, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *Art 13*, London, UK
- 2012** *The 4th Edition of India Modern and Contemporary Art Fair*, India Art Fair, India
The 21st birthday celebration of Artist Proof Studio exhibition, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
FNB Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011** *Multiple Views of a Singular Beast*, Circa and Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Art Angels Charity Art Auction
- 2010** *A View from the South*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *RENDEZVOUS Focus original lithography*, an exhibition of more than 100 South African and French artists' artworks touring and exhibited in South Africa
The 50s: An Interpretation, Gallery on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square, South Africa
- 2008** Knysna Fine Art, Kysna, South Africa
David Brown Fine Art, Johannesburg, South Africa
Aspire Contemporary Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Gallery on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square, South Africa
- 2007** Thomson Art Gallery in Melville, South Africa
SASOL, Rosebank, South Africa
- 2006** Gallery on the Square, Nelson Mandela Square
Spark Gallery
Art on Paper
UJ (former RAU) Gallery
- 2005** Touring exhibition to the Gulf of OMAN Community Art Center, Qatar Hotel, Salala
- 2003** The Gallery Premises and the Johannesburg Art Gallery
- 2000** Heritage Day for Arts and Culture Exhibition, Belgium
- 1997** Polokwane Art Museum, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

- Ascot Diamonds
Bell, Dewar and Hall, Johannesburg
Bidvest
BLP Merchandising Solutions
Brait
Centurion Hotel, Pretoria
Ellerman House, Cape Town
Irma Stern Museum (UCT), Cape Town
Johannesburg Development Agency
Medscheme Holdings
MTN print exchange
Nando's
Nedbank, Johannesburg
Norman Borlaug Institute for International Culture, Texas
Raphael Suites and Michelangelo Towers, Sandton
Rand Merchant Bank Corporate Collection
Sasol Collection
South African Reserve Bank
Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg
UNISA Art Collection
Vodacom

