

What to see at FNB Joburg Art Fair 2018

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Camo Division Of Labour Part 1, 2017, by Troy Makaza

The 11th instalment of the annual FNB Joburg Art Fair makes a return to Sandton Convention Centre from 7 - 9 September, offering a diverse spread of contemporary art and design, exhibitions and initiatives. The fair provides a platform for artists, galleries, makers, thinkers and art enthusiasts from Africa and its diaspora to congregate and celebrate creative culture; ‘by the continent, for the continent.

FNB Art Prize



Senzenina, 2018, by Haroon Gunn-Salie. Courtesy of Goodman Gallery

Cape Town-born artist and activist Haroon Gunn-Salie is the recipient of this year’s FNB Art Prize. The experimental installation and ‘intervention’ artist follows a prestigious list of winners including Nolan Oswald Dennis, Portia Zvavahera and Kudzanai Chiurai since the prize was conceived in 2011. Collaborative, site-specific and politically charged, Gunn-Salie’s work is a poignant elegy to systematic oppression, organised protests, state violence and national division. *Senzenina* – the artist’s harrowing 34-piece installation memorialising miners killed by South African security forces in the 2012 Marikana massacre – will be relived at Sandton Convention Centre in a fully-immersive iteration, enclosed in a dimly lit, acoustically adapted booth.

David Krut Projects, Johannesburg



Lest We Remember, 2017, by Aida Muluneh. Courtesy of David Krut Projects

With galleries in Johannesburg, Cape Town and New York, David Krut Projects encourages an ‘awareness of arts careers, related media and contemporary culture’. Their print workshop and bookstore were the first art establishments on what is now Joburg’s eponymous Art Strip. Ethiopian Aida Muluneh will be this year’s profiled artist under the fair’s Limited Edition umbrella, showing her intensely vivid photographs which bring together geometrical jolts, body painting and garish blocks of colour. New work for the *Memories in Development and Water Life* series was created in Dallol, Ethiopia, a remote region below sea level with treacherous average temperatures of 50°C, requiring exceptional physical endurance on the artist’s part. The project sprang from Water Aid UK’s ongoing quest to provide water and hygiene facilities in Africa, with a particular focus on the needs of women, an initiative the artist has been involved with for some time. davidkrutprojects.com

Mov’Art, Luanda



Two Boys With Fish, 2018, by Mário Macilau

Originally conceived as a ‘pop-up’ gallery, Mov’Art has served as an interlocutor for contemporary art in Angola since 2014, seeking to defy stereotypes and illuminate a facet of Angolan culture little known to the rest of the world. In early 2017, following 16 successful mobile exhibitions, the gallery unveiled its first permanent space in Luanda. Mov’art will present a trio of distinctive artists at this year’s fair, Rene Tavares, Mário Macilau and Toy Boy, each grappling with themes of socio-political unrest.

Through a series of ‘unfinished’ gestural dashes, lines and blotches, Tavares’ work comments on his personal experience of displacement within Africa’s post-colonial contact zones. Maputo-born Macilau immerses himself in the living and working conditions of marginalised social groups. He became a full-time photographer in 2007 after exchanging his mother’s mobile phone for a camera and has since exhibited his long-form photographic projects internationally. Toy Boy’s paintings, photography and installations are fuelled by a childhood spent at the heart of Angola’s civil war. They document historical urbanisation, tense division and the state’s contradiction with civilian interests. movart.co.ao

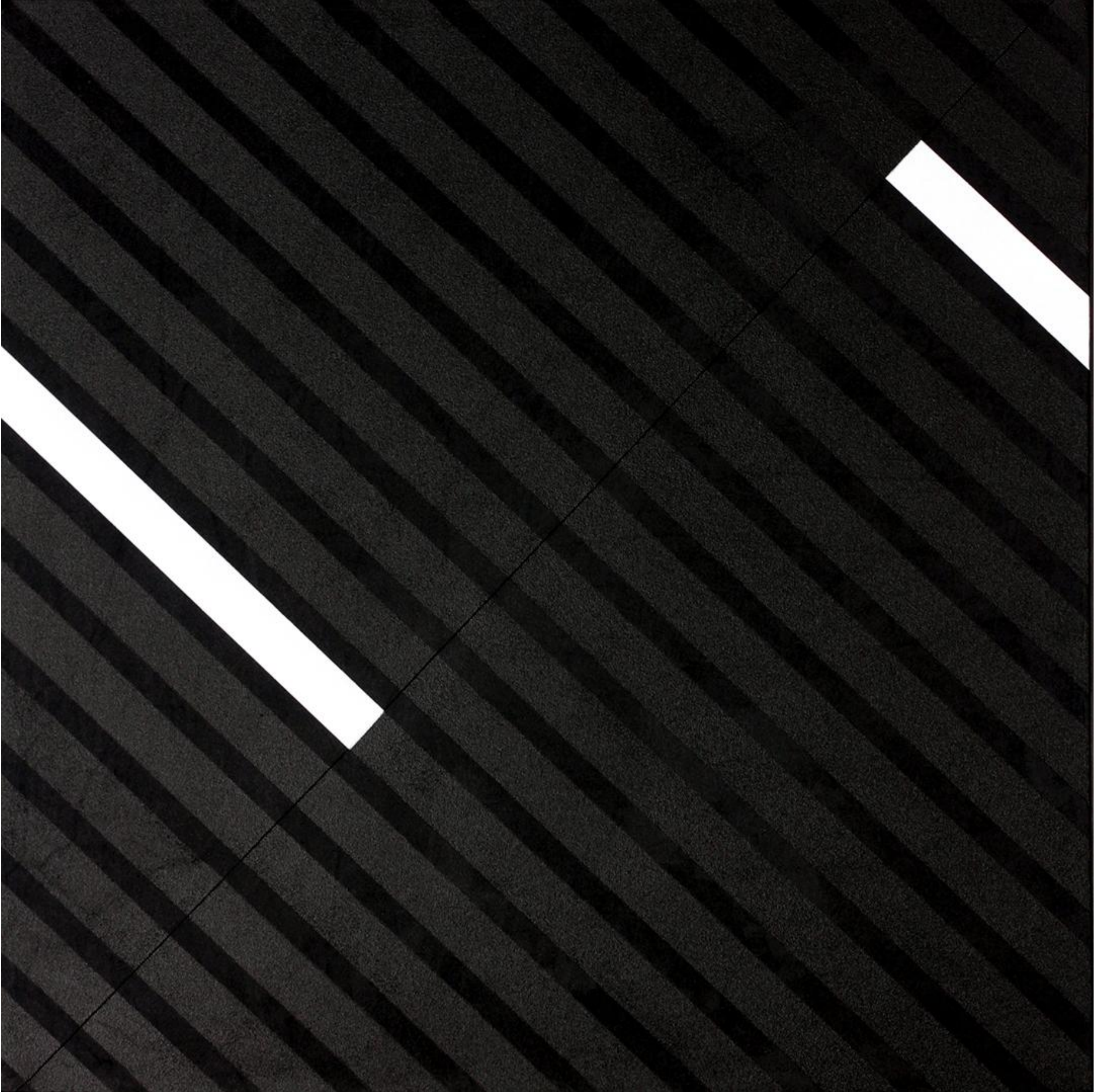
First Floor Gallery, Harare



Night and Day, Part 1, 2018, by Julio Rizhi

During her first visit to Zimbabwe in 2009, First Floor’s founder Valerie Kabov recognised the urgent need for an accessible, experimental and educational space for emerging local artists. With support from Marcus Gora, now the the gallery’s marketing director, the team transformed a room in downtown Harare adjoining a tailors’ workshop into a fully-fledged gallery. Their main booth will host brand new paintings from Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude and Helen Teede, completed as part of their Africa First residency with the Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Israel. Nyaude’s figurative work reflects a cynicism derived from the tumults of Mbare, Harare’s most notorious ghetto. Teede’s paintings reflect a love of the African land and a consciousness of racial division. The gallery will also show new dystopic sculptures by Julio Rizhi, made of repurposed plastic and referring to environmental decay. firstfloorgalleryharare.com

99 Loop Gallery, Cape Town



Touchet, 2018, by Richard Mason. Courtesy of 99 Loop Gallery

99 Loop is a hub for emerging and established talents, priding itself on remaining an approachable, diverse space in the midst of Cape Town’s expanding creative district. At this year’s fair, they will unveil new work by Jeanne Hoffman, Chris Valentine, Anastasia Pather and Richard Mason. Hoffman will show a mix of paintings and ceramic stoneware involving her distinctive ‘mapping gestures’. Valentine’s poignant portraiture blends classical and contemporary painting through the lens of urban culture.

Mixed media artist Pather tackles surface, gender and the South African-Indian aesthetic, drawing attention to perceptions of value, exoticism and eroticism in which materials from previously ‘rejected’ paintings are repurposed in new work. Richard Mason presents digital immersion through geometry in his substantial canvases. His primary concern in this new body of work revolves around the notion of ‘physical glitches,’ with cut and sewn canvasses populated with disjointed shapes, unpainted regions and misalignments. 99loop.co.za

Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg/Cape Town



Messages from the Atlantic Passage, 2017, by Sue Williamson. Photography: Harold Cunningham, courtesy of Goodman Gallery

Established in Johannesburg in 1966, Goodman was South Africa's first contemporary art gallery of note, assuming a socially progressive stance even in midst of apartheid Africa. Working with some of the continent's most significant artists, the gallery continues to nurture social transformation. This year, it assembles a group of artists operating under the common theme of the post-colonial condition.

The 'drawings' of Gerhard Marx are comprised of decommissioned terrestrial maps collaged and overlaid, tackling raw issues of territory and geographical occupation. A collaborative photographic series by Mikhael Subotzky and Patrick Waterhouse documents the pair's seven-year examination of the iconic and half-abandoned Ponte City apartment complex in Johannesburg.

Meanwhile, the gallery's featured artist, Sue Williamson displays *Messages from the Atlantic Passage*, a large-scale installation of shackled, suspended glass bottles engraved with profiles of 19th-century victims of slavery. Work from this year's man of the moment, Haroon Gunn-Salie will be presented alongside new creations from Yinka Shonibare, Kapwani Kiwanga and Hank Willis Thomas. goodman-gallery.com

Stevenson Cape Town/Johannesburg



My Apologies to Time I, 2017, by Kemang Wa Lehulere. Courtesy of Stevenson Gallery

Stevenson will celebrate its 15th anniversary at this year's fair with *Both*, and, an examination of the gallery's history and its role in the much-contested debate of how to be at once devoted to art history and engaged with the art market. Their booth will feature new works by both foundational artists and new contributors. Steven Cohen revisits his iconic 2001 piece, *Chandelier* with a series of new prints. *My Apologies to Time I*, a sculpture comprised of salvaged school desks by Kemang Wa Lehulere will be on show in South Africa for the first time, and photographer Zanele Muholi will reveal new self-portraits from the acclaimed series *Somnyama Ngonyama* in addition to work by Nandipha Mntambo, Barthélémy Toguo, Stanley Pinker and Nicholas Hlobo. stevenson.info

Red Door Gallery, Lagos



Bobby Goes North, from the Empowered Without Love series, by Cyril Oma

Offering an outlet for artists without social boundaries, Red Door Gallery consistently makes unpredictable additions to their roster because ‘predictable art is neither inspirational nor collectable.’ This year, they will showcase work from last year’s FNB Art Fair prizewinner, Peju Alatise, a Nigerian artist with several novels under her belt and fingers in many creative pies from multimedia sculpture, architecture to creative political activism.

Nengi Omuku will explore how humanity shifts, gathers and selects its identity through chromatically vivid and ambiguous portraiture, while Fatai Adewale will blend abstract and warped paintings narrating political history. For poet, painter and social commentator Cyril Oma, it’s all in the eyes; Red Door will showcase his captivating portraits that express the emotional extremities of love, triumph and turmoil. Oma’s work recently piqued the interest of the King of Morocco, who acquired a number of his works during a state visit to Nigeria. reddoorgallery.co

Addis Fine Art, Ethiopia



City of Saints X, 2017, by Eyerusalem Jirenga

Ethiopia’s first local art platform, Addis Fine Art is located on the Horn of the African Peninsula, in Addis Ababa. It operates internationally, with an additional project space in Central London. It has sparked new interest in a previously overlooked region of Ethiopia, and is rapidly evolving into one of the most prominent galleries on the continent.

This year, Addis will present *Joburg Floating Tower* by artist Addis Gezehagn, a new piece based on the deconstructed anatomy of Johannesburg’s Vodacom building. Local artist Merikokeb Berhanu taps into the physical structures of Addis Ababa, channelling Ethiopia’s rich and deeply rooted painting traditions. She will present a painted cluster of life bearing organic forms, including seed pods, embryos, fallopian tubes and pulsating cells, all cast against a complex network of gaunt, slumped female figures.

Emerging photographer and fashion designer, Eyerusalem Jirenga will display a selection of vivid portraits capturing everyday street scenes. Through a language of voluminous African dress and striking colour fields, each figure is in motion, assuming a fictional role indifferent to the viewer’s gaze. *addisfineart.com* ✱

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INFORMATION

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