

SHAPING THINGS

An exploration of clay and ceramics in contemporary South African art practice

Text by Malibongwe Tyilo

SMAC Gallery is pleased to present *Shaping Things*, a group exhibition that explores the developing status of clay and ceramics in contemporary South African art.

Unsurprisingly, the relationship between clay and creation is one of the oldest relationships between material and the imagination. With the earliest known examples of the use of clay in ceremonial figurines dating back to 24 000 B.C., various cultures and societies have, over millennia, reached to what is perhaps the most accessible material, at first for functional reasons, and later, added the element of decoration and creative expression. Within the South African context, clay is perhaps most closely associated with traditional pottery, as demonstrated by the variety of vessels across different cultures.

Other than for its functional purposes, the use of clay, especially in pottery, has long been perceived as a merely crafty pastime, far less cerebral than other mediums, like painting for example. However, much of the 20th century's exploration of clay and ceramic art has resulted in steadily changing perceptions of the value of the medium.

While there is no denying that material itself informs the form and content of an artwork, the current exploration of how clay can be used to explore contemporary subject matter is a reminder that longheld views of a material's role in artistic practice may perhaps no longer be as relevant. How the material informs the end result has far more to do with the practitioner's imagination and intention, than the perceived limitation of the material.

A look at some of the work that came out of South Africa in the latter half of the 20th century presents a far more nuanced conversation about the place of clay in art. Be it the delicate and eclectic balance in the work of Fée Halsted's Ardmore studio; the adherence to traditional form of Nesta Nala's pots, or the far more decorative and consumable vessels from Louise Gelderblom's studio. Ardmore studio is an especially remarkable reminder of the way in which ceramic practice can incorporate other disciplines such as sculpture and painting.

In contemporary 21st century exploration of clay, previous ceramic form and context moves further into the background, as artists use clay as another tool in their arsenal to explore subjects relevant to contemporary society. Take for example Ben Orkin's glazed symmetrical silhouettes that explore the intimacy and tensions of queer relationships. At a distance, the unfamiliar shapes might resemble the vessels of old, but a closer look reveal them to stand out on their own, as new shapes.

Jewellery designer Githan Coopo explores clay as adornment. His 2018 Byzantine collection looks to Greek mythology, ancient Egypt, varied religious iconography and found objects to sculpt ceramic earrings, intended for wearing rather than display. Besides the end use, what then separates his contemporary interpretation of the medium from works whose primary intention is to be displayed and contemplated as art pieces?

SHAPING THINGS

Text by Malibongwe Tyilo

Zizipho Poswa's work on the other hand seems to straddle the space between the traditional and the contemporary. The shapes are reminiscent of familiar older vessels. In her work, she pays tribute to the women she grew up around, whose heads literally carried loads, sometimes actual vessels. In her work, their heads and hairstyles as well as the loads they carry are explored anew, in clay, as ceramics artworks themselves.

In Marlene Steyn's work, we see a much more organic approach; although the work is largely directed by the artist's intention, the materiality of clay itself plays a huge role in the final result because of the way she works with it, while it is still wet, allowing for gravity and the instability of clay to inform the final shape.

Beyond the obviously sculptural expression of clay, artists like Simphiwe Buthelezi who bring clay into what would otherwise be more traditional flat surfaces, present a breakaway moment from what we would consider the traditional role of clay in art.

As ceramic art practice continues to take shape in contemporary practice, the diversity of output is a reminder that the story of clay's role in creation, even as old as it is, is far from defined, as contemporary art practitioners add new chapters and appreciation for the very soil that sustains us.

Participating Artists:

Ben Orkin Karlien de Villiers
Belinda Blignaut Karlien van Rooyen

Carine Terreblanche Kathy Robins

Colijn Strydom Katharien de Villiers

Esias Bosch Ledelle Moe

Eva Shuman Marlene Steyn, Abraham Kritzman &

Frances Goodman Angels Miralda Tena
Gabrielle Kruger Martine Jackson
Geena Wilkinson Michael Taylor

Georgina Gratrix Moshe Sello & Mthulisi Ncube (Ardmore)

Githan Coopoo Pierre le Riche
Gretchen Crots Simphiwe Buthelezi

Hylton Nel Somandla Ntshalintshali &

Jeanne Hoffman Siyabonga Mabaso (Ardmore)

Jo Roets Stephané Conradie

Johann Louw Zizipho Poswa

Kamyar Bineshtarigh

BEN ORKIN

b. 1998, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Ben Orkin

I need a break from love because I keep seeing how easily it keeps on breaking 2019 Glazed Ceramic 21 x 65 x 44 cm

R 11 500.00

BEN ORKIN



Ben Orkin
Don't worry about changing things that can't be changed
2020 Glazed Ceramic 68 x 34 x 34 cm

R 11 500.00



BELINDA BLIGNAUT

b. 1968, Humansdorp, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Belinda Blignaut The Call From Things (1 to 8) Found and Fired Organic Matter and Clay Dimensions Variable

R 30 000.00 (Each)



CARINE TERREBLANCHE

b. Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.





Carine Terreblanche
Memory Loves Time
2020
Stoneware Clay
14.5 x 23 x 5.2 cm

R 10 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Carine Terreblanche
A Monument to Memory
2020
Stoneware Clay
22.3 x 14.3 x 8 cm

R 10 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

CARINE TERREBLANCHE





Carine Terreblanche

Love is a Sickness Cured by Time 2019 Stoneware Clay and Enamel Paint 12.5 x 13 x 6 cm

R 4 500.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Carine Terreblanche

One Monumental Moment in Time 2020 Stoneware Clay 15 x 10.8 x 5 cm

R 4 500.00

CARINE TERREBLANCHE



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask I 2020 Porcelain, Wood, Resin and Silver Brooch 4.5 x 5.5 x 1.4 cm R 5 000.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask II 2020 Porcelain, Wood, Plastic and Silver Brooch 4.3 x 5.3 x 2 cm R 3 500.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask III 2020 Porcelain, Perspex, Silver and Plastic Brooch 4.2 x 5.2 x 1.8 cm

R 3 000.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask IV
2020
Silver and Porcelain
Brooch
5.6 x 7.7 x 1 cm
R 3 000.00
(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask V 2020 Wood, Resin and Silver Brooch 7 x 4.5 x 2.1 cm **R 5 000.00**

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Carine Terreblanche

You Can't Heal Under a Mask VI 2020 Porcelain, Silver and Cotton Pendant 4.7 x 4.3 x 1.8 cm R 3 000.00

Illia a Dala a Frank at a a f \ / A T



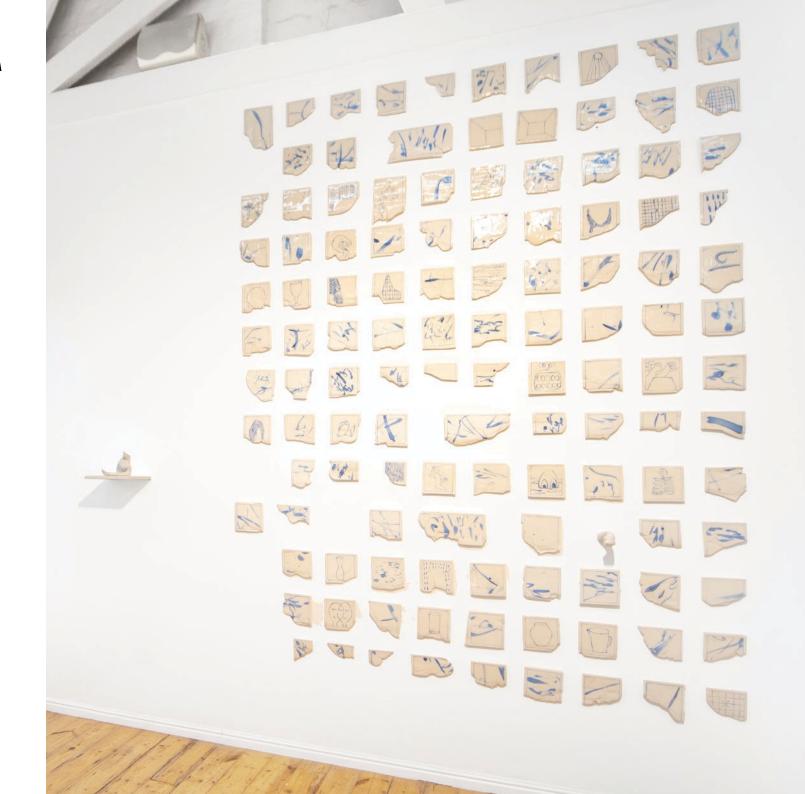
COLIJN STRYDOM

b. 1979, Pretoria, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



A history of a breath 2020 Glazed Ceramic Stoneware Dimensions Variable

R 1 200.00 (Each)
(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



COLIJN STRYDOM





Colijn Strydom
A history of a breath
2020
Glazed Ceramic Stoneware
6 x 13 x 6 cm

R 3 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Colijn Strydom
A history of a breath
2020
Glazed Ceramic Stoneware
Dimensions Variable

R 4 400.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

ESIAS BOSCH

b. 1923, Winburg, South Africa.

d. 2010, White River, South Africa.



Esias Bosch

Untitled I n.d. Hand Painted Ceramic Tile with Luster Glaze 44.5 x 35 cm

R 150 000.00

ESIAS BOSCH





Esias Bosch

Untitled II
n.d.
Hand Painted Ceramic Tile with Luster Glaze
43 x 43.5 cm

R 150 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Esias Bosch
Untitled III
n.d.
Hand Painted Ceramic Tile with Luster Glaze
43.5 x 43 cm

Not For Sale

EVA SHUMAN

b. 1989, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Eva Shuman Boomslang Glam 2020 Glazed Earthenware 49 x 22 x 22 cm

R 7 250.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Eva Shuman Lord Sword 2020 Glazed Earthenware 47 x 23 x 25 cm

R 7 250.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

EVA SHUMAN



Eva Shuman
Jannes' comeback
2020
Glazed Earthenware
45 x 26 x 21 cm

R 7 500.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Eva Shuman My small, small house 2020 Glazed Earthenware 42 x 21 x 17 cm

R 7 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

FRANCES GOODMAN

b. 1975, Johannesburg, South Africa. Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Frances Goodman

Biting Lips Red I 2019 Glazed Ceramic 40 x 26 x 4 cm

R 24 000.00

FRANCES GOODMAN





Frances Goodman Red Tongue 2019 Glazed Ceramic 50 x 37 x 8 cm

R 30 000.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Frances Goodman Icecream Tongue II 2019 Glazed Ceramic 50 x 37 x 8 cm

R 30 000.00

GABRIELLE KRUGER

b. 1993, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Gabrielle Kruger

Cemented
2019
Paint Cement and Acrylic Paint Strips
52 x 34 x 35 cm

R 18 000.00

GABRIELLE KRUGER



Gabrielle Kruger Extruded

Extruded
2019
Paint Cement and Acrylic Paint Strips
50 x 35 x 20 cm

R 22 000.00



GEORGINA GRATRIX

b. 1982, Mexico City, Mexico. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.





Georgina Gratrix Yellow Dog 2020 Oil on Ceramic 23 x 11.5 x 16 cm

Reserved R 28 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Georgina Gratrix
Red Dog
2020
Oil on Ceramic
17 x 10 x 7.5 cm

R 24 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

GEENA WILKINSON

b. 1994, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Geena Wilkinson

Untitled (Biscuits) IV 2020 Ceramic 58 x 58 cm

R 10 500.00

GEENA WILKINSON



Geena Wilkinson Spill 2019 Resin 29 x 32.5 x 3 cm ED 1/6 + 2AP

R 4 500.00

GITHAN COOPOO

b. 1994, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Githan Coopoo

We're all so gay 2020 Clay and Acrylic Paint 36 x 29 cm

R 7 500.00

GITHAN COOPOO





Githan Coopoo Jockstrap Ashtray (my father thinks my work looks too much like Hyltons) Clay and Acrylic Paint 14 x 11 x 5 cm

R 2 500.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Githan Coopoo Coaster (Green Greek Boy) Clay and Acrylic Paint 9.5 x 8 x 0.5 cm

R 1 500.00



GRETCHEN CROTS

b. 1995, Kroonstad, South Africa. Lives and works in Parys, South Africa.





Gretchen Crots

Jan se blues
2020

Electric Fired Earthenware and Found Object
18 x 35 x 16 cm

R 3 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Gretchen Crots
Die Boerpot
2020
Electric Fired Earthenware and Wire
23 x 24 x 9 cm

Sold

GRETCHEN CROTS





Gretchen Crots
Bloubok Ode
2020
Electric Fired Earthenware
7 x 25 x 21 cm

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Gretchen Crots}\\ \textbf{Jan \& Maria by the bedside}\\ 2020\\ \textbf{Electric Fired Earthenware, Ceramic Tiles and Wooden Frame}\\ 24 \times 20 \times 1\ cm \end{tabular}$

Sold Sold

HYLTON NEL

b. 1941, Zambia. Lives and works in Calitzdorp, South Africa.



Hylton Nel Dog on stump 2019 Glazed Ceramic Stoneware 45 x 20 cm

R 75 000.00

JEANNE HOFFMAN

b. 1978, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

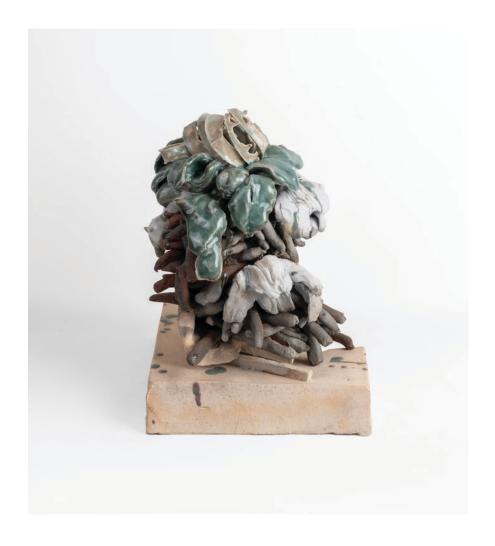


Jeanne Hoffman

Resisting change 2020 Stoneware 31 x 27 x 26 cm

R 16 000.00

JEANNE HOFFMAN





R 16 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Jeanne Hoffman Shipwrecked cargoes 2 2020 Stoneware & Porcelain 27 x 27 x 22 cm

R 16 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

JEANNE HOFFMAN





Shipwrecked cargoes 3 2020 Stoneware and Porcelain 35 x 15 x 12 cm

R 15 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Jeanne Hoffman

Calypso 2020 Terra-cotta and Porcelain 27 x 28 x 23 cm

R 16 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



JO ROETS

b. 1979, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.





Jo Roets Acolchoado 2020 Air-Drying Clay 35.5 x 41 x 3.5 cm

R 7 500.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Jo Roets Variação 2020 Air-Drying Clay 35.5 x 41 x 3.5 cm

R 7 500.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

JO ROETS





Jo Roets Transição #1 2020 Air-Drying Clay 46.5 x 35 x 3.5 cm

R 8 500.00

(Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Jo Roets Transição #2 2020 Air-Drying Clay 46.5 x 35 x 3.5 cm

R 8 500.00

JOHANN LOUW

b. 1965, Belville, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Johann Louw

Tannie Sarie op Vanzijlsplaas 2019 Kiln Fired Clay & Ash 80 x 40 x 31 cm

R 50 000.00

KAMYAR BINESHTARIGH

b. 1996, Semnan, Iran. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Kamyar Bineshtarigh
Tasbih (Homage to Zarina)
2020
Low Fired Red Earthenware Clay and Cotton
120 x 10 x 6 cm

R 28 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

KARLIEN DE VILLIERS

b. 1975, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Karlien de Villiers

Rainbow Flops 2020 Ceramic Clay, Underglaze and Glaze 12.5 x 25.5 x 8.5 cm and 9 x 26 x 13 cm

R 28 500.00

KARLIEN VAN ROOYEN

b. 1991, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.





R 8 600.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Karlien van Rooyen Chappie Shark 2020 Buff Stoneware and Manganese 68.5 x 17 x 15 cm

R 9 800.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Karlien van Rooyen
Petrol Whistle
2020
Nude Manganese Stoneware
64.5 x 10 x 10 cm

R 8 200.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

KARLIEN VAN ROOYEN







Karlien van Rooyen Chappie Spear 2020 Buff Stoneware and Manganese 67.5 x 17 x 15 cm

R 9 800.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Karlien van Rooyen aITAR Mother 2020 Buff Stoneware and Manganese Glaze 62 x 18 x 13.5 cm

R 8 600.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

Karlien van Rooyen Cobra Pyre 2020 Buff Stoneware 63 x 16 x 11 cm

R 8 200.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



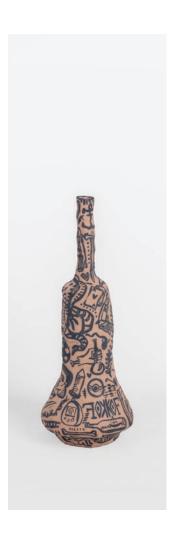
Karlien van Rooyen Chappie Spear (Detail) 2020

KARLIEN VAN ROOYEN





R 8 900.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Karlien van Rooyen Chappie Um 2020 Buff Stoneware and Manganese 25 x 18 x 18 cm

R 8 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Karlien van Rooyen aITAR With Child 2020 Buff Stoneware and Manganese Glaze 64 x 13 x 13 cm

R 8 600.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Karlien van Rooyen
Petrol Trumpet
2020
Nude Manganese Stoneware
66.6 x 15 x 15 cm

R 8 200.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

KATHARIEN DE VILLIERS

b. 1991, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Katharien de Villiers

Calling All Gods 2020 Polyurethane, Enamel, Found Objects and Clay 150 x 150 cm

R 21 000.00

KATHY ROBINS

b. 1959, Johannesburg, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Kathy Robins
Elements
2020
Mixed Media
Dimensions Variable

LEDELLE MOE

b. 1971, Durban, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Ledelle Moe Drift 2020 Clay and Concrete Dimensions Variable

R 19 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

MARLENE STEYN, ABRAHAM KRITZMAN & ANGELS MIRALDA TENA



Marlene Steyn, Abraham Kritzman & Angels Miralda Tena
Vertigo: where to go (Leo)

Vertigo: where to go (Leo)
2018
Painted Ceramic
170 x 22 x 20 cm

R 95 000.00

MARLENE STEYN, ABRAHAM KRITZMAN & ANGELS MIRALDA TENA



Marlene Steyn, Abraham Kritzman & Angels Miralda Tena

Vertigo: where to go (ego)
2018
Painted Ceramic
210 x 27 x 26 cm

R 115 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Marlene Steyn, Abraham Kritzman & Angels Miralda Tena

Vertigo: where to go (falco) 2018 Painted Ceramic 126 x 24 x 25 cm

R 105 000.00



MARTINE JACKSON

b. 1979, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Martine Jackson Liminal Dance III 2020 Terracotta Clay 75 x 40 x 18 cm

R 50 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

MARTINE JACKSON





Martine Jackson Liminal Dance II 2020 Terracotta Clay 78 x 38 x 40 cm

R 50 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Martine Jackson Liminal Dance I 2020 Terracotta Clay 75 x 40 x 18 cm

R 50 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)

MICHAEL TAYLOR

b. 1979, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Michael Taylor

Pals 2016 Ceramic 35 x 35 x 4 cm

R 12 000.00

MOSHE SELLO & MTHULISI NCUBE



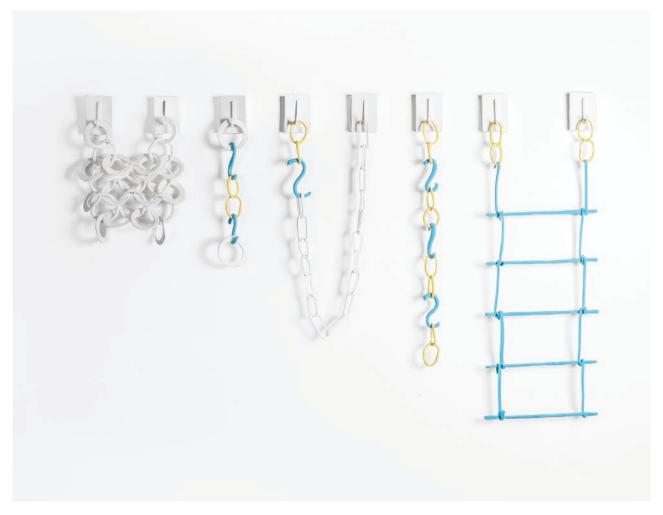
Moshe Sello & Mthulisi Ncube (Ardmore) Baboon & Aloe Vessel Earthenware Clay, Underglaze Paints and Glaze 60 x 36 x 24 cm

R 92 000.00



PIERRE LE RICHE

b. 1986, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Pierre Le Riche

Study for a chain reaction 2020 Porcelain Collage 75 x 120 cm

R 18 000.00

SIMPHIWE BUTHELEZI

b. 1996, Benoni, South Africa. Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.



Simphiwe Buthelezi

The Bewilderment of Time 2020 Earth, Oxide, Wool and Gilded Frame 65 x 53 x 3 cm

R 23 000.00



SOMANDLA NTSHALINTSHALI & SIYABONGA MABASO



Somandla Ntshalintshali & Siyabonga Mabaso (Ardmore) Elephant 'Sabie Dance' Earthenware Clay, Underglaze Paints and Glaze 66 x 40 x 20 cm

R 103 500.00

STEPHANÉ CONRADIE

b. 1990, Windhoek, Namibia. Lives and works in Stellenbosch, South Africa.



Stephané Conradie

Ouma sê jy moet daai swaan brasso 2020 Mixed Media Relief Sculpture with Clay Swan, Oil and Enamel Painting on Board 88 x 31 x 16 cm

R 80 000.00



Stephané Conradie Ouma sê jy moet daai swaan brasso (Detail) 2020

ZIZIPHO POSWA

b. 1979, Umtata, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.



Zizipo Poswa Nozibhedlele 2020 Glazed Stoneware Clay 117 x 80 x 80 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling Price Exclusive of VAT)



Zizipo Poswa Nozibhedlele (Detail) 2020



ZIZIPHO POSWA



Zizipo Poswa Noxolo

Noxolo 2020 Glazed Stoneware Clay 116 x 80 x 80 cm

R 380 000.00





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information regarding the availability of the works included in this portfolio, or for any other queries.

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 T +27 (0)21 887 3607 **CAPE TOWN**

1st Floor, The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Road Woodstock T +27 (0)21 461 1029 info@smacgallery.com www.smacgallery.com