

# FIRST FLOOR GALLERY HARARE



## NIGHT & DAY

WYCLIFFE MUNDOPA, GRESHAM TAPIWA NYAUDE

# Night & Day

**Wycliffe Mundopa/Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude**

It is very difficult to see our own lives in historical terms. No matter what happens, we still need to buy milk, cook dinner, pay for electricity, re-charge the phone. The size of events around us constantly changes in size and importance due to our own experiences at the time and the experiences that follow. Two people emerging from the same place and time as children will attribute to that childhood a different significance, depending on the kind of life they have led since and are living today. Even on a large scale, societies are constantly interpreting and reinterpreting their histories, their rights and wrongs. As Alexandre Dumas wrote in the Count of Monte Cristo "The difference between treason and patriotism is only a matter of dates."

And so, while we are busy living our lives, the broader meaning of which is hard to decipher, only one group in society has historically taken on the task of bearing witness to events, which become the building bricks of culture and history – the artists.

It makes sense then that the act of bearing witness is also an act performed in conversation with the people, whose lives are being born witness to. This is why it is the home audience is the first and the most important audience for an artist. It is after all the only audience, which can hold the artist to account, to demand authenticity and to bestow authority.

Night & Day is about bearing witness to this time and this place. There is beauty and hope, there is drama and grief, there is humour and compassion. It is an act of love of Mundopa and Nyaude for their city and their people, in its darkest and its lightest, it is their contribution to history here and now.

Marcus Gora

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# Wycliffe Mundopa

**Born in 1987, Rusape, Zimbabwe**  
**Lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe**

Having decided to devote his life to painting at the age of 15, Mundopa attended the National Gallery Zimbabwe Visual Arts Studios (2005-2007). Committed to bearing witness to the lives of the most vulnerable in his community, his works consistently speak to social and political upheavals of life in urban Zimbabwe. In this context, the lives of women in particular frame his practice and social commentary. Mundopa's imagery is audacious and unapologetic, bridging vernacular visual metaphor or Harare street slang with classical genre painting compositions of Dutch masters and post-impressionistic verve in line and colour.

His work is represented in private collections in Hong Kong, Kenya, Australia, France, the UK, Germany, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Cameroon, as well as in the Museum of Modern Art of Equatorial Guinea.

## Recent exhibitions

Kubatana, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Oslo, Norway  
Harare Fauves, Alon Segev Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel  
Tomorrows/Today solo: Cape Town Art Fair 2018 with First Floor Gallery Harare (Cape Town, South Africa)  
Right at the Equator (Depart Foundation, Los Angeles, USA)  
Another Antipodes /urban axis 2017 (PS1 Art Space, Freemantle, Australia)  
Flaunt, Africa New Wave Now at Ethan Cohen Fine Arts (New York).



The life you bleed, 2019  
Oil and fabric collage on canvas  
247cm x 175cm





My cup is full, 2019  
Oil and fabric collage on canvas  
210cm x 210cm





No fear of falling, 2019  
Oil and fabric collage on canvas  
210cm x 350cm





The Torn and the Soothed, 2019  
Oil and fabric collage on canvas  
247cm x 175cm





No Fear of Living, 2019  
Oil and fabric collage on canvas  
210cm x 299cm



# Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude

**Born 1988 in Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**Lives and works in Harare**

Born and raised in Mbare—Harare's and perhaps Zimbabwe's most vibrant and notorious ghetto—Nyaude works against the sweeping identity that has been defined by the voice of the state and the media. His images oscillate between guration, abstraction and hallucination, drawing from the restless energy of his neighbourhood. Living on the verge between survival and demise has been somewhat of a call to poetry, at times proving brutal and at others sentimental or cynically satirical. His gurations defy characterization, underscored by the humanity of their quest to attain a quality of life that appears even beyond the reach of dreams.

## **Recent exhibitions**

Defying the Narratives, Ever Gold Projects, San Francisco, USA 2019  
Ex africa semper aliquid novi - Sa Bassa Blanca Museum | Yannick & Ben Jakober Foundation, Mallorca, Spain 2018  
Songs for Sabotage at New Museum Triennial (New York, 2018)  
Mazino at First Floor Gallery Harare (Harare, Zimbabwe, 2017)  
Face the Magic at Loving | Monro (Los Angeles, 2017)  
Cape Town Art Fair with First Floor Gallery Harare (Cape Town, South Africa, 2017).



Someone is watching, always, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
150cm x 110cm





Life in our own hands? 2019  
Oil on canvas  
210cm x 350cm



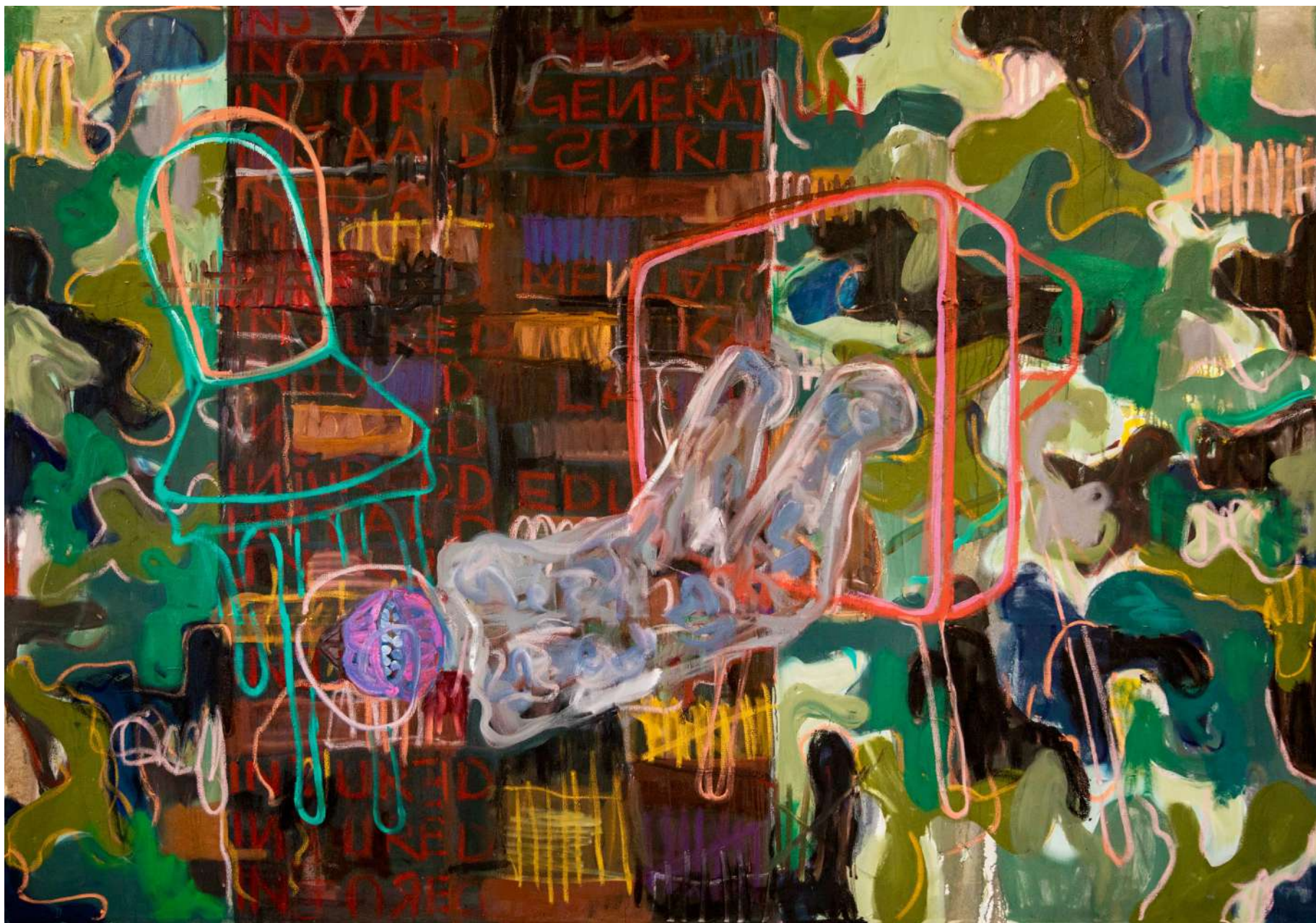






Blessings of the Bedridden, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
210cm x 299cm





The Injured Generation, 2019  
Oil on canvas  
210cm x 299cm

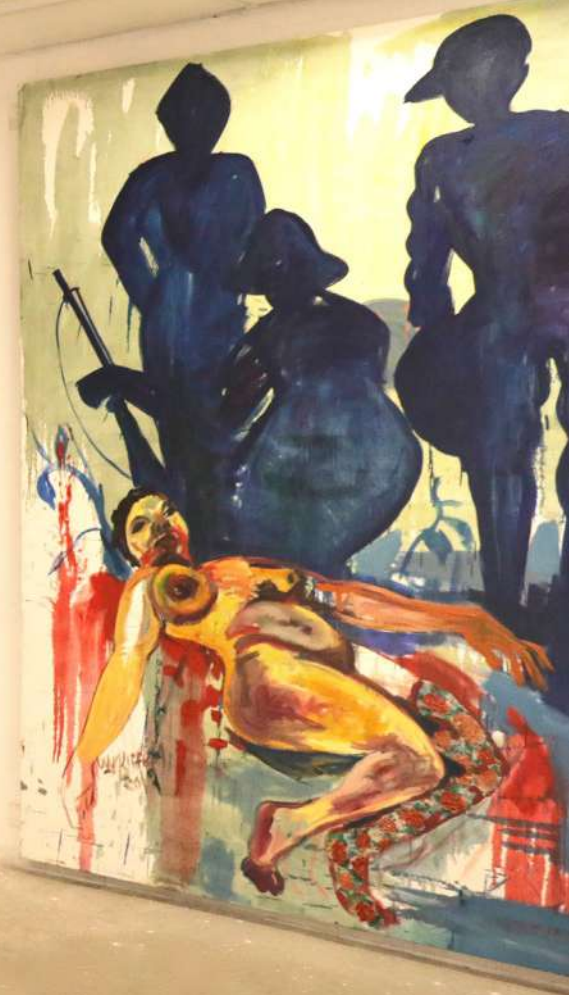
















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