

the gallery

catalogue of works from
TONGUES

an exhibition about code-switching curated by Kundai Moyo and Chloë Reid

tongues

tongues brings together the work of 10 artists to think through the process of alternating from one language or code to another.

Borne out of necessity and applied as a means of gaining visibility and recognition within a social, political or professional context, code-switching is also exercised to tactical and creative ends.

This exhibition considers the ways in which code-switching becomes a means of expressing multiple subjectivities, recognising the loaded significance that the term carries in relation to language, race and class, and the direct implications it has for self-expression, social acceptance and identity.

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ADRIAN FORTUIN

Adrian Fortuin is a Johannesburg based artist. His multi-disciplinary practice positions images and text in an affective proximity to meaning and medium. He recently graduated from the Wits School of Arts where he received the Wits Young Artist award in 2019.

ADRIAN FORTUIN

Strategies for a Rhyming Gesture 1 (triptych), 2021
black and white photograph, darkroom print
310 x 410 mm

R 4 220
framed



ADRIAN FORTUIN

Strategies for a Rhyming Gesture 2, 2021
cyanotypes on watercolour paper
250 x 145 mm

R 4 950
framed



SOUND OF BIRDS CHIRPING

FADE IN:

1. EXT. GARDEN - DAY

TWO FIGURES WEARING YELLOW CLOTHES SIT IN A LUSH GARDEN WITH THEIR BACKS FACING US. They are surrounded by plants, trees and flowers. They are both focused on their hands but we cannot see what they are doing.

GIRL

I almost didn't recognise you when you were with those people yesterday.

BOY

What do you mean?

GIRL

Your whole demeanor changed, even the way you speak.

(BEAT.)

You became this... whole different person I've never seen before.

BOY

Yeah, I was a whole different person when I first started hanging out with them.

(BEAT.)

Does it bother you?

GIRL

It makes me wonder if I really know you at all.

We see their hands. Their hands are dirty from digging a hole in the moist soil. She puts a palm full of red seeds in the hole and he covers them with the pile of soil they had made.

CONTINUED

ADRIAN FORTUIN

Strategies for a Rhyming Gesture 3, 2021
typewritten text on paper
210 x 297 mm

R 2 170
framed

NATHAN GATES

Nathan Gates is a Johannesburg based artist with an interest in everyday systems of meaning and the physical structures they produce. He is curious about what agency and desire look like when they are separated from the interests inherent in the methods, tools and materials we use to make them visible to ourselves and others. To this end, his practice is an experiment.

NATHAN GATES

Will the beasts be permitted to sing in god's choir?, 2021
speaker cabinet, garden sculpture, electronics
960 x 290 x 380 mm

R 10 500





TZUNG-HUI LAUREN LEE

Tzung Hui Lauren Lee is a South African Chinese artist based in Johannesburg who recently graduated from the Wits School of Arts at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Lee's recent work translates two-dimensional markings (her writings) into three-dimensional material. Her process-driven practice engages with digital space, papermaking, sculpture and calligraphy. Drawing inspiration from Chinese philosophy and culture, with a focus on customary folk art, she explores her own identity in relation to diasporic communities across generations and decoloniality as it pertains to the individual.

TZUNG-HUI LAUREN LEE

Within The Air, 2021
collected fibres, cotton, Kozo,
hemp, charcoal and sumi ink

1800 x 1200 x 100 mm
edition 2/3
R 18 400

unframed





TZUNG-HUI LAUREN LEE

梦：5月20日的云

(The Qi/Air on the 20th of May), 2021

sumi ink and charcoal on paper

1000 x 690 mm

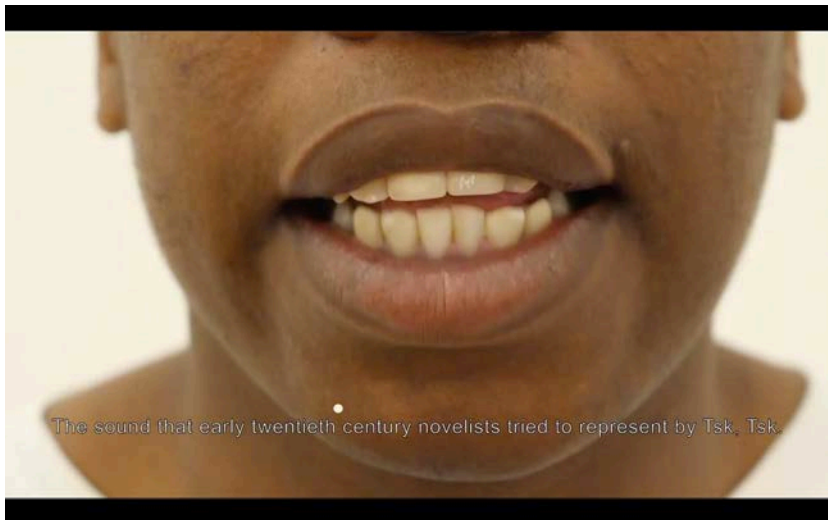
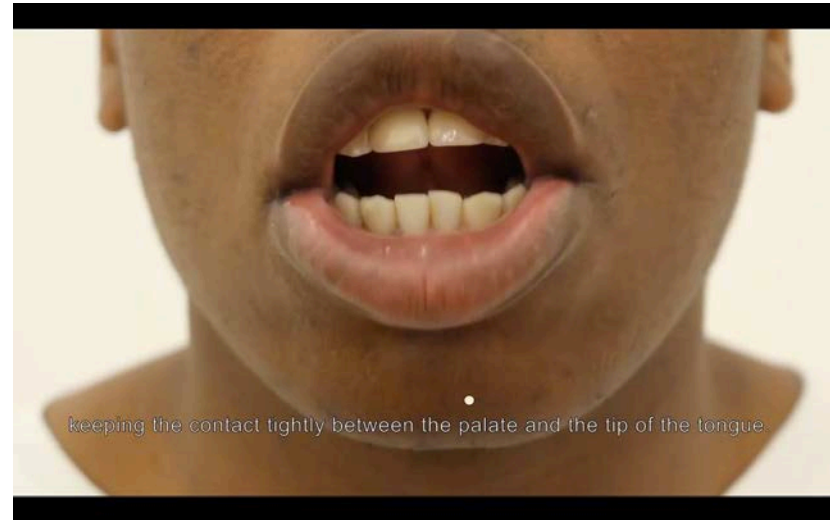
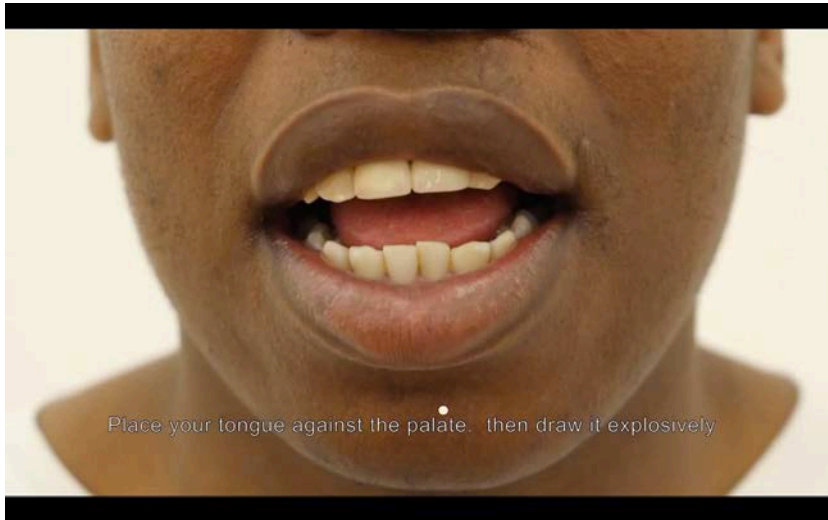
R 8 260

framed



XHANTI ZWELENDABA

Xhanti Zwelendaba is a multidisciplinary artist currently based in Johannesburg. He graduated from the Michealis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town and is completing his Master of Fine Art at the University of the Witwatersrand. His work considers the complexities and tensions surrounding Xhosa culture and contemporary forms of capitalism and nationalism in which the legacy of colonialism and apartheid is embedded. Zwelendaba explores these themes in his work through print-making, installation, performance and video art. Much of his work draws on his experience of having to balance cultural paradigms.



XHANTI ZWELENDABA

isiXhosa 2nd Additional Language
(How to Click), 2015

video work
1:30 min

Price on application

PULE RATSOMA

Pule Ratsoma is a professional printmaker and artist who was born in Tembisa, Gauteng. He now splits his time between Johannesburg, where he trained and worked as a printmaker at Artist Proof Studio, and Limpopo. Ratsoma's paintings and drawings are defined by gestural and expressive marks that read as code or tangled language. He has exhibited widely in South Africa and is committed to transferring art skills to younger artists in rural areas, townships and communities



PULE RATSOMA

Conundrum, 2021
mixed media on paper
350 x 250 mm

R 3 330

framed

PULE RATSOMA

Enigma, 2021
mixed media on paper
350 x 250 mm

R 3 330
framed



PULE RATSOMA

Quandary, 2021
mixed media on paper
350 x 250 mm

R 3 330
framed



PULE RATSOMA

following page: (section from)
Stumper, 2021
mixed media on paper
1020 x 660 mm

R 13 150
framed





PULE RATSOMA

Fortitude, 2021
mixed media on paper
500 x 350 mm

R 6 310
framed

NOLAN OSWALD DENNIS

Nolan Oswald Dennis is a Johannesburg based artist whose interdisciplinary practice explores the material and metaphysical conditions of decolonization, questioning the politics of space (and time) through a system-specific, rather than site-specific approach. He holds a Bachelors degree in Architecture from the University of the Witwatersrand and a Masters of Science in Art, Culture and Technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Dennis's work will be developed over the course of the exhibition.



NOLAN OSWALD DENNIS

Untitled, 2021
video
140 x 70 mm



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA
(monotypebabe)

Lebogang Mogul Mabusela is a multidisciplinary artist and a self-proclaimed monotypebabe and zinequeen based in Johannesburg. In 2019 she graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from the Wits School of Arts where she was also awarded the Standard Bank Fine Arts Prize. Mabusela prides herself on being the founder of Makoti Technologies™ (est 2017) a Bridal gifts shop offering a dynamic range of gunz, tools and technologies that enhance women's desires and roast patriarchy, keeps them safe while maintaining their attitudes. Her work considers the gender norms perpetuated by Sepedi-setswana proverbs and realised in stories collected from childhood memory and experiences. Makoti gunz are made from paper, and are accompanied by a user friendly manual. Technologies include gunz that help you fuck him and steal his job, guns that help wonder if the heterosexuals are okay, gunz you can use in the case of a patriarchal meltdown at shoprite, the bottle store, a zoom meeting or school and more.



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

Makoti Technologies: Patriarchal Meltdown Gun Kit, 2021

paper, crayons, glitter, hair

540 x 220 mm

R 8 230

framed



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

Nana... 2021
monotype
150 x 230 mm

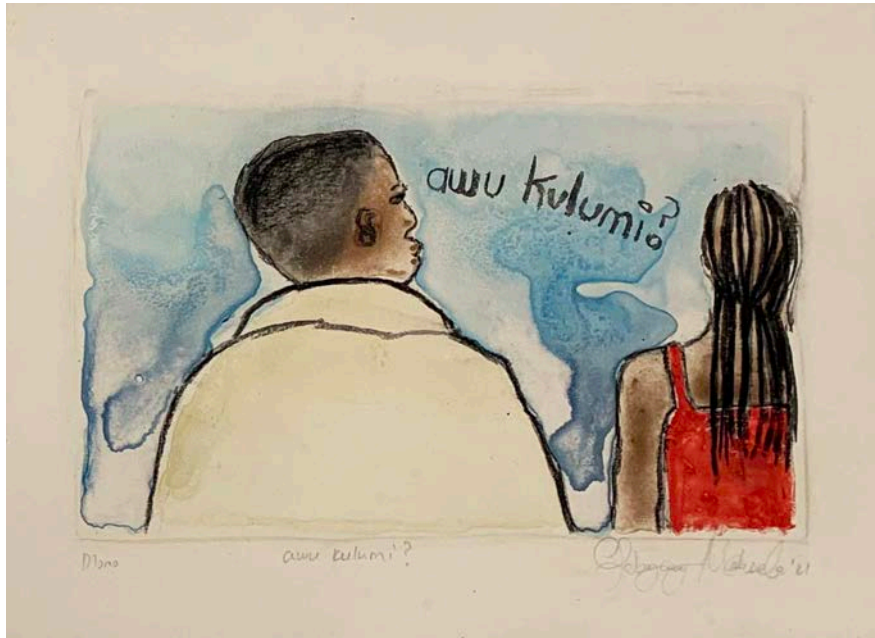
R 3 250
framed



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

I Love You Yezwa, 2021
monotype
150 x 230 mm

R 3 250
framed



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

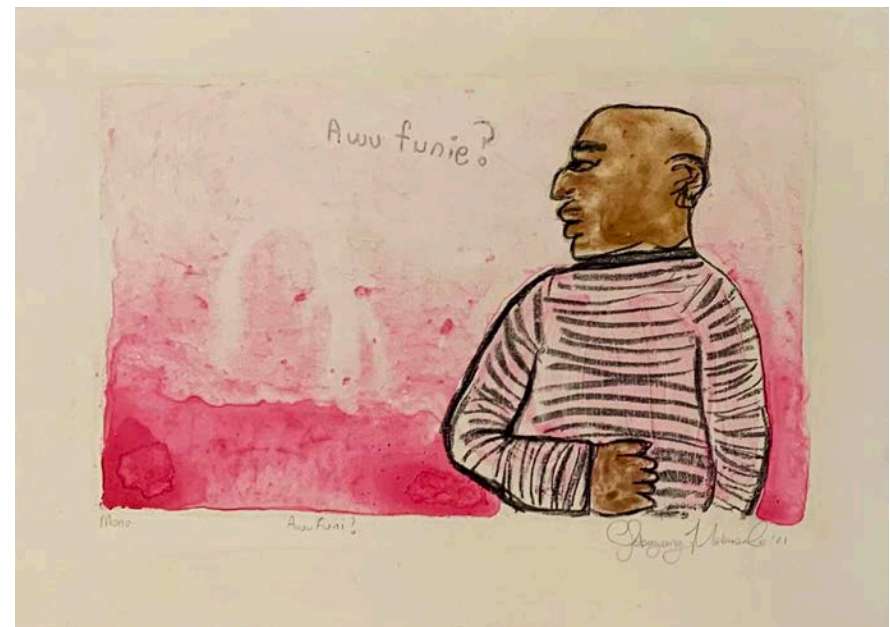
Awu kulumi?, 2021
monotype
170 x 240 mm

R 3 250
framed

LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

Awufuni?, 2021
monotype
170 x 240 mm

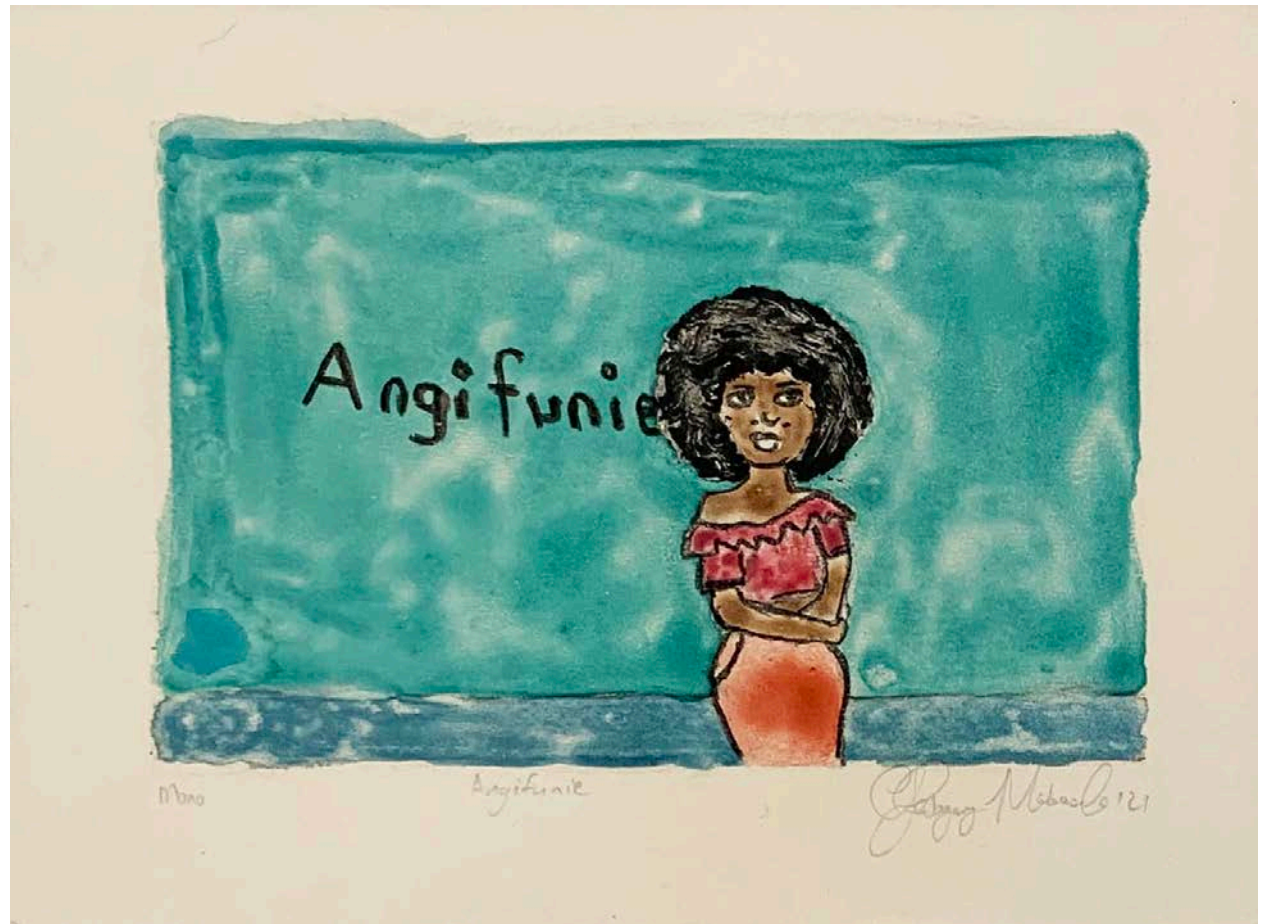
R 3 250
framed



LEBOGANG MOGUL MABUSELA

Angifunie, 2021
monotype
170 x 240 mm

R 3 250
framed



NABEEHA MOHAMED

Nabeeha Mohamed is a Cape Town based artist who graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. Her very personal work grapples with the contradictions of identity and class privilege in post-Apartheid South Africa. Her position as a woman of colour, hushed during her childhood years in an attempt to assimilate to the white society and culture she grew up in, is now celebrated in her paintings where colour and strangeness take centre stage. These celebrations of identity are intersected with a playful critique of the capitalist economy and class privilege from which she benefits.



NABEEHA MOHAMED

Mother's Tongue, 2021
watercolour and pencil crayon collage
760 x 555 mm

R 18 700

framed

The following artists will be developing their work over the course of the exhibition:

PEBOFATSO MOKOENA

Pebofatso Mokoena is a Johannesburg based artist who has studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Johannesburg, where he now lectures. With a base in drawing and printmaking, Mokoena's painting practice is formally defined by precise mark making, textural layering and a carefully considered division of space. He uses his work to map and think through political, architectural and environmental systems of meaning, respectively and in relation to one another. This form of 'processing' is permeated by personal narratives and underpinned by experimental enquiry.

Mokoena's work will be developed over the course of the exhibition.

SITAARA STODEL

Sitaara Stodel is a Cape Town based artist who graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. Her work usually involves an exploration of the concept of home and memory. She uses photography, collage, video and print to reflect on notions of both the physical home space and of the lived experience of home.

the gallery is a platform for contemporary art developed by Fiona Pole and Didier Presse (the atelier) and Chloë Reid (gallery, gallery). Its programme includes exhibitions, exchanges, workshops and residencies.

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