



*Eizo mubuku
Huni wava kutuwa*

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WALLEN MAPONDERA

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

WALLEN MAPONDERA

Wallen Mapondera was born in 1985 in Harare, Zimbabwe, where he currently lives and works. Mapondera completed his Masters Degree in Fine Art at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa in 2019. He was awarded the National Gallery of Zimbabwe Artist-in-Residence Programme, hosted at the National Gallery School of Visual Arts and Design Studios in Harare in 2007, and the Artist-in-Residence programme at the Vermont Studio Center, Burlington in Vermont, USA in 2012. In 2015 he was the recipient of Zimbabwe's prestigious National Arts Merit Award, presented by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe.

His solo exhibitions include *Kura Uone* at SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa, in 2025; with upcoming group presentations, Art Basel Hong Kong (SMAC Gallery), Hong Kong; Art Paris (Galerie Mitterrand), Paris, France.

In 2023, Mapondera presented a solo booth in the Discoveries Section at Art Basel: Hong Kong, with SMAC Gallery. In 2022, Mapondera represented Zimbabwe at the 59th Venice Biennale in Venice, Italy, with an exhibition curated by Fadzai Muchemwa. He also presented a solo exhibition of new work, titled *Chikokoko (Little Pleasures That Counts)* at Galerie Mitterrand in Paris, France; and a solo booth at The Armory Show in New York City, USA, both in 2022. Further solo exhibitions include: a solo booth with SMAC Gallery in the Nova Section of Art Basel OVR: Miami Beach in 2020; *Chirema Chine Mazano Chinotamba Chakazendama Madziro (Part One)*, the artist's MFA exhibition which opened at Rhodes University in Makhanda, South Africa in 2019; *Chirema Chine Mazano Chinotamba Chakazendama Madziro (Part Two)* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town in 2020; *Moving Target* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town, as well as a solo presentation at Atelier Mondial in Basel, Switzerland, both in 2019; *Emergency Exit* at Tyburn

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Gallery in London, UK; and *Samusha Weiri Dongo* at SMAC Gallery in Johannesburg, South Africa, both in 2018; and *Tsananguro | Clarifications* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town in 2017.

Mapondera has taken part in group presentations at Art Basel Hong Kong, with Galerie Mitterrand, in 2022 and with SMAC Gallery in 2024. Notable group exhibitions include: *Gather II*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (2024); *Mother Lode: Material and Memory*, James Cohen Gallery (Galerie Mitterrand), New York, United States (2024); *Between Borders: Migration, Power and Boundless Imagination*, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands (2023); *Inner Landscape*, Bloom Galerie, Geneva, Switzerland (2022); *I did not Leave a Sign?* Zimbabwean Pavillion, 59th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2022); *Fragments*, Museum der Kulturen Basel, Basel, Switzerland (2022); Art Brussels (SMAC Gallery), Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium (2022); *Black Luminosity*, curated by Gcotyelwa Mashiga, at Smac Gallery in Stellenbosch, South Africa (2021); *The Armory Show*, New York City, USA (2021); *Materality* at Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa; and *Gather* at Smac Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa, both in 2020; 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK (2019); *Artissima*, Turin, Italy (2019); *Five Bhoobh: Painting at the End of an Era* at Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCAA) in Cape Town, South Africa (2018); *Familiar Histories: An Unstoppable Force in Contemporary Art Discourse*, curated by Raphael Chikukwa, at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, in Harare, Zimbabwe (2017); *X: Part III* (2017) and *Nothing Personal* (2016) both at SMAC Gallery in Stellenbosch, South Africa; *Between the Sheets* at Gallery East in Fremantle, Australia (2012).







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Wallen Mpondera

Ziz Muhuku
2024

Egg Carton Cuts, Palm Tree Seeds and Waxed
Thread on Military Canvas

208 x 149 cm

Unique

\$ 14 000.00 (Excl VAT)

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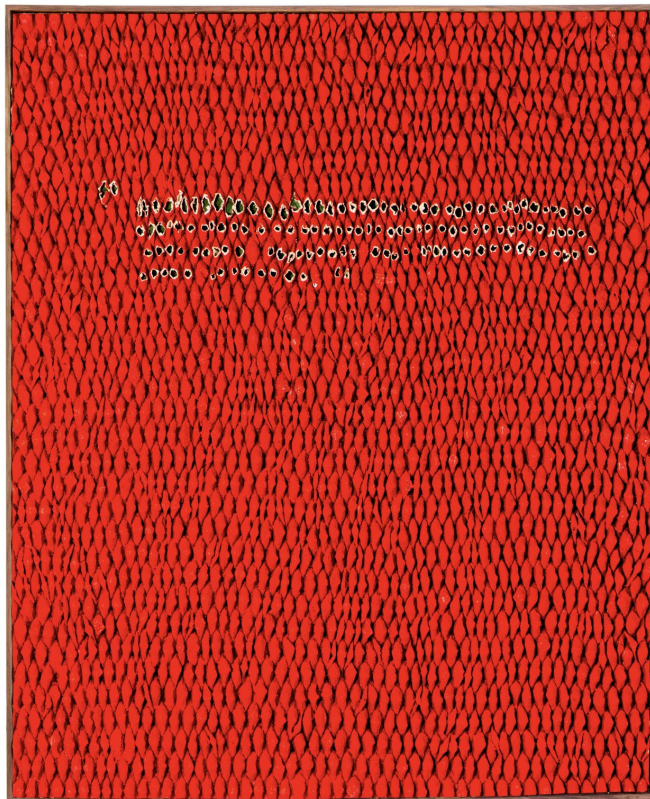
Wallen Mapondera

Chipfukuto
2024

Egg Carton Cuts on Drill
194 x 264.5 x 5 cm
Unique

\$ 33 000.00 (Excl VAT)

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Wallen Mapondera

Favourite Quote

2024

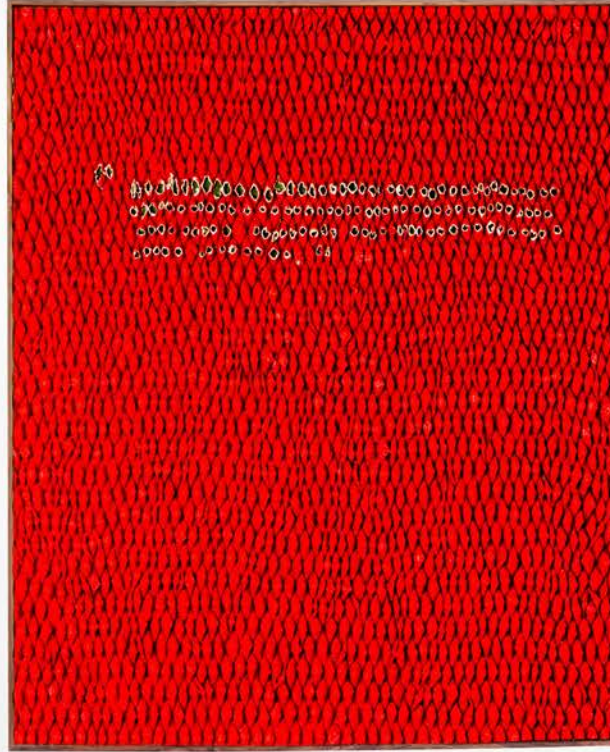
Painted Egg Crates on Canvas

121 x 100 x 4 cm

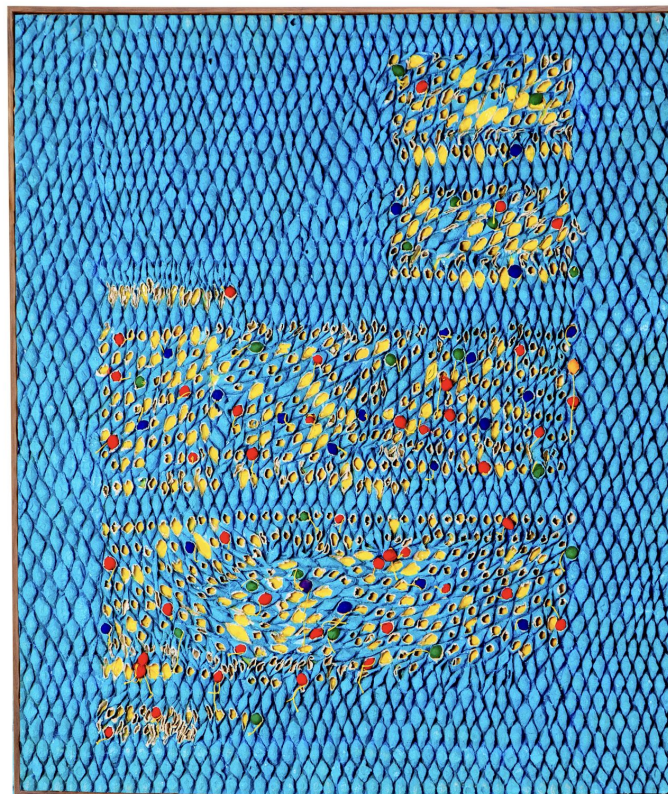
Unique

\$ 16 000.00 (Excl VAT)





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Wallen Mapondera

Application Letter
2024

Painted Egg Crates, Calico Cloth, Palms Tree
Seeds and Waxed Thread on Canvas

121 x 100 x 4 cm

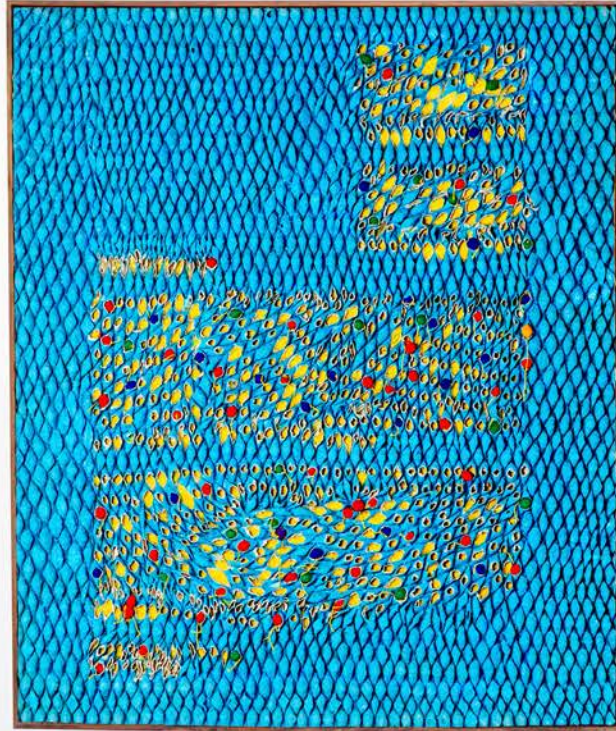
Unique

\$ 16 000.00 (Excl VAT)

Mapondera sees this body of eggbox works as a group of written texts, the oscillating patterns of the individual cartons becomes a visual braille, each title denoting a specific use of text and the associated connotations. Mapondera has always been drawn to the written word - the artist has an enduring interest in the visual formalities and inconsistency in the patterns of text as well as in the linguistic conventions and devices utilised in different documents. Each form - reports, poems, receipts, application letters amongst others - has a methodology and strategy - each sheet covered in a careful pattern of characters designed to elicit a specific outcome.

This series reminds Mapondera of his school and university education, years spent perfecting these codes and conventions. The egg tray cuts used in works like **Rondedzero (Essay)** (2024) and **Beautiful Poem** (2024) act as a signifiers for the fruits he and his fellow students anticipated to reap. In Mapondera's oeuvre, they represent eggs, which symbolise potential - the possibility to develop in the future, the direction dependant on how one nurtures the egg.





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Wallen Mapondera

The Library

2023

Wax Thread, Wood and Cardboard

92 x 204 x 6.5 cm

Unique

\$ 20 000.00 (Excl VAT)

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Wallen Mapondera

Cemetery Plan Overview

2023

Waxed Thread, Studio Dust and Tree Bark on
Canvas

205 x 180 cm

Unique

\$ 24 000.00 (Excl VAT)



Plurigelebe von *Yucca* nach
Hildebrandt, *Leben und Fortschritt* Luzern



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Wallen Mapondera

Gomba Remarara

2024

Oil Paint on Canvas

120 x 100 x 2.5 cm

Unique

\$ 13 000.00 (Excl VAT)

Reserved

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Wallen Mapondera

Chigaro changu, asi kwete nekuola kwangu
2024

Oil paint on canvas

120 x 100 x 2.5cm

Unique

\$ 13 000.00 (Excl VAT)

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Wallen Mpondera

Madhoiri 5
2023

Egg Cartons, Waxed Thread and Studio Dust on
Canvas

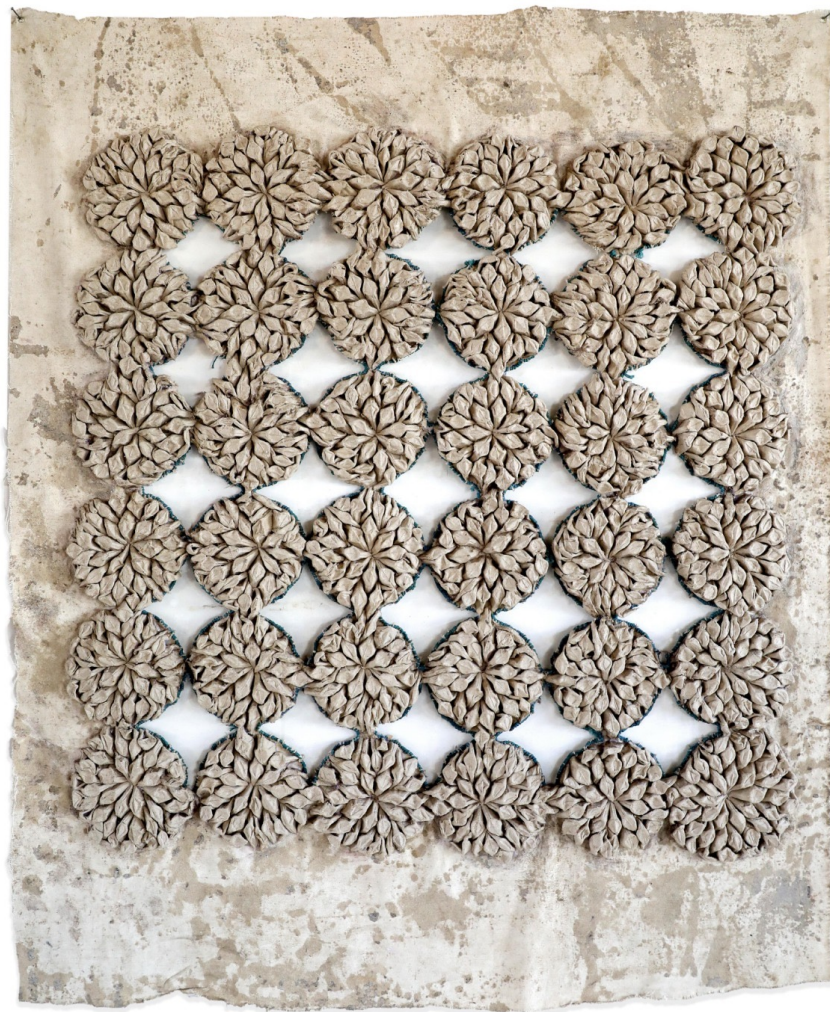
115 x 91 x 2 cm

Unique

\$ 11 500.00 (Excl VAT)



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Wallen Mpondera

Madhoiri 2
2023

Egg Cartons, Waxed Thread and Studio Dust on
Canvas

115 x 91 x 2cm

Unique

\$ 11 500.00 (Excl VAT)





Wallen Mapondera

Kumba Kwababa Vangu II (My Father's House)
2023

Cardboard Boxes, Waxed Thread, Packaging
Tape on Canvas

184 x 379 x 8 cm

Unique

\$ 35 000.00 (Excl VAT)

Kumba Kwababa Vangu II (2023) meaning My Father's House in Mapondera's native Shona. Each sealed cardboard box represents those who have passed, and the materials have been taken from spaces of pleasure and enjoyment in life. Through this, Mapondera imagines them as spaces prepared by god - spirit houses designed for each individual according to what they most valued during their lifetime. Like much of Mapondera's work, repetition acts to define his dominant thought. In this case, it is the box form which is repeated, and through the belief that a spirit can fit into a matchbox, Mapondera i



① 1st row akuti one side into luringge kuyatama shadi

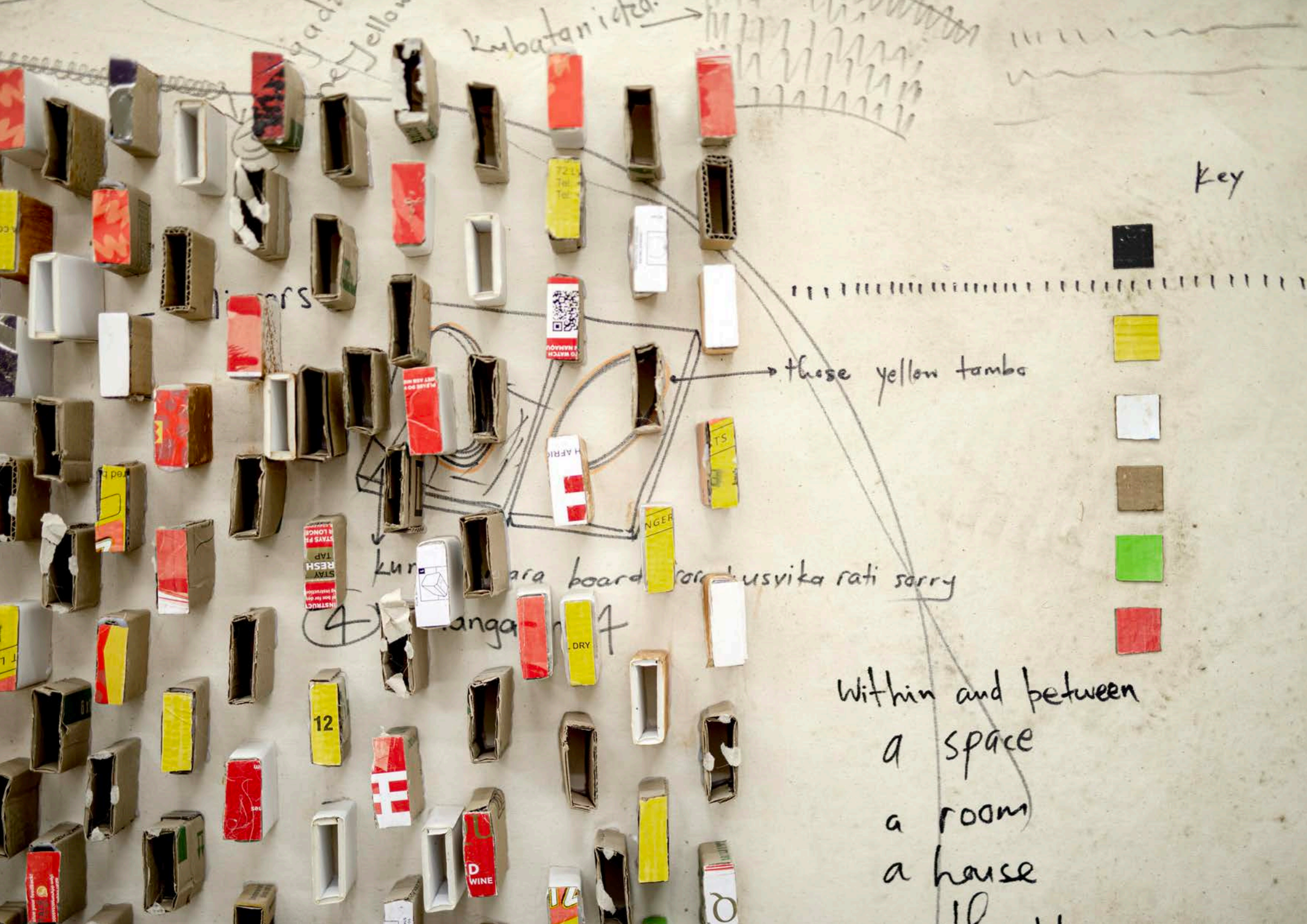
② kuyatama rimowa side

③ kuyatama rimowa side

Key



within and between
a space
a room
a house
a thought
a heart
a soul
a person
a creative
a slot
a time
a gap
a box



Kubatan iktor

Key

- Black square
- Yellow square
- White square
- Brown square
- Green square
- Red square

these yellow tamba

Kura... ara board... usvika rati sorry

D WINE

Within and between
a space
a room
a house
10

WALLEN MAPONDERA

CURRICULUM VITAE

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BIOGRAPHY

Born 1985, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

EDUCATION

- 2019** Masters of Fine Art Degree (MA), Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa.
- 2007** Certificate in Visual Arts Training, National Gallery School of Visual Arts Studio, Harare, Zimbabwe.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2023** Shortlisted for The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize 2023, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2020** Art Dubai Artist-in-Residence Programme, Dubai, UAE.
- 2018** Artist in Residence, Pro Helvetia Studio, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2016** Artist in Residence, in association with the Kuona Trust, Tafaria Castle, Nairobi & Tafaria, Kenya.
Artist in Residence, Guns & Rain, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2015** National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA) for Two-Dimensional Work, National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ), Harare, Zimbabwe.
Artist in Residence, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Artist-in-Residence (AiR) Award Laureate, the Africa Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2012** First Prize for Drawing and Graphics: Family, Tradition and Religion, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Artist in Residence, Vermont Studio Center, Burlington, Vermont, USA.
- 2010** First Prize for Drawing and Graphics: FACET – Zimbabwe Now, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Over-all Award for Drawing: Artists in Stream, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2009** Over-all Award: F.A.C.T., National Gallery of Zimbabwe in association with COTCO, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2008** Award of Merit: Enriching Woman, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Award of Merit: Post Election Selection, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2007** Artist in Residence, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2006** Award of Merit for Painting: Graduate Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Award of Merit for Graphics: Graduate Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** *Kura Uone*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2023** Art Basel: Hong Kong (SMAC Gallery), Hong Kong.
Manzwi Akazvitakura/Pregnant Words, Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France.
- 2022** *Collar; the Concept of Freedom*, The Armory Show (SMAC Gallery), New York, USA.
Chikokoko (Little Pleasures That Counts), Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France.
- 2020** *Zai Rakawora*, Art Basel OVR: Miami Beach, Miami, USA.
Chirema Chine Mazano Chinotamba Chakazendama Madziro Part Two, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2019** *Chirema Chine Mazano*, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa.
Moving Target, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Atelier Mondial, Münchenstein, Switzerland.
- 2018** *Emergency Exit*, Tyburn Gallery, London, UK.
Samusha weiri Dongo, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2017** *Tsananguro | Clarifications*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2016** *Paint My Tea Pot*, Tafaria Castle, Tafaria, Kenya.
- 2014** *SOCIAL ZOOMETRY*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2013** *ANI-MAN (a human in an animal)*, Association for Visual Arts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2012** *TURNING TABLES*, Red Mill Gallery, Vermont Studio Center, Vermont, USA.
- 2009** *X MARKS THE SPOT*, Truworths Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2008** *MAZUVA OSE (Everyday)*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
[Upcoming] Art Basel: Hong Kong (SMAC Gallery), Hong Kong.
[Upcoming] Art Paris (Galerie Mitterrand), Paris, France.
[Upcoming] *FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery)*, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

- 2024** Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
Gather II, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
 FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Mother Lode: Material and Memory (Galerie Mitterrand), James Cohen Gallery, New York, United States.
- 2023** *between borders: migration, power and boundless imagination*, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands.
- 2022** *Unraveling the (Under-) Development Complex or Towards a Post- (Under-) Development Interdependence*, SAVVY Contemporary, Berlin, Germany.
Inner Landscapes, Bloom Galerie, Geneva, Switzerland.
 Art Basel Hong Kong (Galerie Mitterrand), Hong Kong.
I Did Not Leave A Sign?, Zimbabwean Pavilion, curated by Fadzai Muchemwa, 59th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.
 FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Within the Fold, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg; Stellenbosch, South Africa.
Fragments, curated by Anna Schmidt, Museum der Kulturen Basel, Basel, Switzerland.
 Art Brussels (SMAC Gallery), Tour & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium.
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2021** The Armory Show (SMAC Gallery), Online.
Black Luminosity, curated by Gcotyelwa Mashiqua, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2020** *Gather*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Matereality, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2019** Artissima (SMAC Gallery), Turin, Italy.
 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair London (SMAC Gallery), Somerset House, London, UK.
 FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018** *Five Bhohb: Painting at the End of an Era*, Zietz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.
 UNTITLED, Art (Tyburn Gallery), Miami Beach, Miami, USA.
Back to the Future III – Abstract Art In South Africa: Past and Present, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2017** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), London, UK.
 FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2016** Turbine Art Fair (TAF), Johannesburg, South Africa.
Nothing Personal, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
Suddenly A Dissident (Two Man Show), Point of Order Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2015** Turbine Art Fair (TAF), Johannesburg, South Africa.
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK.
- 2012** Thupelo Workshop Exhibition, Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa.
Between the Sheets, Gallery East, North Fremantle, Western Australia.
Tradition, Family & Religion, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2011** *Colour Africa*, Zeitgenössische Kunst Aus Simbabwe, Kulturallmende, Munich, Germany.
- 2010** *FACET – Zimbabwe Now*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Live 'n' Direct, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
African Expressions, The University of Avignon, Avignon, France.
Artists in Stream, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2009** *Unity*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Ani-mal, VEO Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
F.A.C.T COTCO, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2008** *COTCO*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare.
The Young artist Exhibition, Gallery Delta, Harare.
Salon 91 Art Exhibition, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa.
Miniature Exhibition 2008, VEO Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Enriching Women, The International Women's Film Festival, Gallery Delta, Harare.
Onai (Do You See When You Look), National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare, Mutare, Zimbabwe.
Africa University Annual Festival of Art and Culture: an exhibition of Paintings and Graphics, National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare, Mutare, Zimbabwe.
Post Election Selection, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 2007** *The Young Artist Exhibition*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Peace Through Unity and Diversity, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
The Sixth Sense, National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare, Zimbabwe.
Drawings and Graphics: An Overview, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
"Edible Mapepa" An exhibition of art pieces from handmade paper, National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
 Alliance Francaise Annual Exhibition, Maputo, Mozambique.
Zimbabwean change, St Bavo Church, Haarlem, Netherlands.
- 2006** *HIFA (Hand in Hand)*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Our Thoughts, National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Mutare, Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Rembrandt: An African Response, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Manicaland Visual Arts and Craft Association (MANISA), National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Mutare, Zimbabwe.
Final Year Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.

1998 *Why Use Agro Chemicals?* University Of Zimbabwe, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

PUBLICATIONS

Mapondera, W. 2022, *Wallen Mapondera*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

COLLECTIONS

The National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe.
Spier Art Collection, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
Tiroche Deleon Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel.
The Cassat Foundation, The Netherlands.
The Ekard Collection, The Netherlands.
Galila Barzilai-Holannder's P.O.C., Belgium.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Hoberman, M. 2023. *Critic's Picks: Wallen Mapondera*. Artforum [online]. Available at: <https://www.artforum.com/events/wallen-mapondera-2-544807/> [Accessed 01/01/2024].

Das, J. 2021. *The Artsy Vanguard 2021: Wallen Mapondera*. Artsy [online]. Available at: <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-artsy-vanguard-2021-wallen-mapondera> [Accessed 11.03.2022]

Artnet Auctions. 2021. *Explore Innovative Works by Four Daring Zimbabwean Artists on Artnet Auctions*. Artnet News [online]. Available at: <https://news.artnet.com/buyers-guide/explore-innovative-works-by-zimbabwean-artists-on-artnet-auctions-2004670> [Accessed 11.03.2022]

Muvhuti, B. 2020. *An exhibition which translates ordinary Zimbabweans' survival strategies in the face of economic hardships*. Arikana.org [online]. Available at: <https://africanah.org/wallen-mapondera-2/>. 9 March 2020. [Accessed 30.11.2020]

Proctor, R.A. 2019. *Art Dubai 2020: Why the Mideast's leading art fair is turning to Africa*.

Arab News [online]. Available at: <https://arab.news/vsgqf>. 14 December 2019. [Accessed 30.11.2020]

Moloi, N. 2018. *'Five Bobh' is a taxi to the end of an era*. Mail & Guardian [online]. Available at: <https://mg.co.za/article/2018-11-23-00-five-bhobh-is-a-taxi-to-the-end-of-an-era>. 23 November 2018. [Accessed 22.01.2019].

Morris, C. 2018. *Artists We Love: Wallen Mapondera*. Visi [online]. Available at: <https://www.visi.co.za/artists-we-love-wallen-mapondera/>. 13 March 2018. [Accessed 03.03.2018].

Garan'anga, S. 2016. *Artists light up Gallery Delta*. The Herald [online]. Available at: <https://www.herald.co.zw/artists-light-up-gallery-delta/>. 24 June 2016. [Accessed 22.01.2019].

Happener. 2017. *October 30 | Turner Contemporary Gets Bigger*. Happening Magazine [online]. Available at: <https://www.happening.media/category/artdigest/en/articles/3071/october-30-turner-contemporary-gets-bigger>. 30 October 2017. [Accessed 22.01.2019].

ArtAfrica. 2018. *Right at the Equator*. ArtAfrica Magazine [online]. Available at: <http://artafricamagazine.org/right-at-the-equator/>. 15 February 2018. [Accessed 22.01.2019].

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information or any other queries.

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