

TAWANDA REZA

WHERE THE STREETS HAVE NO NAMES

WWW.FIRSTFLOORGALLERYHARARE.COM

Where the Streets have No Names

Tawanda Reza

First Floor Gallery Harare - First Solo Residency 2022

Since 2017 First Floor Gallery Harare has been running First Solo a programme of experimental residencies. First Solo is a project designed to support emerging artists coming from outside Harare and sometimes Zimbabwe to push their practice, develop new ideas, technical skills and approaches with the help of gallery mentoring from our more established artists and management and to produce a whole new body of work. Some of the artists who have come through the project include Cristiano Mangovo (Angola), Bouvy Enkobo (DRC), Pebofatso Mokoena (South Africa), Mapopa Hussein Manda (Zambia), as well as Shamilla Aasha (Bulawayo).

In 2022 we decided to expand the project to include local artists, starting with Tawanda Reza, who has been in residence at the gallery since February 2022. Over the past four months Reza has experimented with painting, collage, canvas cutting, spray paint, drawing and stenciling, but most importantly his quest has been about trying to the best possible medium and approach for communicating his ideas and stories. These stories reflect on the day-to-day grind of surviving urban Zimbabwe, where the ambition of a stable existence with hope for a better future are often unimaginable. Particularly Reza focused on his experience of living in Epworth and areas of the sprawling underserviced neighbourhood, where the infrastructure is so underdeveloped that street signs don't exist and streets themselves are not named. And yet these streets and the people who walk them do exist and deserve recognition. In Reza's project, they get a voice.

Valerie Kabov

Curator

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Tawanda Reza

Born in 1996 in Bindura, Zimbabwe
Lives and works in Bindura, Zimbabwe

Born into a family of a stone sculptor, Reza got early exposure to art and it is something which comes naturally to him. He did his first art lesson in high school in Bindura and then went on to complete a two year certificate course at the Visual Art Studio of the National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe (2015-2016), where he learnt printmaking, painting and mixed media in which he continues to specialise. Reza's work has been exhibited at Zeitz MoCAA in Cape Town as part of Five Bhoobh exhibition in 2018. Prior to his residency at First Floor Gallery Harare, Reza was a resident at the Animal Farm artist residency in Chitungwiza.

Artist Statement

Tawanda Reza

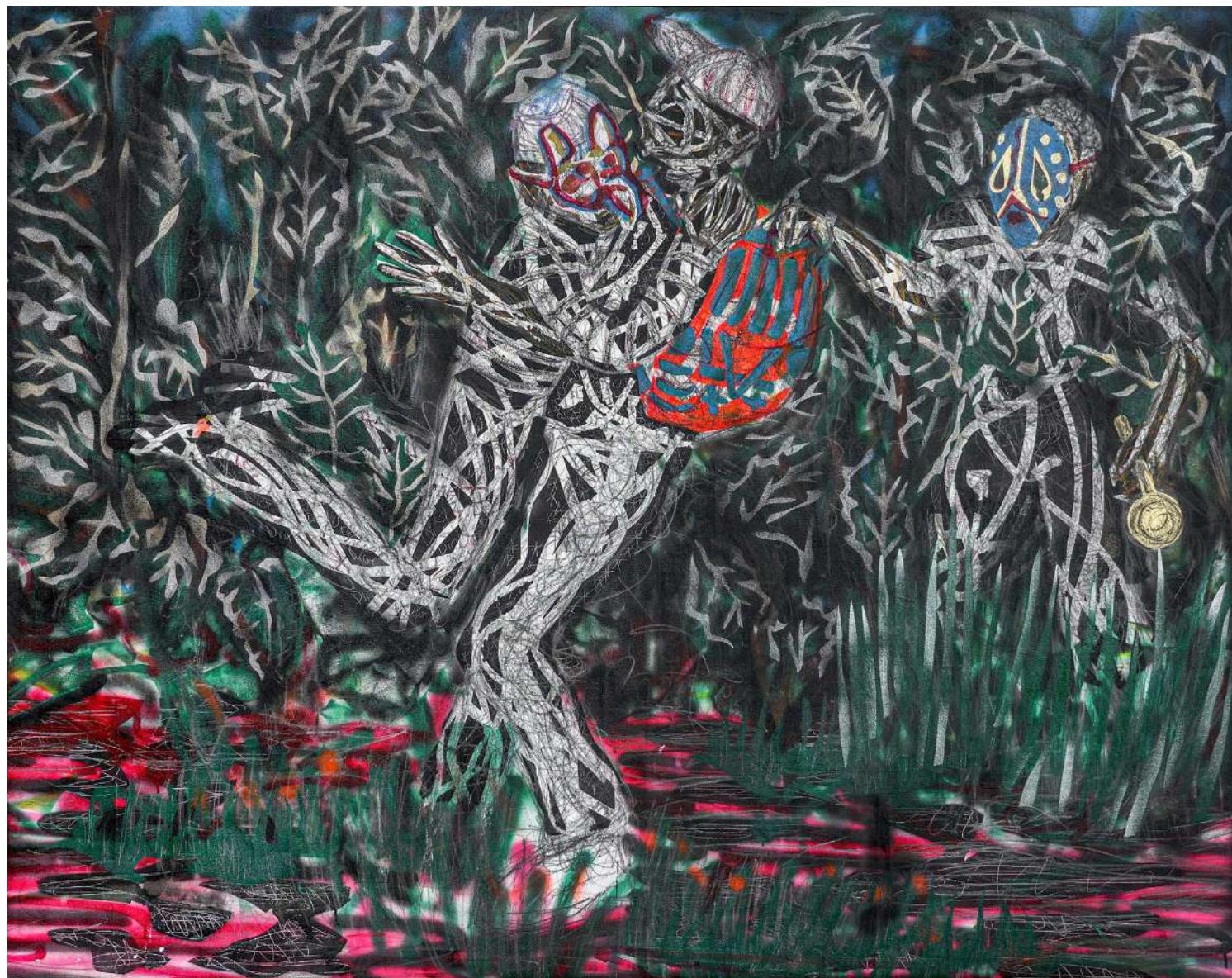
Working with the theme "Mararamiro ne Magariro" my work currently draws inspiration from folk-lore ,family structures and urban life. Exploring and documenting memorable experiences and investigating social systems that affect communities. There has been an alarming rise in drug and substance abuse in Zimbabwe Particularly during the past lock down, due mainly to the shift in lifestyle (rise in unemployment, rise in divorce cases, and a host of other issues that challenge family and societal structures) Many youths have ventured into illicit and dangerous drugs such as "MUTORIRO or GUKA (crystal meth), cocaine, marijuana just to mention a few. Adverse effects have been born out of the issue leading to a chain reaction that is now a National Catastrophe.

In this exhibition these and other important issues are at the centre of the conversation, on how best we can address the problem.





Bad Mouth, Bad Habit, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
67 x 48cm



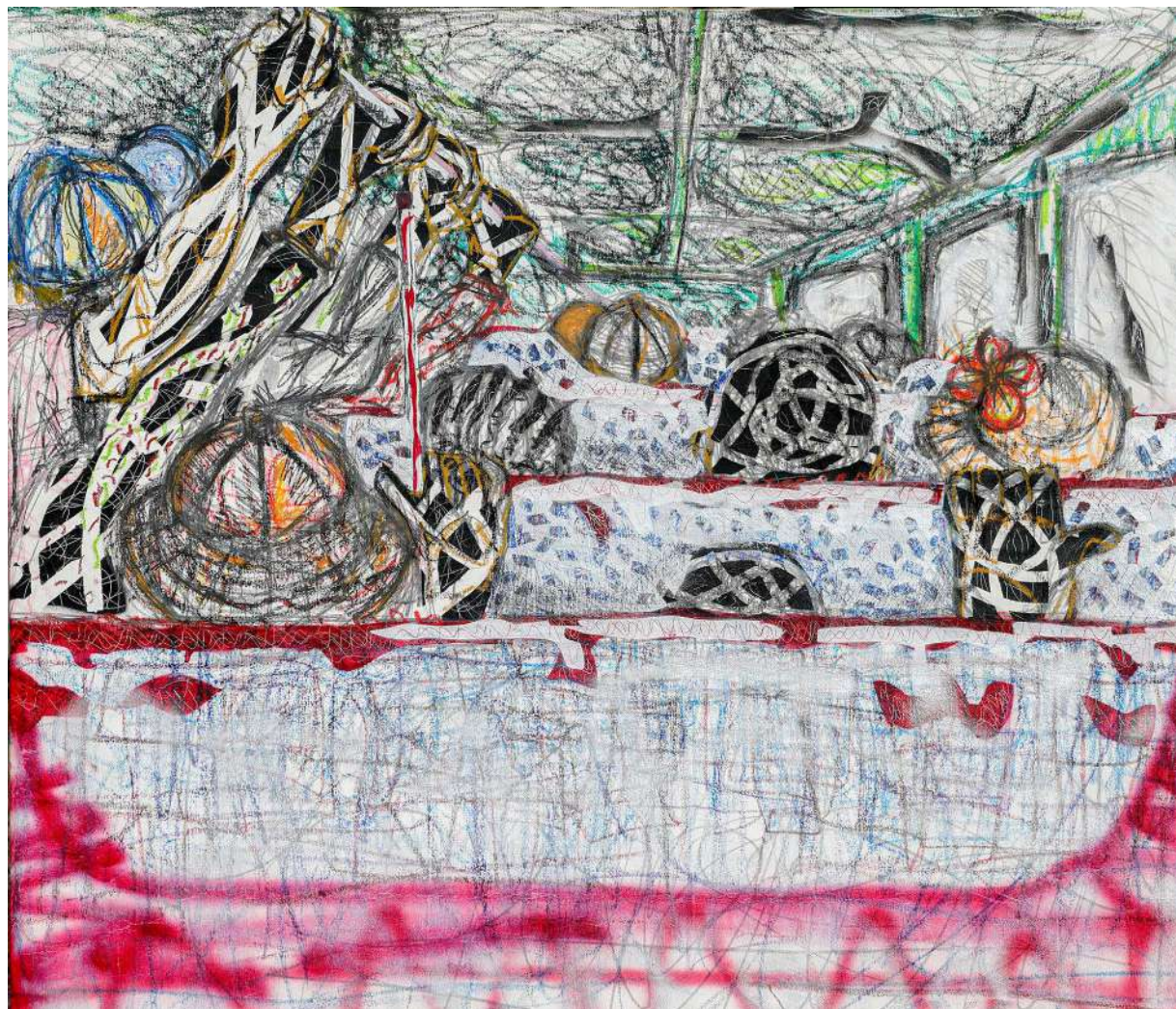
Dont Be Late, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
153 x 194cm



Ship of Fools, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
130 x 193cm



To be buried with a rat, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
64 x 147cm



Trouble in the city, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
110 x 126cm



Drug Addict, Part 1, 2022
 Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
 60 x 47cm



Drug Addict, Part 2, 2022
 Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
 60 x 47cm



Night Nurse, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
111 x 63cm



Frenemy, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil on canvas
37 x 128cm



Where the streets have no names, 2022
Stencil and spray-paint, oil pastel, pencil floor mural
240 x 840cm



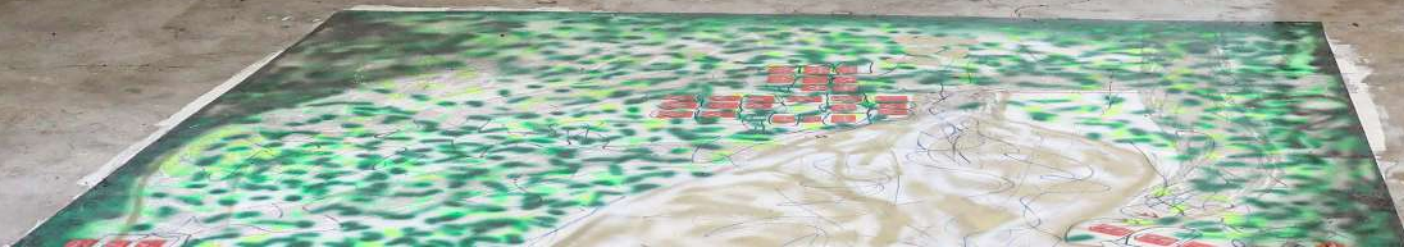








PLEASE
DO NOT
TOUCH THE
ARTWORKS





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