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GALLERY
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Micha Serraf, Bio

My practice is centered around rewriting the trauma of displacement with the imagined memory of celebration, homage and childlike wonder. In pursuit of memory, identity and a place to call home, my work is grounded in a nostalgia of personal and ancestral experience, of what never was, and of what could have been; caught in an entanglement between ancestral history and utopic optimism. My work is often informed by memories I have from when I was a child in Zimbabwe and my endeavor to understand the deep nostalgia I feel toward the seemingly unfamiliar. To push a more celebratory narrative that is fueled by the unshakable belief in an abundance, where the often-imposed political narrative takes second chair to that of our lived experience.

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Micha Serraf, Statement

I was born in Zimbabwe where my mother and her mother's mother's mothers were born. My family and I fled to South Africa in the early hours of the morning when I was almost 10 years old. These alien landscapes are still foreign to me. Yet I am reminded that I am the alien here. We struggle to feel safe or impart meaning on them. 'Chipoko' is the Shona word for the soul, breath or ghost of a person or a spirit and is embodied here in each sculpture. This artwork is the visual navigation of an unknown, unplaced and inherent feeling of a deep and drifting nostalgia. An attempt to summon my ancestry for guidance and belonging. Strong, tall, dark. A visit from my mothers. Each sculpture is a uniquely designed totem evident symbolically in the shadows they cast. This body of work exists as the documentation and final form of a performance. As part of this performance, I designed and installed six 3-meter-high wooden totemic sculptures of varying forms on a highly restricted South African military base. A performance navigating the idea of safety, African land, access, belonging and connection.

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MICHA SERRAF

Born 1994 in Harare, Zimbabwe
Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa

EDUCATION

2016 Honors Degree in Fine Art from Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Cape Town Art Fair*, C24 Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Impossible Things: Works by Abi Salami and Micha Serraf, C24 Gallery, New York, NY
2022 *1-54 Art Fair*, New York, NY
2021 *Unseen Art Fair*, Nuweland, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1-54 Art Fair, Nuweland Gallery, London, England
Chipoko, Art Gallery at the Harrington, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Finalist Exhibition for the Norval Sovereign African Art Prize, Cape Town, South Africa
2021 *This Is Gender,* UCL North Cloisters, London, England
Between Strangers, Nuweland Gallery, Oosterzee-Buren, The Netherlands
Oath Magazine Contemporary Photography Group Show, 2021
Decade of Change, British Journal of Photography, New York, NY; Hong Kong
2020 *Foam Magazine Exhibition*, London Photo, London, England
European Month of Photography in Berlin, CO Berlin, Kuhlhaus, Berlin, Germany
Amsterdam Unseen Photography Festival, Foam Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Studio Voop, Cape Town, South Africa
2019 *To Thine Own Self Be True*, Kelvin Corner Gallery, Connecticut
2018 *Ga Masaitseweng*, The Slave Lodge Gallery, South Africa

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2023 Honorable Mention for Best Booth in Tomorrows/Today section of the CapeTown Art Fair
2021 Ritzau Art Prize with ISCP & 1-54 Art Fair
FastTrack 18 with the British Journal of Photography and 1854 Media
2020 Selected by Foam Museum as the youngest global top 20 emerging artist
International Pride Photo Award for Best Single Image
Africa Photo Awards Portraiture Finalist

COLLECTIONS

Orms Heritage Collection
Ninety Nine Asset Management
Trading House Pty Ltd.
TLC Imports and Exports corporate Pty Ltd.