



## Private Sale

The following artworks are available for immediate purchase.

Contact Senior Specialist, Head of Department, Kirsty Colledge

[kirsty@straussart.co.za](mailto:kirsty@straussart.co.za)

+27 83 326 8283





Curatorial Voice  
**Kimberley Cunningham**  
**Cunningham Contemporary**

*"Since launching Cunningham Contemporary, a global art advisory and curatorial agency focused predominantly on art from Africa, my mission has been to support the artists and art market players by acting as a disruptor and engaging in meaningful collaboration.*

*Highlighting five independent women artists alongside the African Contemporary Sale in February, collectively we are opening a unique platform through which we, as industry specialists, can support the artists from grassroots as well as shift the traditional power balances within the market. Artists are mostly left out of profiting off secondary market sales, but through this novel collaboration the artists are benefitting directly from the sale of their artworks, and we are introducing our collectors to the exciting next generation of artists.*

*The 2022 Burns Halperin Report has revealed that between 2008 and 2020 just 11 percent of acquisitions at U.S. museums were of work by female-identifying artists and art by women accounts art for 3.3 percent of global auction sales between 2008 and mid-2022 (\$6.2 billion of the total \$187 billion spend). As such Strauss & Co. and myself felt that it was our responsibility to act as conduits for supporting the work of women artists from South Africa, to support them on both a local and global level."*

As a leading expert in Contemporary Art from Africa and the diaspora, Kimberley Cunningham combines

her curatorial and advisory roles to create a new model through which to champion art from the continent and beyond. Having previously worked within galleries such as Gagosian and Goodman Gallery, Kimberley launched her own advisory and independent curatorial agency, Cunningham Contemporary, in 2020. In February 2021, she initiated a new collaborative exhibition model in Johannesburg entitled RESTUDIO, which served as a response to the limitations around viewing art in person through national lockdowns and postponements of art fairs. As well as working on various curatorial projects globally, Kimberley has recently been appointed as the curator of the new Singita contemporary art galleries, supporting important conservation efforts through the celebration of art from Africa.





# SAHLAH DAVIDS

SOUTH AFRICAN 1998-

## *Recollecting III*

signed and dated 2022 on the reverse  
upholstery foam, beads, dressmaking pins, and  
grandmothers scarf height: 121cm; width: 62cm;  
depth: 15cm

### **Price on Request**

#### PROVENANCE

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

#### EXHIBITED

RESERVOIR, Boschendal Norval Art Gallery,  
*Akhlaq*, solo exhibition, 3 December 2022 to  
17 January 2023.

Accompanied by a Cunningham Contemporary  
certificate of authenticity, signed by the advisory  
firm.

In her studio practice, Sahlah Davids uses a material language of textiles, upholstery, and needleworking to explore the oral histories of her heritage and strong affiliation to the realm of religiopolitics. Cape Town born and raised, Davids has described her methods of creation as the product of the blended learning and trades of the Cape Muslim community, specifically the elders within her family. It is within the domestic, traditional, and religious spaces that

Sahlah draws on the skills of her lineage, the history of their struggles, and, ultimately, the embodiment of their spirituality.

Davids looks to the prevalence of seamstressing as a profession, unpicking the layered and complex social narratives that led to its adoption by so many in her family and community. For the artist, it represents a memory that many can relate to – the “coloured” as the artisan, the tailor, the carpenter, and the seamstress. A shared profession of plight and adversity, but also a position of power and strength that many women of colour have stepped into throughout their lives. The bead, the pin, and the ruching of the fabric become an assemblage of these memories. Through a sense of materiality, each object holds meaning. The pin that hurts but binds, the upholstery foam and material as a physical reminder of a place called home, and the scarf serving as a symbol encompassing all her culture and the essence of her identity. The distortion, abstraction, allowing the materials to be almost engulfed by the pinned beads, representing a growing realization of what it means to exist generationally within the aftermath of apartheid.

Sahlah Davids holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Michaelis School of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, and recently completed her Master’s degree in Urban Design. She hopes to combine her streams of research and artistic practice to create community orientated city spaces with human and ecological needs at the forefront.





# SIVAN ZEFFERTT

SOUTH AFRICAN 1992-

## *Field Guide*

cotton and lambswool 312 by 48,5cm

## **Price on Request**

### PROVENANCE

SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, 2022.

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

### EXHIBITED

SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, *Sivan Zeffertt | Artist Room | Depth Perception*, 1 October to 5 November 2022.

Accompanied by a Cunningham Contemporary certificate of authenticity, signed by the advisory firm.

Sivan Zeffertt, born in 1992 in Johannesburg, is a textile artist based in Cape Town. Having studied architecture before moving to art practice, she has been exploring ways to create spatial interventions in handwoven cloth. Her work has dealt broadly with themes of space and landscape, memory through texture, and a decontextualisation of the understanding of cloth towards art object and sculpture within space. Her latest exhibition, *Depth Perception*, was shown by SMAC Gallery in Cape Town in 2022.





# TALIA RAMKILAWAN

SOUTH AFRICAN 1996-

## *The Wishing Well*

2022

wool and cloth on hessian

87 by 119,5cm

### Price on Request

#### PROVENANCE

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

Accompanied by a Cunningham Contemporary certificate of authenticity, signed by the advisory firm.

Talia Ramkilawan is an artist and teacher living and working in Cape Town. Ramkilawan's work aims to address her own lived experience with South African Indian identity and culture. She uses wool to visualise the complexity of one's relationship to identity and culture.

Ramkilawan studied at Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. The discovery of rug-hooking in her fourth year of university was a breakthrough moment. She immersed herself in this craft and through this medium she was able to create an intimacy and honesty that felt refreshing. She explains, "I originally wanted to make very traditional tapestries with a loom, while researching I came across a video on YouTube of someone making a carpet. The technique was called rug-hooking and done with a punch needle. I adapted

the technique using a crochet needle, wool and by stretching hessian over a wooden frame. It really was something I had never done before and I am still learning every time I start a new piece – how big can I go, how detailed, what materials I can use."

Ramkilawan describes the process of making these textiles as a process of healing and empowerment. She says that her work "is about forging a sense of community and healing particularly in relation to being from the current generation whilst trying to connect to those who have come before. I have placed an emphasis on community, which is so important in cultural and art production that helps disrupt the linear narrative, exposing how trauma of the past resonates in the present." Her work explores the intersections and binaries of her lived experience as a queer, Indian woman.





# KHANYISILE MAWHAYI

SOUTH AFRICAN 1998-

## *Ndzekho wa Mina wa Khapa*

2023

soft pastel on canvas

128,5 by 94,5cm

### Price on Request

#### PROVENANCE

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

Accompanied by a Cunningham Contemporary certificate of authenticity, signed by the advisory firm.

Contemporary artist, writer and curator Khanyisile Mawhayi was born in Krugersdorp and is currently based in Johannesburg. She studied at the University of Witwatersrand and graduated in 2020 with a degree in Fine Art. Her practice includes painting, photography and printmaking, and examines issues of identity and belonging. Mawhayi explores the absence and presence of family members who could explain her cultural heritage and the lack of a family archive that records her past and could better inform her identity as a Tsonga woman. She is inspired by her personal experience, art history and popular culture, and uses colour and the female

body, absent or present, to reflect on how society perceives Black women.

Mawhayi participated in the 4th edition BLVCK BLOCK group exhibition in 2019 and co-curated their 2020 exhibition *Sphere*. Further group exhibitions include the Kampala Biennale in 2020 as an apprentice in Tracy Roses's studio, and *also and and and*, an online exhibition curated by Luvuyo Nyawose for the Institute of Creative Arts, University of Cape Town in 2020. She exhibited in a solo capacity in Stevenson Gallery's STAGE project in 2021.





# MIKHAILIA PETERSEN

SOUTH AFRICAN 1992-

## *Her, Mishal*

2023

edition 1/5

pigment print on Hahnemühle photo rag paper

59 by 42cm

### Price on Request

#### PROVENANCE

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

Mikhalia Petersen is an independent, multi-faceted creative who lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Working through the medium of photography, Petersen is skilled in the fields of styling, creative direction, and, as a stills producer, cultivating a layered means of engaging with projects and work.

Often working in portraiture, Mikhalia aims to capture her subjects in a truthful and celebratory manner, portraying those individuals she shoots through narrative-based storytelling, as opposed to isolated and essentializing single images. Her practice lends itself towards the emotive; harnessing elements of history, culture, and the lived archive of those who surround her and the individuals she works with. Deeply interested in the post-colonial landscape of Cape Town, her work seeks to re-address the way POC and LGBTQIA+ people are framed within this context through hardship and

oppression. Instead, her photographs highlight the beauty and strength of people. The work she has produced has been described as theatrical and heavily inspired by a documentary-themed approach. Working with a community of creatives, also based in Cape Town, her practice is multi-disciplinary as she incorporates local crafts, fashion, and various skills within shoot production to create her photographic stories.

Petersen's work has been published in various reputable South African and international publications, including *The Face*, *Nataal*, *NiCotiNe*, and *Doek!Lit*. Her work has been exhibited locally at the AVA Gallery, The Gallery of the University of Stellenbosch (GUS), and Eclectica Contemporary and internationally at the Chanel Hyeres Festival in Paris. Notable campaigns she has worked for include Puma.





## DOMINIQUE CHEMINAIS

SOUTH AFRICAN 1984-

### *Milena in the Darkness*

signed, dated 23 and inscribed with the title  
on the reverse  
oil on linen canvas  
163 by 130cm

### Price on Request

#### PROVENANCE

Cunningham Contemporary, Cape Town, 2023.

Accompanied by a Cunningham Contemporary  
certificate of authenticity, signed by the advisory  
firm.

Dominique Cheminais is a novelist and painter from Cape Town, South Africa. In 2010, she held an exhibition of paintings titled *For Esme with Love and Squalor* at Blank Projects. Shortly afterwards she stopped painting entirely and dedicated herself to writing fiction. She is the author of a collection of short stories, *Slim Foot on the Neck of a Dead Lion*, and *Immovable Movers*, a book of abstract poetry. Her first novel, *The Animal Breaking Through the Flesh*, was published in 2015, followed by her second novel, *Eighty-Four Thousand*. Her most recent novel,

*Indefinite Holiday*, will be published in the USA later this year through Pig Roast Publishing. Her novel *Many Shallows* has provided the inspiration for her new paintings.

Since re-entering the art world, she has shown her work at the FNB Joburg Art Fair with Stevenson; participated in a group show presented by Guy Simpson at Under Projects; and done a residency to launch her novel *Many Shallows* with A4 arts foundation, painting the walls and ceiling of the Goods space at Proto A4.

