

## Shape of Now

'Shape of Now' runs concurrently with the Investec Cape Town Art Fair at 99 Loop Gallery this February, curated by international art strategist Virginia Damtsa. The group exhibition presents primarily South African-based artists alongside a select group of international voices. Featuring nine artists, the exhibition brings together the familiar and the unfamiliar - places you have visited, people you remember, memories you imagine, and worlds that exist only through colour, form, and emotion.

Through strong visual languages, vibrant colour palettes and compelling imagery, the works ask whether you are looking in from the outside or if you are already inhabiting the worlds they create. 'Shape of Now' demonstrates how today's artists articulate the questions of tomorrow, grounding the present in something both recognisable and transformative. How their stories open pathways into your own.

The exhibition focuses on Cape Town-based artists working within a sociopolitical contemporary context, engaging with themes such as the enduring traces of history, stark social inequalities, intersections of land and identity, and the city's distinct mosaic of cultures. Their works reflect the layered conditions that shape Cape Town today - its beauty, its tensions, and its continual transformation.



BARRY YUSUFU  
*If the Cactus Pricks I*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
152.4 x 152.4 x 2.5 cm  
ZAR 330,000



BARRY YUSUFU  
*If the Cactus Pricks II*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
153 x 152.5 x 2.5 cm  
ZAR 330,000





CHRIS DENOVAN  
*Riders of the Low Plains*, 2025  
Oil, acrylic and spray paint on canvas  
140 x 180 x 5 cm  
ZAR 80,000



GIHANSA GALHENAGE

*where do we go, 2025*

Used-tea bags, metal round bar, black cardstock, and LED lights  
variable



# 99 LOOP



MHLONISHWA ZULU  
*Shadow of the abstract*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
184 x 171.5 cm / 187.5 x 174.5 x 5 cm framed  
ZAR 32,000



MHLONISHWA ZULU  
*The fruits thereof*, 2025  
Oil and acrylic on canvas  
60 x 90 cm / 62.5 x 93.5 x 5 cm framed  
ZAR 15,000





NAZEER JAPPIE  
*Self-Portrait with Clawed Hand, 2025*  
Oil on board  
91 x 67 cm / 93.5 x 69.3 x 3.6 cm framed  
ZAR 30,000





NAZEER JAPPIE

*Self-Portrait with Death in the Window, 2024*

Oil on board

35 x 30 cm / 37.2 x 32.3 x 3.6 cm framed

ZAR 10,000



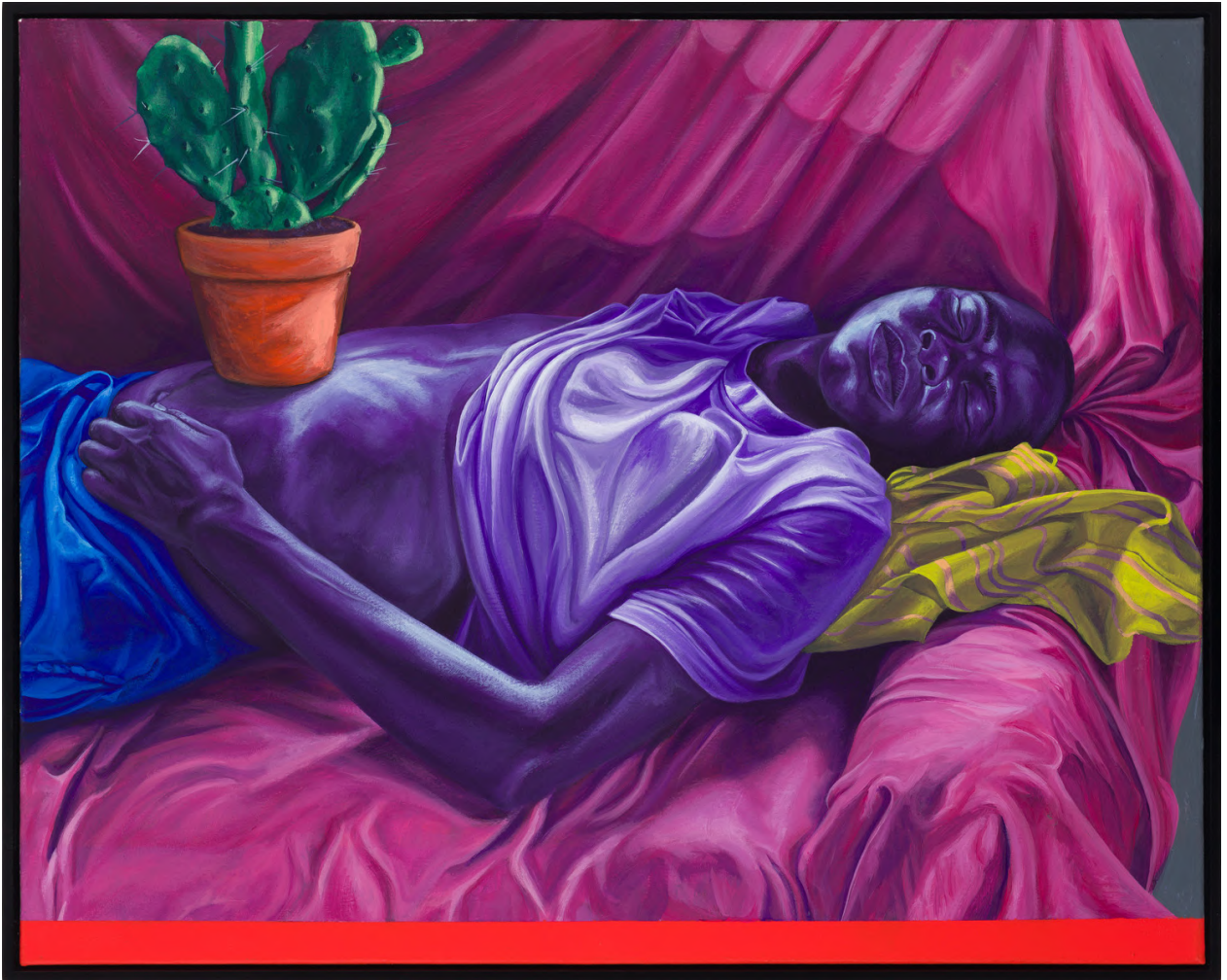
NAZEER JAPPIE

*Self-Portrait surrounded by Fire, 2024*

Oil on wood

40.5 x 59.5 cm / 42.5 x 61.5 x 3.5 cm framed

ZAR 18,000



QHAMANANDE MASWANA  
*Soft and silky thorns*, 2024  
Acrylic on canvas  
63.2 x 78.5 x 3.5 cm framed  
ZAR 92,000





WEN WU

*When language giving birth to another language, 2015/25*

Oil on Canvas

25.5 x 30 cm / 27 x 32 x 3.7 cm framed

ZAR 315,000

# 99 LOOP



WEN WU

*She opens the door of the eternity past, 2015/25*

Oil on Canvas

30.5 x 25.5 cm / 32 x 27 x 3.7 cm framed

ZAR 315,000





XANTHE SCOUT LARDNER-BURKE

*River Crossing*, 2025

Ink, liquid pigment, silk paint, soft pastel & varnish on polysatin in beechwood frame

135 x 75 cm / 136.5 x 76.5 x 3.5 cm framed

ZAR 42,000





ZARAH CASSIM  
*The Fall*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
86.5 x 62 x 4 cm framed  
ZAR 43,000





ZARAH CASSIM  
*Jungle Jewel*, 2020  
Oil on canvas  
30.5 x 27 x 3 cm  
ZAR 18,000

## About the Artists & Curator

**Barry Yusufu** (b. 1996), Nigerian — creates emotional, intimate works exploring identity and the human spirit.

**Chris Denovan** (b. 1983), South African — paints expressive works revealing vulnerability, character, and inner life.

**Gihansa Galhenage** (b. 2004), Sri Lankan — builds symbolic, medium-driven installation exploring intersections of familial and national history.

**Mhlonishwa Zulu** (b. 2002), South African — creates expressive, colour-driven works merging tradition and contemporary life.

**Nazeer Jappie** (b. 1998), South African — paints scenes from everyday life, surrealistically reimagined with tenderness and depth.

**Qhamanande Maswana** (b. 1991), South African — creates powerful portraits exploring spirituality and self-representation.

**Wen Wu** (b. 1978), Chinese — paints precise, poetic portraiture capturing presence and quiet intensity.

**Xanthe Scout Lardner-Burke** (b. 1998), South African — creates dreamlike canvases mixing stillness, intuition, and light.

**Zarah Cassim** (b. 1992), South African — paints soft, atmospheric landscapes pieces blending memory, nature, and abstraction.

**Virginia Damtsa** is an internationally-recognised curator, art dealer, cultural strategist and director of Visual Arts at London Cultural landmark Town Hall with over 30 years of experience and twenty years co-director of Riflemaker Gallery, London. Having worked with major artists and institutions across Europe, the UK, and the US, she is celebrated for her visionary exhibitions and her ability to build meaningful global cultural connections.