

# FIRST FLOOR GALLERY HARARE



**TROY MAKAZA**

FOREVER NEVERLAND

# TROY MAKAZA – FOREVER NEVERLAND

“In war, truth is the first casualty.” - Aeschylus

In times, when basic survival becomes an overwhelming pre-occupation, it can be argued that imagination and hope are the first casualties.

How much creativity can you have left at the end of a day of queueing for petrol and food to feed your children?

How much inventiveness and inspiration to make the world a better place can you aspire to, when you wake up to a day worrying about rates, whether or not you will get electricity or have enough drinking water.

While times of economic duress ebb and flow, the spiritual and emotional scars they leave are profound.

Forever Neverland is a broad act of defiance and optimism of an artist in the face of yet another cycle of impossibilities and improbabilities in Zimbabwe today. The decadently opulent works in the exhibition speak to both the genuine and imagined wealth the country holds in natural resourced, minerals, agriculture, making it almost a definitional land of milk and honey. Looking at them it is impossible to imagine a place where poverty or privation can exist and yet they are outside the door. Also outside the door is a masquerade of opportunism and the black market, which neatly replicates and makes visible the disparities of the haves and have nots, normally well-hidden by city planning unchanged since colonial times.

The exuberance of the works in the exhibition is also a celebration of life and youth which continues unabated and demands to have its day in the sun, regardless of circumstance that meet it on that day. Man does not live on bread or sadza alone.

The greatest gift that artists can give their audience is knowledge that they are free; the power to make up their mind without fear.

Forever Neverland reminds us that we are not the sum of our circumstances but the sum of our dreams and aspirations.

**Valerie Kabov**  
**Curator**

# Troy Makaza

**Born 1994 Harare, Zimbabwe**

**Lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe**

Having graduated from National Gallery of Zimbabwe in 2014 in painting and sculpture, Makaza set about developing his own unique medium, which would merge his love of colour and object making. The outcome was a blend of traditional art materials, inks and paint and contemporary industrial silicone which can be molded, woven and even painted with to produce diverse, vibrant and almost but not quite figurative inventions. These dramatic forms speak to a dynamic evolution of Zimbabwe, a society in flux managing political, cultural and economic turmoil, where traditional roles are no longer assured and liberal attitudes don't always belong.

## **Recent exhibitions**

Defying the Narrative, Ever Gold Projects, (San Francisco, USA)

Black Phoenix II, Primo Marella Gallery (Milan, Italy 2018)

Another Antipodes at PS Art Space (Fremantle, Australia, 2017)

FNB Joburg Art Fair 2017 with First Floor Gallery Harare (Johannesburg, South Africa)

AKAA Paris with First Floor Gallery Harare (Paris, 2017)

Young Now at Hazard Gallery (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2017)

Collaging The City at First Floor Gallery Harare (Harare, Zimbabwe, 2017)

Cape Town Art Fair 2017 with First Floor Gallery Harare (Cape Town, South Africa)

Face The Magic at Loving | Monro (Los Angeles, 2017).



Blind Majesty, Part 1, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
216cm x 300cm



The Pleasure of the precipice, Part 1, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
255cm x 125cm



Cloaking the Obvious, Part 3, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint, on fibreglass support  
187cm x 67cm



The Opaque looking glass, Part 1, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
249cm x 280cm



The Pleasure of the precipice, Part 2, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
207cm x 116cm



Blind Majesty, Part 2, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
198cm x 300cm



The Opaque Looking glass, Part 2, 2018  
Silicone infused with paint  
215cm x 163cm



Troy Makaza

'Forever

Neverland'









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