

EVE'S DIARIES

MAVIS TAUZENI SOLO SHOW



June 11, 2015–July 28, 2015

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Mavis Tauzeni: Eve's Diaries

What does it mean to be a woman? What does it mean to be a woman today? What does it mean to be a woman today in Zimbabwe? What does it mean to be a young woman today in Zimbabwe?

Answers to these questions are sought by every young woman in Zimbabwe today. And while the questions are few, the answers are as complex and as unique as the women called up on to answer them. It is this complexity that Mavis Tauzeni challenges us to engage with in Eve's Diaries.

Contemporary life has created a number of ruptures in the value systems and expectations. The challenges of modern life have created opportunities and problems, which don't easily co-exist with the paradigms and gender roles, which sustained prior generations. From the tensions between opportunities to pursue one's dreams and ambitions and expectations of becoming a wife and a mother, from the challenges of having your voice heard in a male dominated field to not losing your femininity at the same time. While personal and even intimate, these are also deeply important questions being played out on the macro level of society, building a vision for an inclusive and successful future in which each person's talent has a chance to contribute and respect for diversity complements social cohesion.

Like the answers Tauzeni is looking for in Eve's Diaries, her approach to painting and composition is open ended, allowing each one of us to step into her vision, with a sense of wonder and exploration, at times hopeful at what can be and rueful at what is. Her figuration is only a suggestion of form, a hint for you to follow and to develop your line of thought, your own impression, your own questions and resolutions. While passionately expressive of her inner quest, Tauzeni facilitates our own and for this we have to be grateful.

Valerie Kabov
Curator











He's a she, she's a he, 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
150cm x 132cm
\$800



Kana ndikadai, 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
160cm x 150cm
\$800



Return to innocence 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
162cm x 150cm
\$1000



Element of freedom I, 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
164cm x 150cm
\$1000



Element of freedom II, 2015

Acrylic and ink on canvas

173cm x 150cm

\$800



Tears of a woman, 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
164cm x 150cm
\$800



66cm x 18cm



49cm x 38cm



49cm by 35cm



50cm x 34cm



51cm x 38cm



49cm x 35cm



51cm x 34cm

Hung out to dry, 2015
Acrylic and ink on canvas
\$200

EVE'S DIARIES

ARTIST STATEMENT

By definition diaries are accounts of events (records) at times, private, experiences observations, feelings and attitude, fears dreams and more. Eve-first known female figure, life bearer and mother of all living.

For me this body of work then, is a chronicle of a life journey through the eyes of a female, her strength, weakness, wishes, dreams, fears, aspirations, fantasies, her vision and views her unheard voice. It is trying to open a door to a different unentered room, knowing it is there but unsure if you want to enter and if you are prepared to see what you will be about to see there. An adventure into the unlimited I would say.

Traditionally, socially, culturally and historically we have been told where we are meant to be where we fit the order of things, but who says? According to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, its not survival of the fittest or is it survival of the smartest but of the one most able to adapt. What does this adaptation require of Eve's daughters in the present world?

How does she deal with the world, which says it is giving her power and knowledge, but not necessarily the space to exercise it, leaving the question as to what degree the world is prepared to give her that space. For socially, physically and culturally, without that space, a daughter of the new breed of Eve's bound by traditional and social norms is bound to remain a butterfly in caterpillar state for too long. I ask then how am I going to be given the chance to bloom (the element of freedom) when I am always meant to stay closely tied in my bed. If we are flowers and if it is in our nature to bloom, give us the means and room. Give me an opportunity to have my voice be heard for once and not just heard and also listened to.

These are the thoughts of today's woman, which might not as yet given the opportunity to be heard due to her sex, cultural constraints, but at this point she can pour her heart out on many issues she is concerned by whether it be physically, sexually, mentally, culturally or socially. With this in mind welcome to Eve's diaries.

Mavis Tauzeni, June 2015



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