

FIRST FLOOR GALLERY HARARE



BREAKING TOGETHER

MIRIRO MWANDIAMBIRA

Miriro Mwandambira

Breaking Together

“There is a crack in everything, that’s how the light gets in” Leonard Cohen, Anthem.

Life spares no one. It recognizes neither age, nor skin colour, nor gender. So as much as we suffer its blows individually, we do not suffer alone. And it is this connection, which transcends, sympathy, compassion and empathy, that not only unites us as humans but also is the thread that binds us together in times of grief and adversity, which instead of breaking us apart and destroying us, enables us to emerge as a bigger more beautiful whole.

This is what lies at the core of the works in Breaking Together, the process and the outcome of pulling the pieces together, taking the discarded, the damaged and the disused and producing the undeniably beautiful, courageous and inspirational.

Mwandambira both in performance and installation, forces our gaze to stay and examine not just her work and the way her materials speak through her work and interaction with it but the way we feel about those materials ourselves. While exploration of the narrative properties of common materials is a foundation of many contemporary art practices, in Mwandambira's work it assumes a distinctly feminine and conversational mode. Not only are the materials satins, silks, lace, weaves telling their stories they are also in discussion among themselves, creating frictions and harmonies along the way. These conversations, while speaking to distinct and specific realities of contemporary life and conditionalities of a young woman living in Harare today, are equally resonant with the big questions shared by all – addressing polarities of beauty and ugliness, respect for tradition and rebellion, conformity and defiance, community and individual.

Emerging from turmoil, Breaking Together brings new ways to be whole.

Valerie Kabov
Curator

Miriro Mwandambira

Born 1994, Harare, Zimbabwe
Lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe

Having graduated from the National Gallery of Zimbabwe Visual Art Studio, 2014 in painting, Miriro immediately began experimenting with other media developing sculptural, installation and performance oriented projects. At the core of Mwandambira's practice is her commitment to being a voice of women in the contemporary social and cultural context of urban Zimbabwe, a tense and urgent mix of global pop culture, with strong traditional roots and beliefs. At the same time, Mwandambira, asserts the domain of woman's work and creativity into the space of art, in a way that does not entertain a compromise with or deference to the male dominated mediums and fields like painting and sculpture. Sewing, fashion, hair design and elements of self-decoration are legitimized and the divide between public and private domains is disrupted. In the past few years Miriro's work has attracted the attention of both international curators and collectors, with a strong performance and installation practice, which has secured her the place at the prestigious RAW Academy in Dakar, Senegal in 2018.

Recent exhibitions

2017: Another Antipodes, PS Art Space, Fremantle, Australia
2017: L'élargissement des fantasmes (Eva Barois De Caével curator), Galerie Maelle, Paris, France
2016: 'I am because you are', First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
2016: Mwandambira, Tauzeni Teede, Hazard Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016: Woman Solo Exhibition, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe



Unbroken Wedding Veil, 2018
Fabric, weaves
218cm x 180cm



Wheels of hope, 2018
Sown fabric, paint, printing
260cm x 240cm



Unbroken Wedding Veil, Part 2, 2018
Fabric, weaves
220cm x 210cm



Tamed Lungs with Branches, 2018
Fabric, weaves, printing
320cm x 210cm

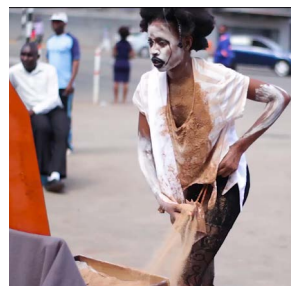


VIEW A



VIEW B

Mbereko (The Giver), 2018
Fabric
255cm x 40cm



Try to adore me, no?, 2017
Performance video
13'06"

link to video: Try to adore me,no?





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