



CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

LIONEL MBAYIWA



'We are always children in the eyes of the ancestors, the three little birds represent us shouting for spiritual help, we get trapped and feel stuck but we will eventually come out of those situations not because we are clever but because the ancestral spirits or the greater power is guiding us. There is death and birth in this piece as you can see eggs, a pregnant green bird, and hatched chicks, the skull is what's left of what used to be a great family member, but now that he/she has departed we have an ancestor to keep us in track. The Yellowbird creates what looks like they are coming out of a dark background when we believe we shall be answered and taken care of by our ancestors, who we believe push away evil spirits and pave the way for us. I have included women playing a pivotal role in our world, we can't do without them so let's respect and adore them.' - Lionel Mbayiwa

SPIRITUAL EYES (MAZISO EMWEYA) 2023

Mixed media on canvas
210 x 210 cm (84 x 84 inches)
USD 7,000 excl. 15% SA VAT







'We go through a lot in our lives, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically, and sometimes we feel like giving up or losing hope, here I was challenging the whole idea and saying it's just a phase. You can see female breasts, as much as they are hanging they're not falling, the human face or body is upside down, it's a part of life. The looseness of the charcoal leaving the surface and stretching is to try and find how we ended up in the situations that we are in, excavating so that we can't fall into the same pit again. The bright colours are also a way of giving hope and a brighter future. Yellow typically is a symbol of happiness, enlightenment, joy, positivity, and clarity. The big eyes are the eyes of our ancestors watching and guiding us on a day-to-day basis especially when we are hanging waiting to fall, they guide us on how to not fall and or to never fall at all.' - Lionel Mbayiwa

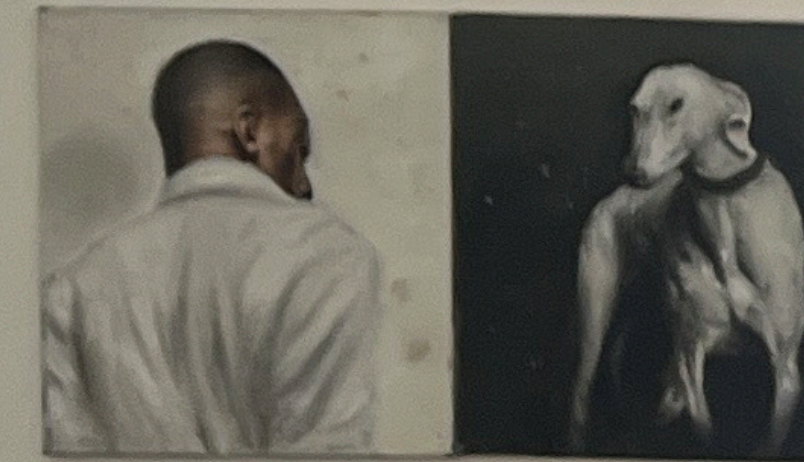
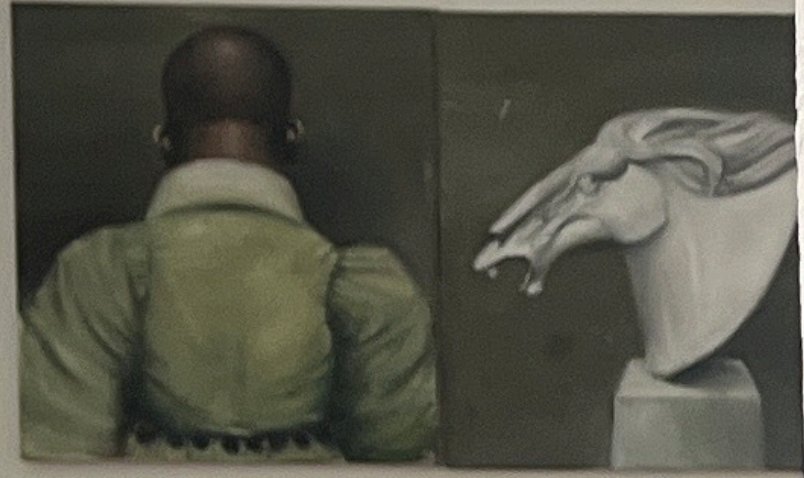
HANGING IS NOT FALLING
(KUREMBRA HAKUSI KUDONHA) 2023
Mixed media on canvas
150 x 150cm (60 x 60 inches)
USD 4,500 excl. 15% SA VAT

'As African men we mostly leave our loved ones in our villages and we go to the cities for job hunting, this was a strategy that was introduced by the British during apartheid as they introduced cattle and hut tax. Men were left with no option but to go find jobs in the cities to pay and secure their homes and cattle which were of great importance in our African culture and this continued up to date, it became a habit to move to the cities even though it's not compulsory. Politics and economic situations have forced the same men to leave their countries for neighbouring countries or even into other continents and men will miss home and their wives and children, no one is protecting the home from intruders, robbers, and cattle rustlers, women are alone even during scary dark nights in summer. We are far away from each other even if I buy flowers to appreciate her by the time I get home they will be dry. Even the love is drying too because of the distance. Our ancestors will play the father role and will take care and protect the home and even the men even when they are away working or job hunting.' - Lionel Mbayiwa

HOMESICK (2023)

Mixed media on canvas
80 x 96 cm (32 x 38.4 inches)
USD 2 500 excl. 15% SA VAT





RANSOME STANLEY



SM
GALLERY



'This world is made of selfish, greedy, shameless, and very cunning people who are not ashamed of stepping upon the weak ones as long as they reach and achieve what they want for their benefit. Their claws are ready to snatch or grab anything that comes their way, whether they need it or not. Unnecessary wars and disputes occur on a day-to-day basis and help doesn't come quickly, how long shall we continue to live like this? Whenever the oppressed or unhappy raise their hands no one will pay attention to their suffering but some can help but they are opening their big eyes watching and enjoying from the top positions and we tend to ask where our forefathers or ancestors are, who are not intervening.' - Lionel Mbayiwa

THE WORLD WE LIVE IN (NYIKA YATINGARA)
(2023)

Mixed media on canvas
90 x 86 cm (36 x 34.4 inches)
USD excl. 15% SA VAT

BIOGRAPHY

Lionel Mbayiwa (b. 1982) is a Cape Town-based multimedia artist whose compositions come in painting, drawing, sculpture, and photography. Employing lessons and experiences from his humble beginnings and upbringing in the countryside, he tells stories that engage various issues in life.

"I grew up in the countryside without a television. All we had were Ngano (folklores, fairy tales, and fables). From them, I could imagine things. My grandmother and mother would tell me, 'Once upon a time there was a baboon and a hyena...' We would sit attentively around the fire, listening to the startling stories. I had an imagination of what they were talking about. I could see things happening. There were morals in those stories. Then we had a small radio maybe when I was a bit older.

So, I had my world constructed around these narratives. Apart from the rituals done through the sacrifice of the animals and birds (chicken and pigeons), visiting apostles, and sangomas, animals continue to be used in different ceremonies. This is the relationship I have with animals. It stems from my upbringing. Also coming from a background where the regime in power is very tough on its critics, sometimes I want to talk about leadership in the country in a coded way. If I use real characters I would be haunted, followed up, and harassed. I would rather use animals instead."

In Zimbabwe, African mythology weaves a vibrant tapestry of stories that reflects the cultural heritage and spiritual beliefs of its people. The mythology of the Shona people, the largest ethnic group in Zimbabwe, is particularly noteworthy for its rich narratives and deep connections to the land.

The concept of ancestor veneration is deeply embedded in Shona mythology. Ancestors are believed to play a vital role in the daily lives of the living, and their spirits are often invoked for guidance and protection. Ancestral spirits are honoured through rituals, ceremonies, and the construction of sacred spaces.

The Shona people's mythology is not static; it evolves and adapts to the changing social and cultural landscape. As Zimbabwe undergoes transformations, the preservation of its mythological heritage remains crucial for understanding the deep connections between the people, the land, and the spiritual realm. In a rapidly changing world, the narratives of Mwari, Nyaminyami, and the Mhondoro spirits continue to offer a profound insight into the cultural identity and spiritual resilience of the Shona people in Zimbabwe.

Mbayiwa's greatness lies in his incorporation of the traditions of his background into modern-day living. We live in an age of the internet where we have information at our fingertips. Mbayiwa stresses the importance of heritage, stories handed down from our grandparents and parents to the next generation. We may have all the knowledge available to us but lack the wisdom of how to use it. If you turn on the news and see the craziness going on in the world, we live in a society of 'who can shout the loudest or who can beat their chest the hardest'. The world is changing for better or worse, but Mbayiwa believes the key to humanity's evolution is embracing these traditional value systems, and in the Shona Culture, mythological tales about good versus evil.



G A L L E R Y

EXHIBITIONS

2024

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. - Group Exhibition.

2023

Artist Residency. Schutz Art Museum, Engelhartzell, Austria.

Kevin Atkinson shows. SMAC Gallery. Group exhibition.

Takambosvika sei pano? (How did we end up here?). Sisonke Gallery. Solo Exhibition.

Canvas workshop. Zeitz Mocaa Museum Education Centre organized by Jill Trappler

2022

Grow Up And See. AVA Gallery. Solo Exhibition.

Spier art light. Spier Wine Estate. Group Show.

Polite force project Beightbridge with Dan Halter and Ray Du Toit

2021

Latitudes Online. Latitudes Art Fair. A Group Show.

2020

Harare Art. Group Show.

2019

Home Away From Home. Cape Town Library. Solo exhibition.

2015

Yellow Woods creative block program. Spier Art Trust.



G A L L E R Y

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

Cape Town's leading curator specialising in contemporary art.

Contact our team for a private viewing, or visit us online.

TO VIEW VIRTUALLY, VISIT:

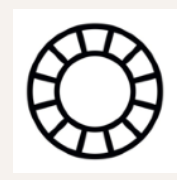
www.christophermollerart.co.za

[Artsy](#)

TO PURCHASE

Please do contact our team should you wish to purchase.

info@christophermollerart.co.za



ACQUISITION PROCESS

- Once you have chosen your favourite piece, please contact our team at info@christophermollerart.co.za to confirm your request and advise on your shipping address.
- Please note, your requested piece and invoice will be valid for 7 calendar days. Once payment has been processed and received, ownership of the piece will be transferred.
- Art pieces will be released to the waiting list after 7 days.
- Shipment date will be confirmed per purchase. Kindly note, artwork will only leave the Gallery post exhibition.
- Kindly note all ZAR prices are excluding 15% SA VAT.
- Kindly note, shipping cost excludes any destination taxes & import charges

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

Our bank (Nedbank) has given us the option to do the credit card transaction via e-payment solution for credit cards. This is a secure product that enables the Gallery to send you a link with the amount pre-populated. It requires you to complete your credit card details. This protects you, in that you don't have to give out your credit card details to a third party, while you complete it online. Unfortunately, this system does not accept American Express or Diners Club credit cards.

Please inform your bank of the transaction in advance and provide them with our Merchant code: 2738375 should your bank reject the request from a foreign country.

This is how it works; You will receive an email with the link from the Christopher Moller Gallery. This will include a PDF copy of the invoice. Please click on the link and complete the transaction by completing your credit card details. Kindly note each link has an expiry date and is valid for 2 days. Once the transaction has been authorised, you will receive a notification that the payment has been successful.

ENQUIRIES | How can we assist?

E | info@christophermollerart.co.za T | +27(0) 21 422 1599

VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact us to view in person.

Tuesday - Friday · 10h00 - 16h00

Monday & Saturday · Viewings by Appointment Sunday · Closed

CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

VISIT US

7 Kloofnek Road
Gardens
Cape Town
South Africa
8001

CONTACT

T | +27 (0) 21 4221599
E | info@christopherart.co.za
W | www.christophermollerart.co.za

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.

Please contact our team should you wish to be added to the preview list of your desired exhibition.
E | info@christophermollertart.co.za

