

the gallery

# Embodied Narratives

3 February 2024

## Embodied Narratives

Perspectives from Vanessa Cowling, Nicole Clare Fraser, Olivié Keck, and Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi.

Join us on a journey into the narratives woven by four female artists— Vanessa Cowling, Nicole Clare Fraser, Olivié Keck, and Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi. "Embodied Narratives" not only showcases their distinct artistic voices but also delves into the realms of identity, memory, and personal histories. Through their lens, these artists invite us into an exploration of the human experience, shedding light on the nuances of existence and the intricate tapestry of emotions that bind us together.

The exhibition offers a space for reflection and connection. As we navigate the multifaceted stories within these artworks, we are compelled to confront our own narratives and, in doing so, find common threads that bind us in our humanity.

## Vanessa Cowling

Vanessa Cowling is a mother, lecturer and artist, currently living and working in Cape Town, South Africa. She graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art (UCT) with a BA Honours in 1998 after which she spent a number of years as a practicing photographic artist in New York, London and Edinburgh before returning home.

Vanessa lectures part time in the Photography department at UCT where she recently completed her MFA, earning a distinction. She was awarded the 2023 Tierney fellowship, and won the Paris based, international "Blurring the Lines" competition for her Masters work. Her research has a strong emphasis on sustainable photographic practices and the environment, questioning the role of photography in a changing landscape.



Vanessa Cowling

*Flower Milky Way*

Archival Pigment on Hahnemuhle paper

78,6 x 120,6 cm

R 34 700 framed

## Nicole Clare Fraser

Nicole Clare Fraser (b. 1989) is an image maker and artist based in Cape Town. Her making is photographic in practice, looking at built structures, interior spaces and objects suggestive of human presence, absence, loneliness and impressions of tenderness.

Nicole holds an MFA (2022) and BAFA (2012) from the Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town. Alongside her personal practice, Nicole lectures in photography, with a particular focus on darkroom techniques and printing. She has taught photography at various secondary and tertiary institutions in Cape Town. Furthering her skill in the medium, she has completed darkroom photography and hand printing workshops with the highly regarded and master black and white printer, Dennis Da Silva, in Johannesburg.



Nicole Clare Fraser

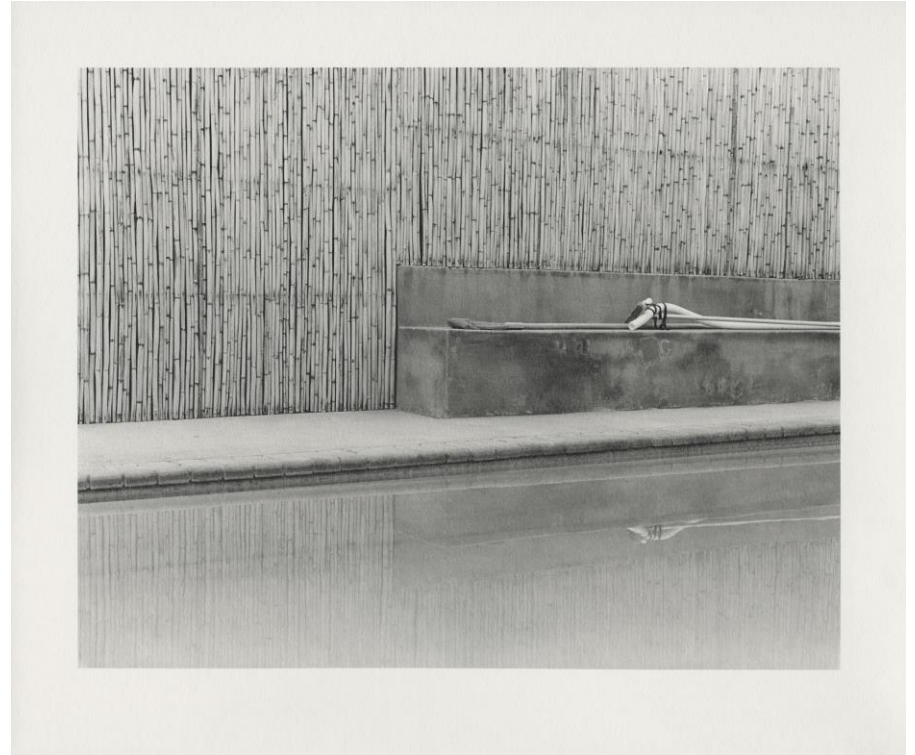
*Untitled (Ladder and Steps), 2022*

Hand-printed Silver Gelatin print on Cotton Rag

Edition 1/3

29,2 x 23 cm

R 10 370 framed



Nicole Clare Fraser

*Untitled (Pool I), 2023*

Hand-printed Silver Gelatin print on Cotton Rag

Edition 1/3

29,2 x 23 cm

R 10 370 framed



Nicole Clare Fraser

*Untitled (Garden Furniture), 2023*

Hand-printed Silver Gelatin print on Cotton Rag

Edition 1/3

29,2 x 23 cm

R 10 370 framed



## Olivié Keck

Olivié Keck was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1989, where she is currently based. She received her BFA from The Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town in 2011. Her tertiary education includes completing a printmaking internship with Warren Editions Print Studio in 2015 and David Krut Studios in 2016. Since her first solo show *False Priest* in 2014, exhibited at Commune 1, Keck's work has been shown in many galleries and institutions locally and internationally. Her work is featured extensively in the permanent collections of the Spier Arts Trust and The University of Cape Town. In 2020, she was invited to produce a work for CNN International for a feature focus on contemporary artists creating work in self-isolation.

*"The colourful and patterned aesthetic of my work commemorates the theatre of human experience, whilst echoing my fascination with contemporary culture as explored through the lens of visual storytelling. My work extracts meaning by remixing a long history of artistic traditions with contemporary signifiers. There are a variety of different artistic mediums and methodologies present in my work, which speaks to my visual curiosity as an image-maker. I believe that embracing and utilizing the interdisciplinary possibilities of different materials, and innovative technologies allows artists to adapt and create meaningful contributions in a rapidly changing cultural environment."*



1/1 "Cocoon" O.K.

Olivié Keck

*Cocoon*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 31 x 34 cm

Image size: 10,5 x 13 cm

R 6 910 framed



1/1 "PAGE TURNER" O.K.

Olivié Keck

*Page Turner*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 31 x 34 cm

Image size: 10,5 x 13 cm

R 6 910 framed



06 "Beauty Sleep" 06

Olivié Keck

*Beauty Sleep*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 47,5 x 53 cm

Image size: 25 x 29,5 cm

R 12 890 framed



06 "High Tea" 06

Olivié Keck

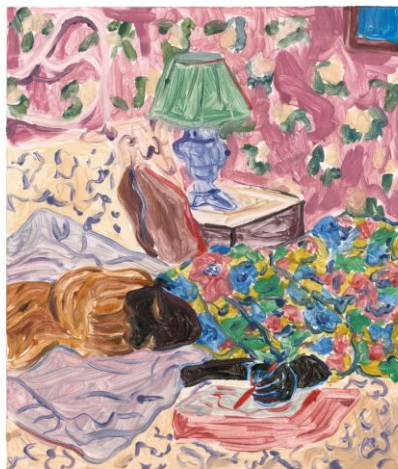
*High Tea*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 47,5 x 53 cm

Image size: 25 x 29,5 cm

R 12 890 framed



© Olivié Keck

Olivié Keck

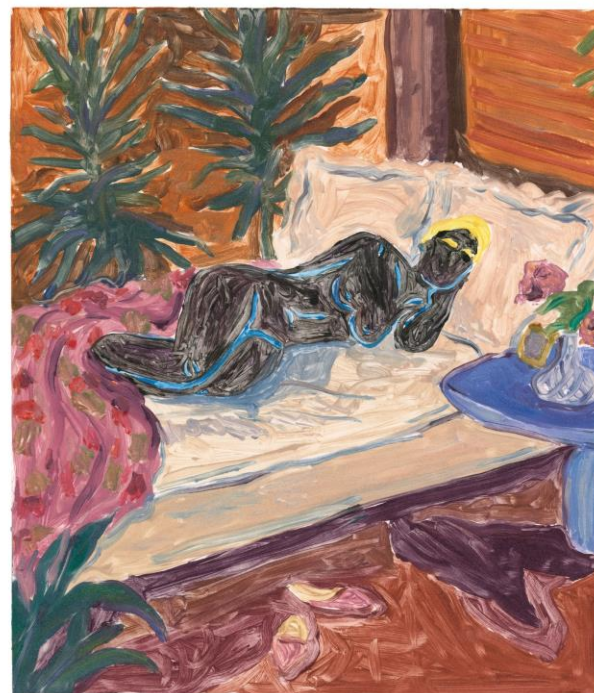
*Dream Diary*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 47,5 x 53 cm

Image size: 25 x 29,5 cm

R 12 890 framed



© Olivié Keck

Olivié Keck

*Slip Into Something More Comfortable*

Oil monotype

Paper size: 47,5 x 54,5 cm

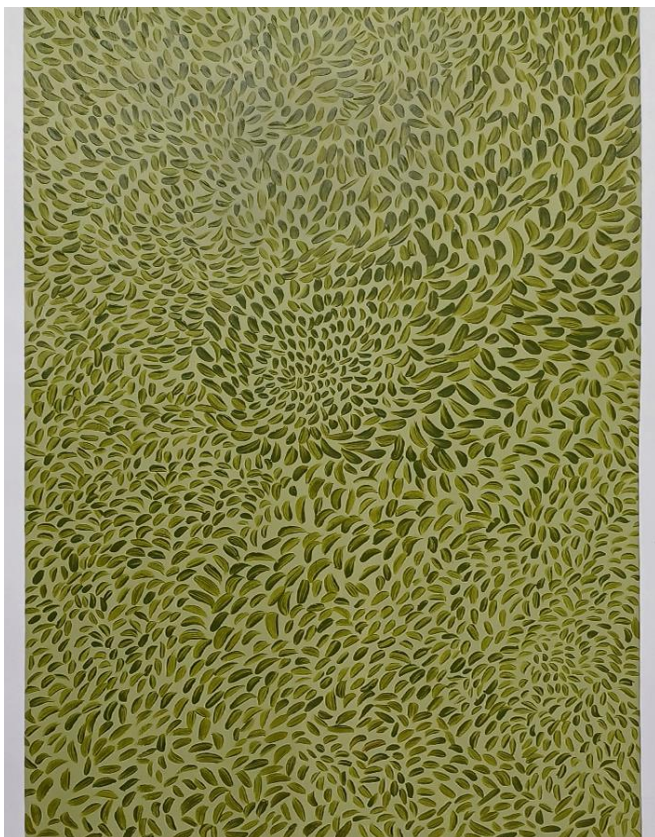
Image size: 35,5 x 41,5 cm

R 15 280 framed

## Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi is a self-taught artist born in Greytown, Kwa-Zulu Natal in 1994. She was raised in Dundee, where she is currently based. She studied at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, where she successfully completed her undergraduate studies.

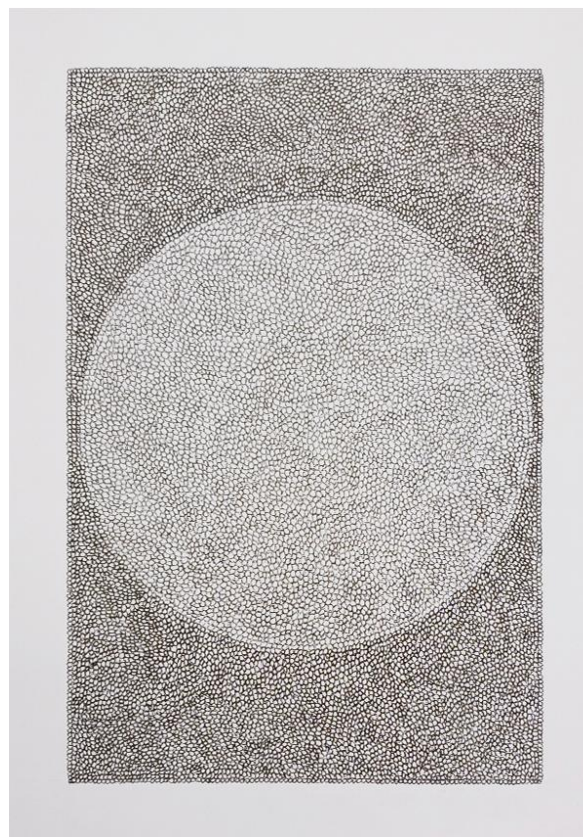
She began drawing in 2019 as an escape from the strictures of her degree. Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi explores various mediums and has found her voice by mixing traditional and contemporary drawing mediums.



Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

*Autumn Leaves, 2021*  
Acrylic on Fabriano  
29,7 x 42 cm

R 3 760 framed



Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

*Light Body, 2021*  
Archival ink on Fabriano  
29,7 x 42 cm

R 3 250 framed



Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

*The number of days I waited  
for my first exhibition, 2023*

Archival ink on Fabriano  
29,7 x 42 cm

R 4 380 framed



Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

*Black skin is still skin 15.11.2023*

Archival ink on Fabriano  
42 x 59,5 cm

R 6 360 framed



Thanduxolo Nombali Phakathi

*Isibopho III, 2023*  
Wool on Fabriano  
42 x 59,4 cm

R 6 940 framed



**the gallery** is a platform for contemporary art.  
Its programme includes exhibitions, exchanges, workshops and residencies.

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