

GREATMORE STUDIOS

PRESENTS

A CLEAN IDEA

AN EXHIBITION SHOWCASING NEW WORKS BY
VISITING ARTISTS FOLLOWING A THREE MONTH
RESIDENCY AT GREATMORE STUDIOS,
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2013
WITH COLLABORATING RESIDENT ARTIST

LEIF BENNETT (SWITZERLAND)
YVONNE MUELLER (SWITZERLAND)
KHAYALETHU WITBOOI (SOUTH AFRICA)

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A CLEAN IDEA

LET US ASSUME THERE IS SUCH A THING AS – A CLEAN IDEA.

HOW DISTINGUISH IT FROM GOOD OR BAD OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF
IDEA?

HOW WOULD IT MANIFEST?

WHO WOULD COME UP WITH IT?

AS WE TRY TO GIVE THE TERM MEANING AND ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS THE "CLEAN IDEA" WE COME TO ENVISION, AIMS AT ORDER AND HOPES TO ELIMINATE THE FRUSTRATIONS OF UNCERTAINTY.

WE MAY COME AT IT ALONE, OR IN A GROUP, BUT BY ITS NATURE THE IDEA WOULD BE ONE OF EXCLUSION, WHERE THINGS ARE EITHER METICULOUSLY SEPARATED AND PARTLY DISCARDED OR LUMPED TOGETHER AND PUT INTO A SINGLE SHAPE IN ORDER TO PLACE BEFORE OURSELVES.

ULTIMATELY IT IS AN IDEA OF CONTAINMENT, OF LABELING AND BROAD OVERSIGHT - TABULA RASA .

CAN IT SURPRISE THAT IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF OUR OWN WELL BEING, THAT PERHAPS WE HAVE ALL BEEN TEMPTED TO HARBOUR SUCH AN IDEA?

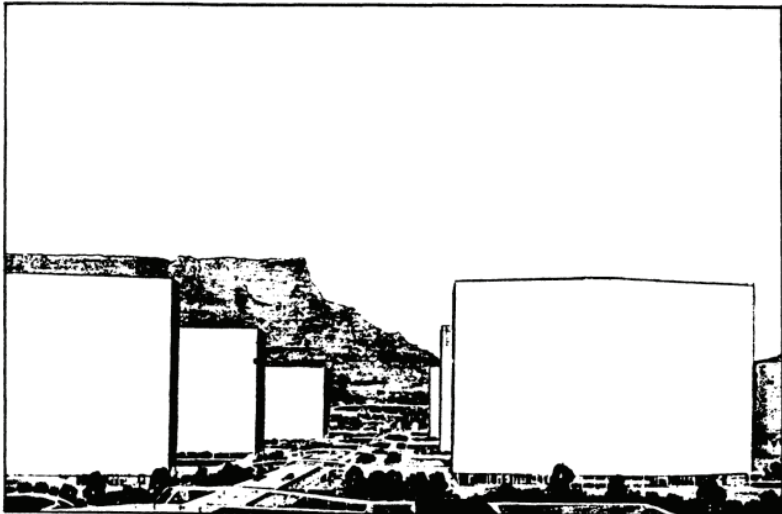
AFTER ALL, WE HAVE INTELLIGENTLY TRIED TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST BAD IDEAS, WE HAVE GROWN UNPATIENT WITH JUST THE GOOD IDEAS, DON'T ASCRIBE TO BRILLIANCY AND LACK TIME FOR FANTASY - WE SEEK RESULTS NOW!

HAVING OBSERVED WE ASK TO CONCLUDE: WOULD THIS NOT DENOTE THE ANTITHESIS TO "IDEA"?

BECAUSE, MERELY TO ORGANISE ONES SURROUNDINGS ACCORDING TO PERSONAL OUTLOOK IS PERHAPS NOT A DEFINING FEATURE OF WHAT MAKES US HUMAN?

THINK OF THE COMPLEXITY OF BIRDS NESTS, WILD BEASTS DEFENDING AND MARKING TERRITORY.

². . .THROUGH SURGERY WE MUST CREATE ORDER, THROUGH ORGANISATION WE MUST MAKE MANIFEST THE SPIRIT OF A NEW AGE. . .



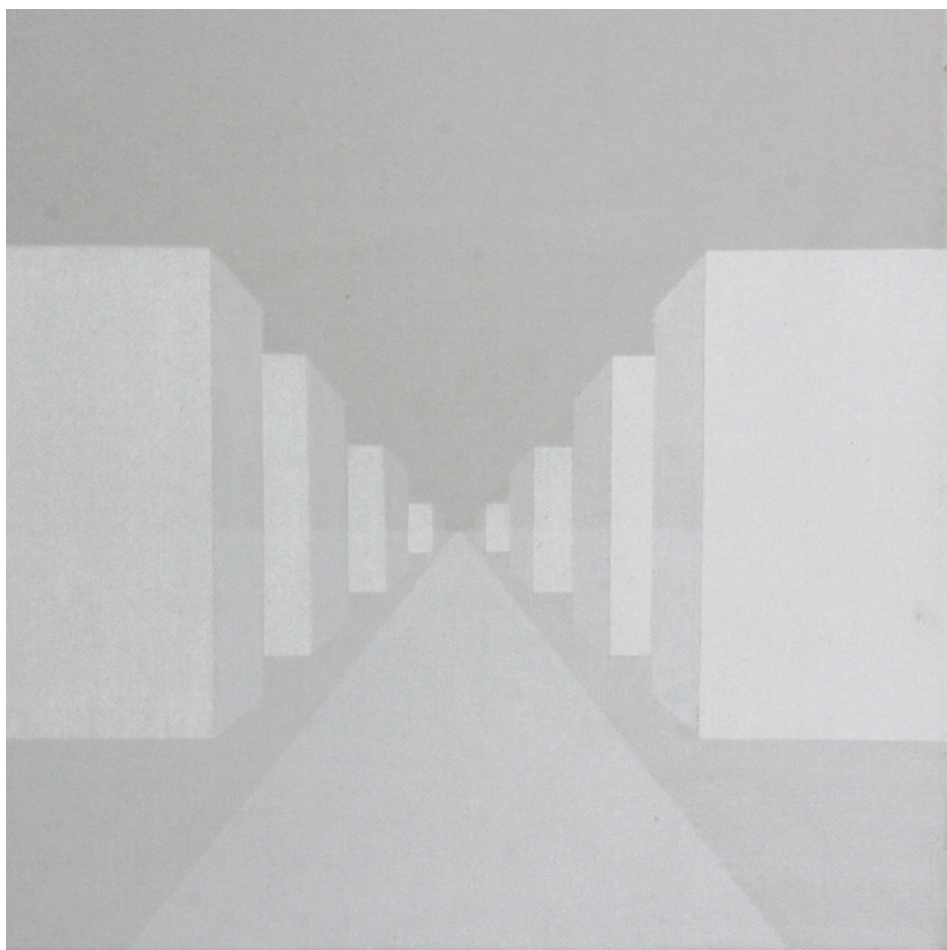
Adderley Street: A perspective view of the 1938 Congress scheme

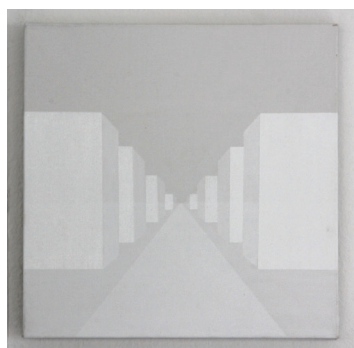
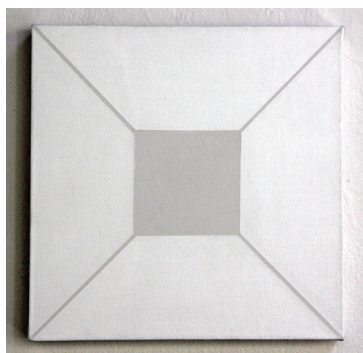
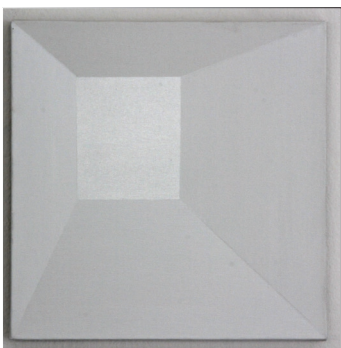
¹IN 1938 LE CORBUSIER THE FAMOUS SWISS ARCHITECT AND PLANNER OF "MONOPOLY CAPITAL", LAID BARE FOUR OF THE SIX EXHIBITS AT THE TOWN PLANNING CONGRESS IN JOHANNESBURG. ONE WAS OF A "NATIVE TOWNSHIP", THE SIXTH WAS A MODEL FOR THE REPLANNING OF CENTRAL CAPE TOWN.

THE DESIGNS FOR CAPE TOWN SHOWED HUGE FREE-STANDING SLAB CONSTRUCTIONS MARCHING FROM THE DOCKS TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN. DISTRICT SIX WAS VIRTUALLY PLANNED OUT OF EXISTENCE REPLACED BY A SINGLE HOTEL SURROUNDED BY A VAST ACCREAGE OF GREENERY. THE WHOLE OF WOODSTOCK AND SALT RIVER HAD DISAPPEARED UNDER HUGE BLOCKS OF LE CORBUSIAN WORKER 'CELLS'.

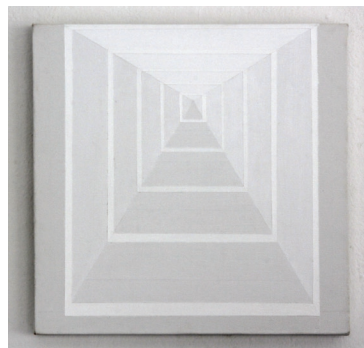
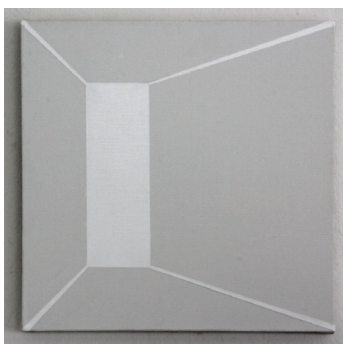
¹ QUOTE: LE CORBUSIER UNDATED

² EXCERPTED FROM: IDEOLOGY AND URBAN PLANNING: BLUEPRINTS OF A GARRISON CITY / DON PINNOCK





WHITE PAINTING I - VI 2013



SERIES OF 10 PAINTINGS ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 30 x 30 CM



HAIR SALONS, LANGA

2010 Fifa World Cup Year
+ 2011 Year
2012 Year
= 2013 Year
8046 Year



Mop 1 2013 FROM A SERIES OF 15 MOPS, STYLED BY MRS. BLESSING -



MOP II 2013 STYLED BY ONGEZA -



MOP III 2013 STYLED BY WENDY HODINI -

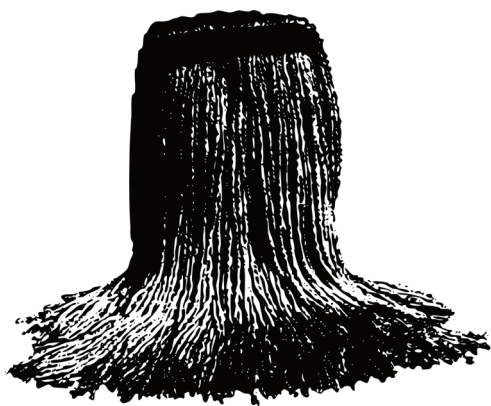


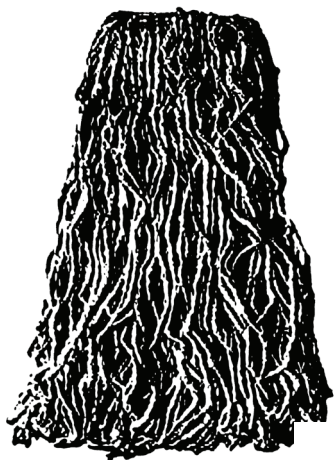
MOP IIII 2013 STYLED BY MS. CINGISWA MTHATHI



INSTALLATION VIEW, MOPS AND PAINTINGS











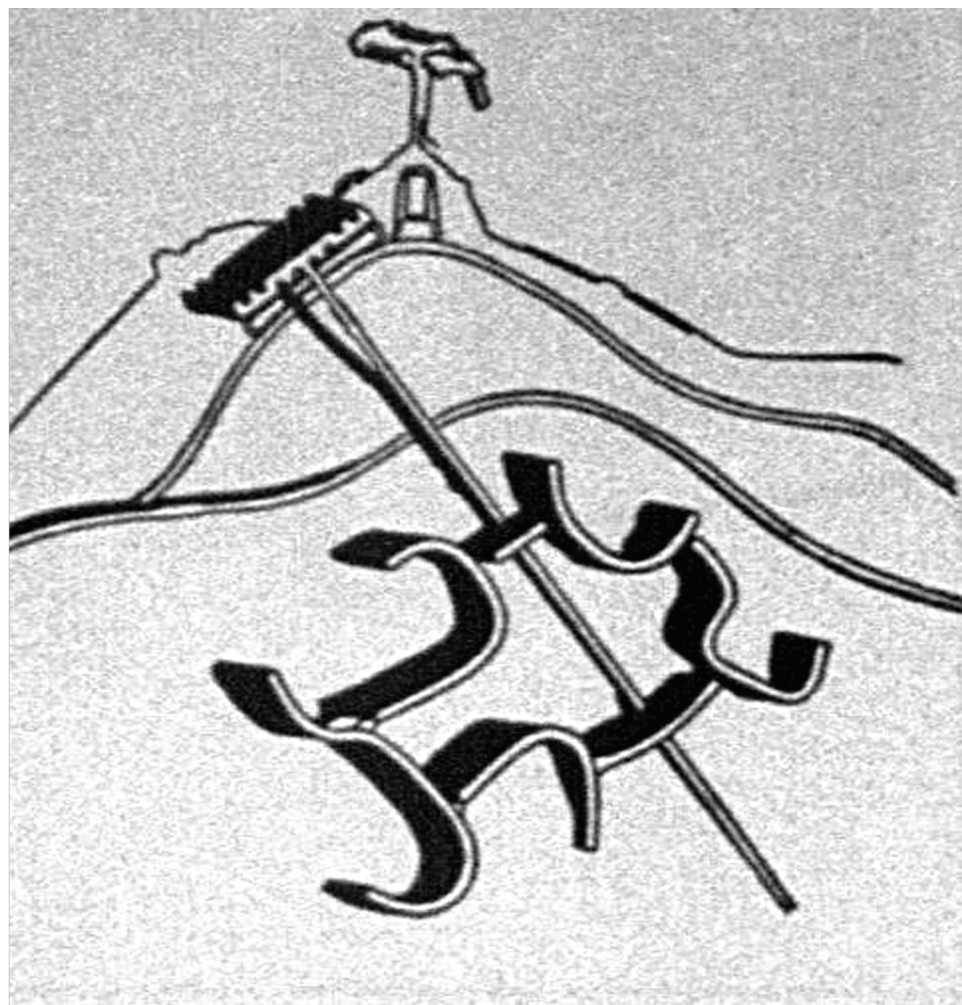
MOPPING UP DISTRICT SIX

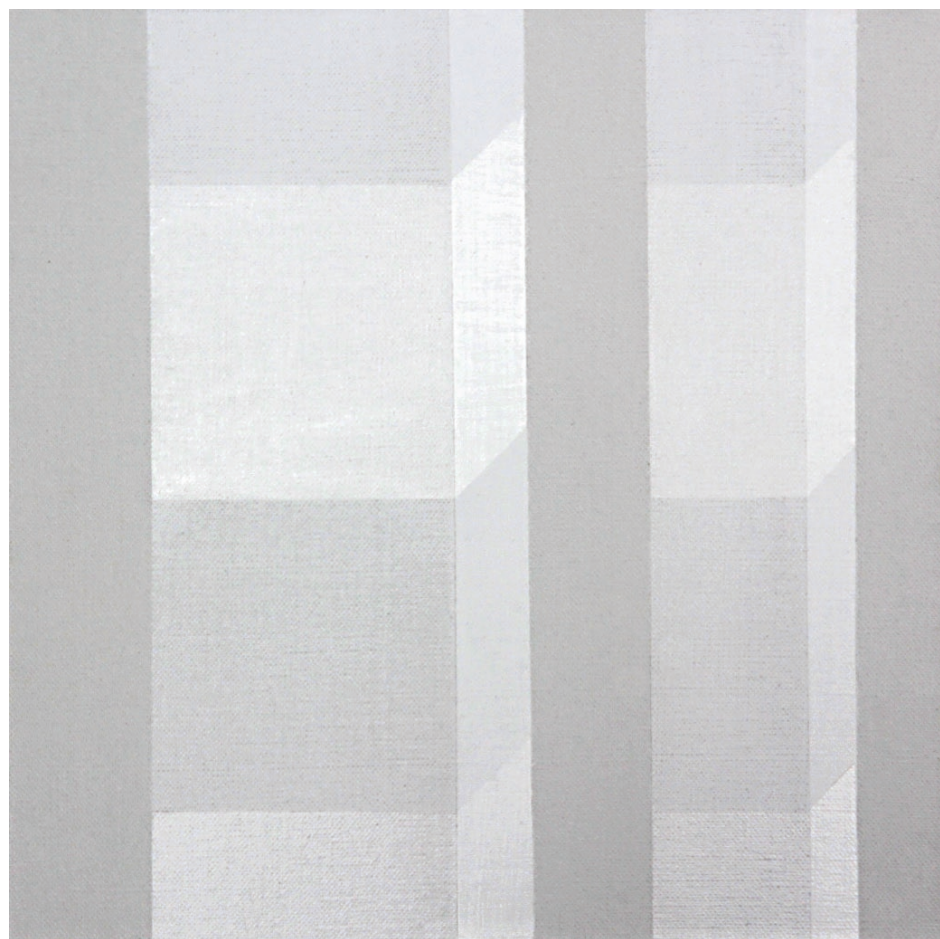
VIDEOSTILS FROM THE PERFORMANCE 29TH NOVEMBER 2013

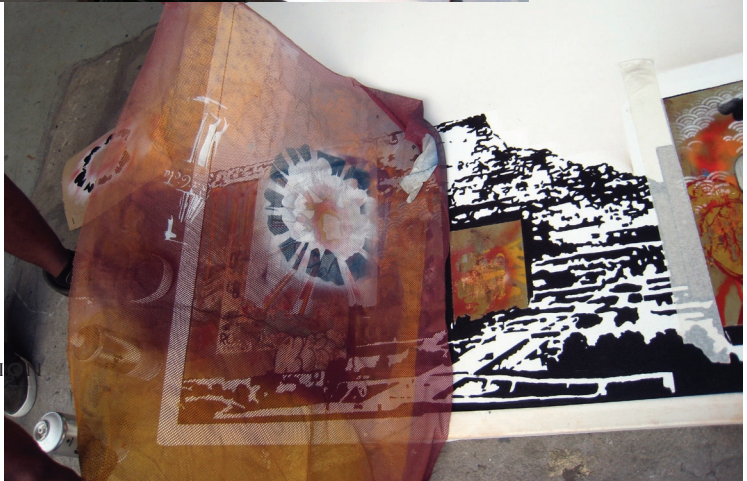




LE CORBUSIER - PLAN OBUS - ALGER 1933







KHAYA IN ACTI





ADDERLEY STREET 2013 SPRAY/ACRYLIC/OIL ON CANVAS 100 x 150 CM



ON PART OF A RESIDENCY PROGRAMM, YVONNE AND ME ALONG WITH OUR DAUGHTER SMILLA HAD THE FORTUNE TO VISIT AN UNDESCRIBABLE COUNTRY WITH AN IMMENSLY DIVERSE CULTURE.

JOHANNESBURG, WHERE WE SPENT THE FIRST 3 MONTH OF OUR HALF YEAR RESIDENCY IN SOUTH AFRICA, PROVED JUST AS MEMORABLE AND PRODUCTIVE A TIME AS DOES NOW, TOWARDS THE END OF OUR STAY, CAPE TOWN.

AS ARTISTS WE CAUGHT THE NOTION THAT WE WERE HERE TO IMMERSE OURSELVES AND EXPERIMENT.

GREATMORE, THE NAME SAYS IT...

IS MAYBE NOT GREAT IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD, BUT IT IS MORE THEN THAT. WITH ITS EMERGING AND MORE ESTABLISHED ARTISTS, ITS A PLACE YOU WALK IN AND INSTANTLY GET TO KNOW EVERYBODY. THIS REALLY ENCOURAGED US TO WORK IN THE OPEN AND BENEFIT.

THE UNDERLYING THEME FOR THIS EXHIBITION CAME AS A BIT OF A SURPRISE.

YET HISTORY WAS MADE YOUNG IN SOUTH AFRICA IN 1994. THE THROB-
BING ACCUTENESS OF THIS IS VIVIDLY FELT AND HEARD THROUGH
LOOSE MIXTURES OF LOUD CLICKING, ROLLING R`S AND A DISTINCT PID-
GIN. NATURALLY WE FELT COMPELLED, ALONG WITH COUNTLESS OTHER
ARTISTS WORKING IN THIS COUNTRY TO UNEARTH AND MAKE SENSE OF
ITS SLIGHTLY MORE DISTANT PAST. SO IT BECAME THAT SOMEWHERE IN
THERE OUR OWN NATIONAL CULTURE HAD US ENMESHED.

KHAYALETHU WITBOOI QUICKLY PROVED A LOGICAL CHOICE TO SEEK
COLLABORATION WITH. WORKING AT GREATMORE HIS URBAN APPROACH
COUPLED WITH HIS WITTY UNDERSTANDING TO TRANSLATE THOUGHTS
AND IDEAS INTO IMAGES IS SEEN IN HIS DEFT WORKOVER OF THE RE-
PRODUCED SKETCH WE PROVIDED HIM.

LEIF BENNETT DECEMBER 2013, CAPE TOWN



YVONNE MUELLER WAS BORN 1973 IN BASEL, SWITZERLAND. AFTER HER BA IN FINE ARTS SHE WORKED WITH PHOTOGRAPHY, PAINTING AND VIDEO. FROM 2009 ON SHE CONCENTRATED ON ARCHITECTURAL INTERIOR DETAILS AND CREATED SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATIONS WITH PHOTOGRAPHY, PAINTING AND OBJECTS. SHE IS INTERESTED IN CREATING AN ILLUSION AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE 2ND AND 3RD DIMENSION. SHE RECENTLY WON A PRIZE FOR A COMPETITION "ART IN ARCHITECTURE" IN BASEL. YVONNE HAS PARTICIPATED IN TWO ART RESIDENCIES, THE FIRST IN PARIS AT THE CITÉ INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS AND IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN HER SECOND ONE TOGETHER WITH HER HUSBAND LEIF BENNETT, THREE MONTHS AT THE BAG FACTORY IN JOHANNESBURG AND THREE MONTHS AT THE GREATMORE STUDIOS IN CAPE TOWN.

WWW.YVONNEMUELLER.NET



LEIF BENNETT, BORN 1974 IN SCHAFFHAUSEN SWITZERLAND IS A SELF TAUGHT ARTIST. EXCURSIONS IN TO MUSIC, WRITING AND CONSTRUCTION WORK, PRECEDED HIS DECISION TO SINGULARLY CONCENTRATE ON THE "FINE ARTS" IN 2003. IN 2007 HE COMPLETET AN INTERNSHIP WITH AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM AND SUBSEQUENTLY WON A COMPETITION FOR ART IN A PUBLIC SPACE. SINCE 2007 HE IS A BOARD MEMBER OF AN ARTIST RUN SPACE IN BASEL. HE HAS TAKEN PART IN NUMEROUS EXHIBITIONS IN AND AROUND SWITZERLAND. HIS LATEST EXHIBITION WAS AT THE "KUNSTMUSEUM SCHAFFHAUSEN" WHERE HE SHOWED HIS PASSION FOR DARKROOM WORK.

THE WORKS SHOWN IN THIS CATALOG RESULTED FROM THEIR STAY IN CAPE TOWN. USUALLY WORKING INDEPENDENTLY OF EACH OTHER THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY DID COLLABORATIVE WORK FOR AN EXHIBITION.



KHAYALETHU WITBOOI WAS BORN AND GREW UP IN UITENHAGE IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA. AFTER MATRICULATING IN 1995 HE DID A COLLEGE COURSE IN DRAUGHTSMANSHIP AND STARTED WORKING AS AN ILLUSTRATOR FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM WHILE DOING FREELANCE WORK FOR THE ARGUS NEWSPAPER IN CAPE TOWN (COURT SKETCHES, CARTOONS ETC.) AND LATER PAINTING PORTRAITS FOR INTERESTED CLIENTS. IN JUNE 2010 HE WAS SELECTED TO JOIN THE GOOD HOPE ARTIST'S STUDIO PROGRAMME WHERE HE WAS GIVEN A STUDIO AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAINT FULL-TIME.

HE HAS ONLY RECENTLY STARTED PRODUCING THE COLLAGE STYLE PAINTINGS THAT IS CURRENTLY ON SHOW AT WORLDART. THIS STYLE, INSPIRED BY ARTISTS RANGING FROM PICASSO TO ASHA ZERO, IS A STYLE OF PAINTING WHERE IT APPEARS AS IF THE DIFFERENT IMAGES WERE GLUED ONTO THE CANVAS, BUT WERE, IN FACT, ALL PAINTED AND STENCILLED ONTO THE CANVAS.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**GREATMORE STUDIOS
WENDY HODINI
SAMUEL KANYAMA
ALL PERFORMANCE PARTICIPANTS
AND
HAIRSTYLISTS**

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