

Nicholas Hlobo joins Lehmann Maupin

Installation of *Impundulu Zonke Ziyandilandela (All the Lightning Birds Are After Me)*, 2011, *ILLUMInations*, 54th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.
Photo: Mario Todeschini.

New York, March 09, 2015—**Nicholas Hlobo**, one of South Africa’s leading contemporary artists, has joined Lehmann Maupin. Known for his intricate installations, Hlobo investigates issues of identity, sexuality, gender, and class in the context of his South African heritage.

Materials play a significant role in Hlobo’s multi-disciplinary practice, which includes painting, drawing, sculpture, performance, works on paper, and video installation. He prefers tactile items such as ribbon, leather, wood, and rubber, exploring the symbolic power of these raw materials and their potential for transformation.

As part of the Xhosa people, Hlobo makes work that is anchored in his South African background. The linguistic flexibility of the Xhosa language, with its poetic idioms, proverbs, and double entendres, allows the artist to discuss the various facets of his own personal identity alongside a wider cultural history.

“Nicholas Hlobo is a fantastic artist with incredible international recognition,” said Rachel Lehmann. “Like a poet, he is exploring the in between places that are difficult to define - such as the area between male and female, between white, gray, and black. The themes he addresses of nationality, race, gender, sexuality, and identity are all strongly engaged with Lehmann Maupin’s programming and have ties to the work of Kader Attia, Robin Rhode, Mickalene Thomas, and Adriana Varejão.”

The artist’s first show with Lehmann Maupin is scheduled for 2016 in New York.



About the artist

Nicholas Hlobo (b. 1975, Cape Town, South Africa) received a Fine Art degree from Johannesburg's Technikon Witwatersrand in 2002. Hlobo's exhibition history includes solo exhibitions at Locust Project, Miami (2013); National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (2011); Savannah College of Art and Design, Lacoste, France (2010); Tate Modern, London (2008); the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2008) and SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2007). He has participated in several international biennials and notable group exhibitions including *The Divine Comedy* at the Museum fur Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2014); the 18th Biennale of Sydney (2012); the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); La Triennale at the Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012); the Liverpool Biennial (2010); the Guangzhou Triennial, China (2008); and *Flow* at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2008). In November 2015, Hlobo will participate in *Performa*, the biennial dedicated to performance art in New York. Hlobo's work is included in numerous collections including the South African National Art Gallery, Cape Town; Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA; Tate Modern, London; and the Pompidou Centre, Paris. The artist lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Future Seasons Past, through April 18, 2015, New York, West 22nd Street & Chrystie Street

Alex Prager, March 12-May 16, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Mary Corse, April 23-June 13, 2015, New York, West 22nd Street

Tony Oursler, April 29-June 13, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street

For more information on Nicholas Hlobo and other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan at +212 254 0054, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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