

GUNS & RAIN

ARCO Lisboa

25 - 28 May 2023

Ann Gollifer

Hedwig Barry

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ANN GOLLIFER

The work of Ann Gollifer is both fluid and grounded. Born in 1960 in Guyana to British and Warao-Arawak parents, and based in Botswana since 1985, Gollifer draws deeply on the rich materialities of nature to explore the relationship between identity and place. She is known for her use of the natural ochres of Botswana, found in soils and stones, as a water-based painting medium. She was taught the practice of processing these earth pigments into paints by a traditional Motswana painter and healer from Mochudi, south east Botswana, Mma Motsei Nkwemabala. This labour-intensive process involves grinding and then dissolving the powdered pigments in water and gum arabic, evaporating off the water, and then painting with them just as one would work with watercolour paints.

In her most recent paintings, she likens the suspension of the earth pigment paints in water to the “floating” of the continents on the ocean. “Each colour dissolves in a different way, fanning, grainy or soft,” Gollifer says. “Islands and continents appear and disappear throughout the drying process and the results are driven by intuition guided by chance.”

Gollifer’s ‘Ocean Drift Series’, presented at ARCO Lisboa, began as studies of pigment colour ranges and, in line with her current focus, is about finding one’s way home both physically and spiritually. With tenderness and longing, Gollifer’s new works speak of interhuman connections, bloodlines and waterways, and our immersion in the deep time of the earth.

Gollifer was educated in the UK and completed a Masters in History of Art at Edinburgh University in 1983. She is an artist-member of the Thapong Visual Art Centre in Gaborone, of which she was part of the founding executive committee. Gollifer featured in a solo show at Guns & Rain in 2020, and currently has a solo with Ed Cross Fine Art in London (May-June 2023). Her work has been exhibited at 1-54 African Art Fair London (2021), Untitled Art, Miami (2020) and Investec Cape Town Art Fair (2019, 2020, 2022, 2023), and she has been awarded a 2024 Sacatar Foundation residency award, in Bahia, Brazil. Gollifer is also a founding member of Gaborone’s Art Residency Centre which provides support to Botswana artists.



Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

JOURNEY #3

2023

Botswana ochres on paper

76 x 56 cm

JOURNEY #3 (detail)



JOURNEY #1 (detail)



Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

JOURNEY #1

2023

Botswana ochres on paper

76 x 56 cm



Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

SUSPENDED

2023

Botswana ochres on paper

76 x 56 cm



SUSPENDED (detail)



Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

DEEP SLEEP

2023

Botswana ochres on paper

76 x 56 cm





Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

SEPHAI #1

2022

Botswana ochres on cotton rag

120 x 41 cm



Ann Gollifer (Botswana)

SEPHAI #2

2022

Botswana ochres on cotton rag

120 x 41 cm



SEPHAI #1 (detail)



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SEPHAI #2 (detail)

HEDWIG BARRY

Hedwig Barry (b. 1969, South Africa) is a Cape Town-based artist working at the intersection of drawing, painting and sculpture. A long career as a producer, director and educator across film, music and the visual arts has led her to a dedicated studio practice that is rich, confident and prolific.

For ARCO Lisboa, Barry has created a series of paintings on canvas and paperworks that are purposefully nomadic in their scale. Designed to be transportable, the works are personal and intimate and pulse with focus and intensity. Their stories share the same universal themes as you will find in her large public sculptures and paintings: of love and loss, destruction, care and repair, force, scale and fragility. In these works she develops these themes in the context of a meditation on the natural world, and the vulnerability and resilience of ecologies.

“Each work in its small package addresses its viewer to come closer for a more intimate look”, explains Barry.

“Rather than ‘master pieces’, each jewel-like offering is a mistress work: secretive, elusive, desirable. Every work has been made with an intention for the work to be met and fallen in love with, to be taken to, and experienced in, our most intimate place called home.”

Barry holds an MA in Fine Arts from the Wits University (2020) and the same year was commissioned to create two large-scale outdoor interventions for BMW’s South African headquarters. In 2021 she was an artist-in-residence at the Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg, which led to a solo exhibition at the NIROX Sculpture Park in 2022. Also in 2022, she presented a commissioned sculpture at the Spier Light Art festival and completed a residency at Tswalu Kalahari Reserve through the Tswalu Foundation and Everard Read Gallery. She is currently preparing for a solo exhibition with Guns & Rain in 2023. This is her first European art fair.



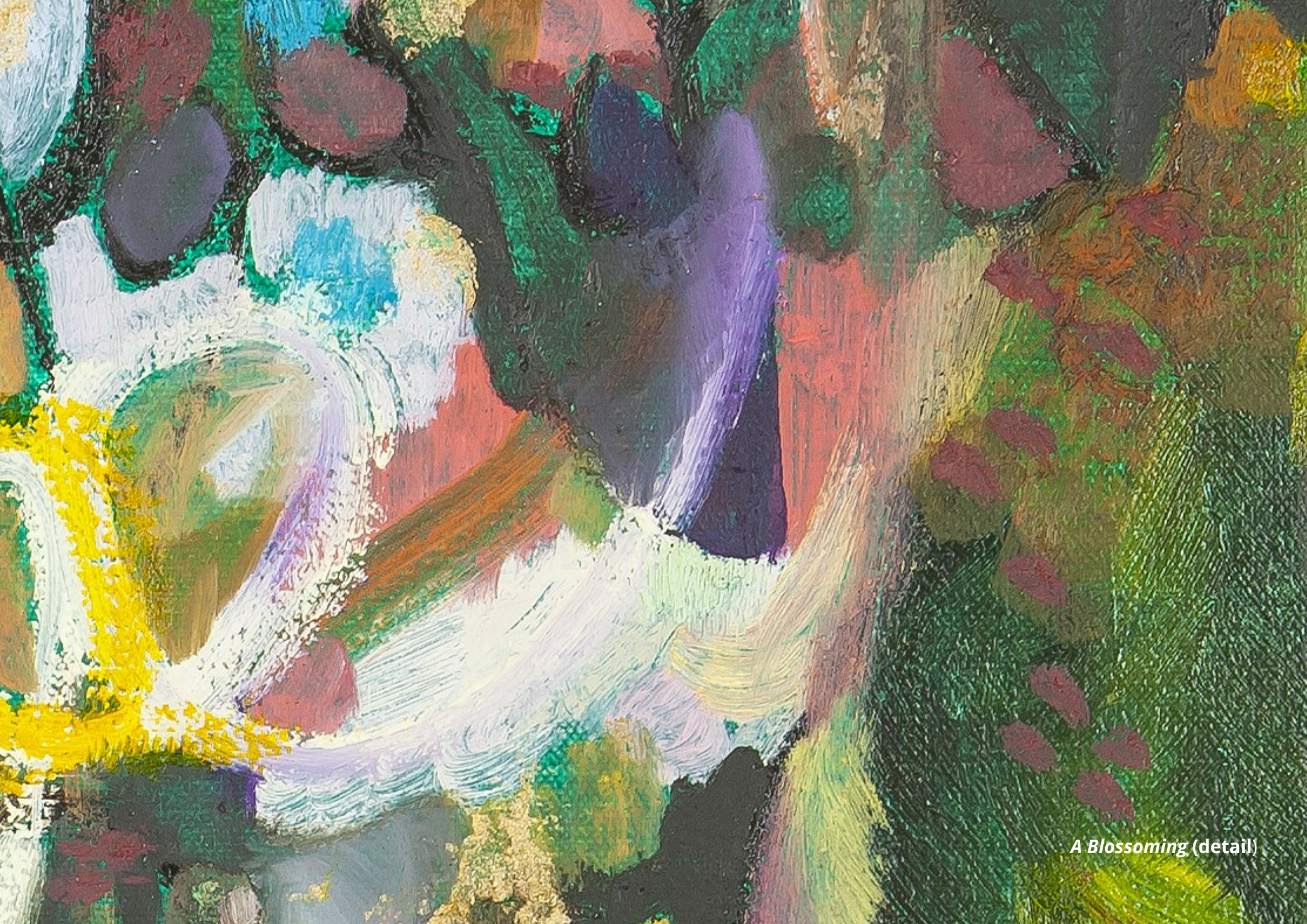
Hedwig Barry (South Africa)

A Blossoming

2023

Oil on canvas

40.5 x 30.8 cm



A Blossoming (detail)



Hedwig Barry (South Africa)

Vestiges of Phthalo Love

2023

Oil on linen

40.5 x 30.8 cm



Hedwig Barry (South Africa)

Island of Fertility

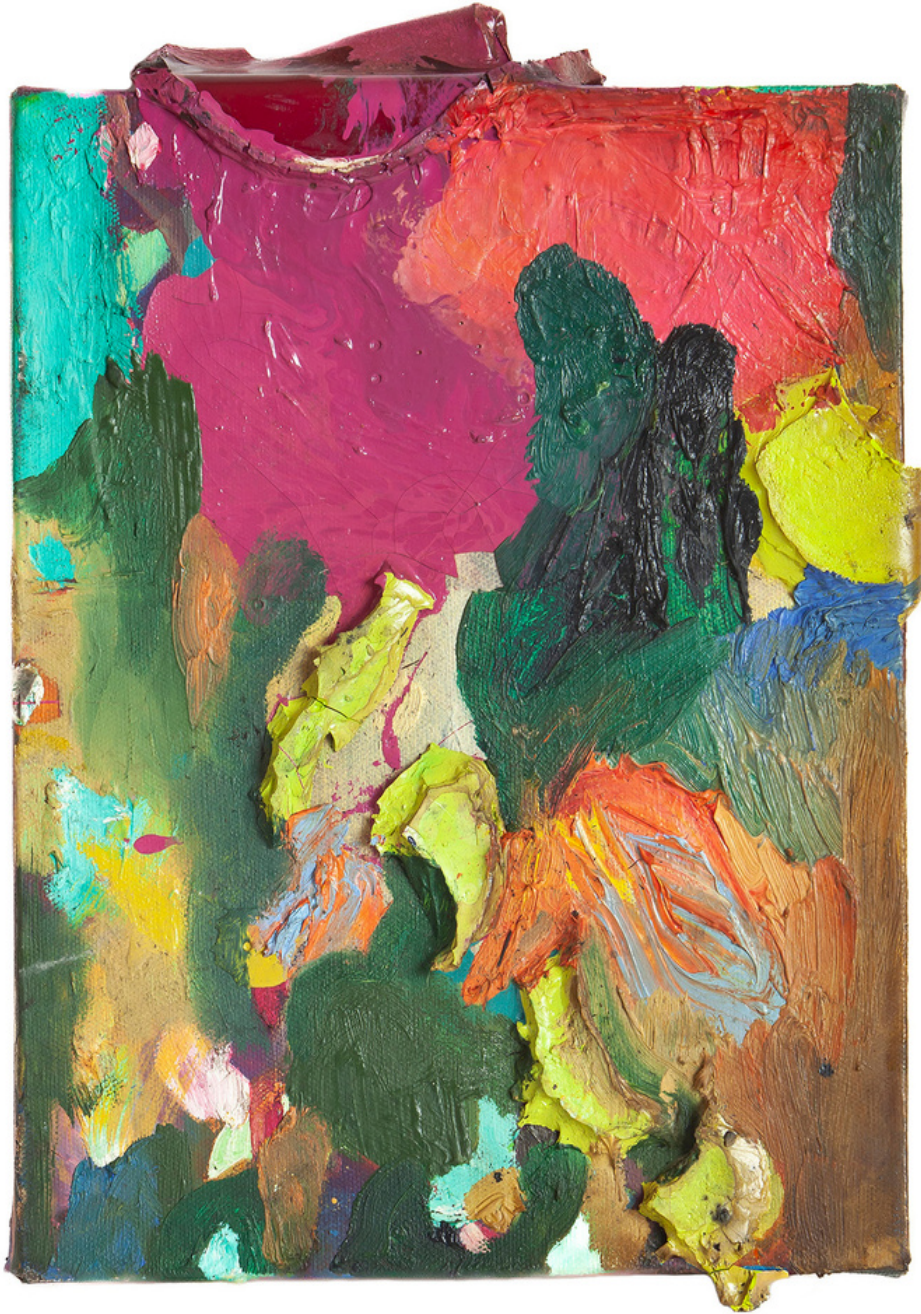
2023

Oil on linen

40.5 x 30.8 cm



Island of Fertility (detail)



Hedwig Barry (South Africa)

The Painting Completed by Fire

2022

Burnt oil and enamel on canvas

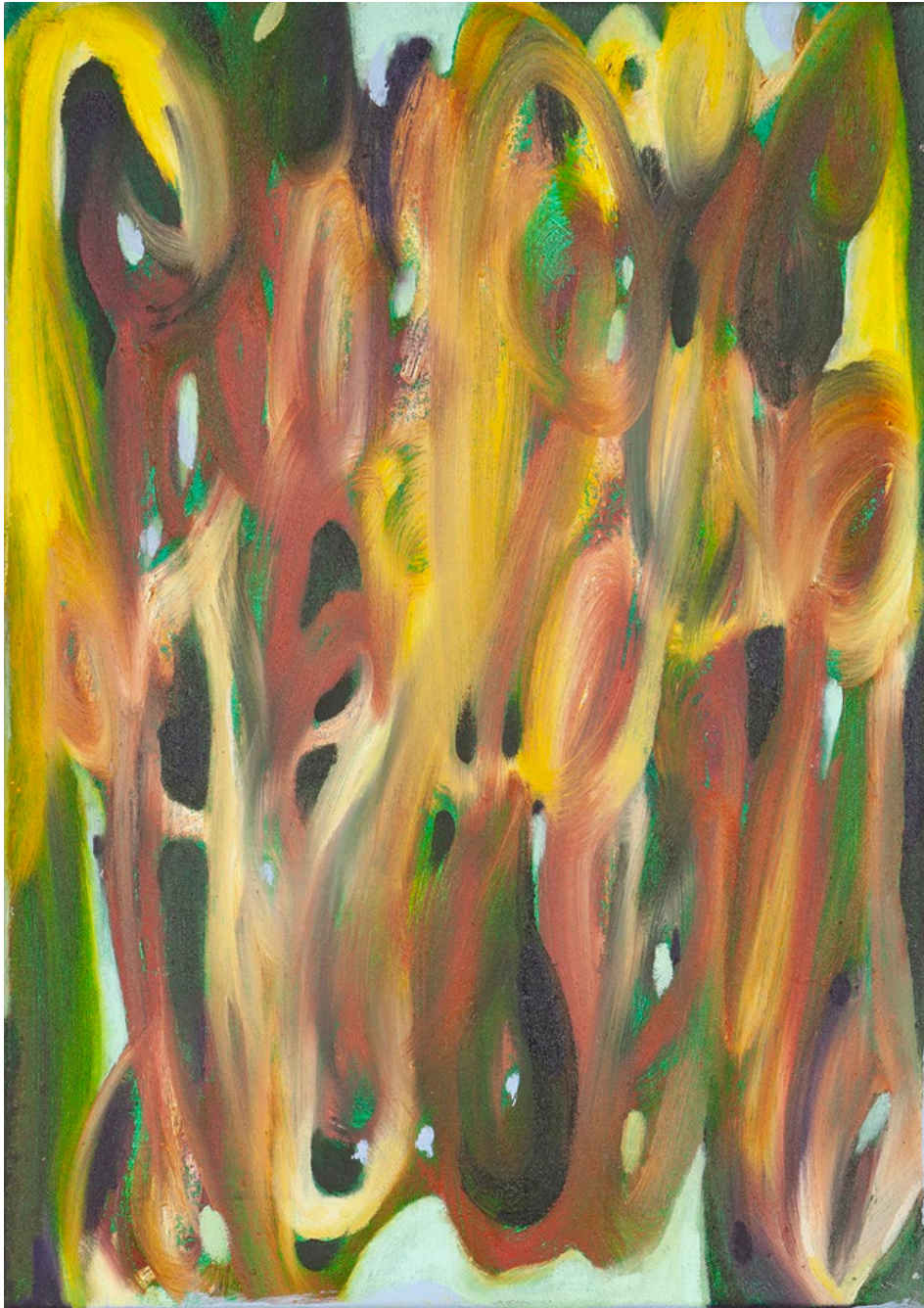
33 x 23.5 cm



The Painting Completed by Fire (detail)



Wind Blows... (detail)



Hedwig Barry (South Africa)

Wind Blows in the Brown Hyena's hair at Tswalu

2022

Oil on linen

40.5 x 30.8 cm

TULI MEKONDJO

Tuli Mekondjo (b. 1982, Angola) is a self-taught Namibian artist whose work explores the construction of identity in the shadow of Namibia's violent past as both a German and later South African colony. She uses a variety of media including natural silks, embroidery, photo-transfer, soil, paint, resin and mahangu (millet) grain, a staple food in Namibia, to reframe imagery from historical photographs. These images often come from both the German colonial period (1884-1919) and Namibia's Independence War against South Africa (1965-1990). Mekondjo's multilayered works result from a process of both literal and figurative burial and retrieval, and draw heavily on photographic representations of indigenous Namibian people from multiple ethnic groups.

Germany continues to have a social and infrastructural presence and legacy in Namibia, particularly in the coastal town of Swakopmund, whose telegraph towers are remnants of colonial projects to extract natural resources such as diamonds. By engaging with the persistence of this history, Mekondjo unearths the traumas of her ancestors, symbolically mourning and caring for them by modifying photographic images in her work. She often begins by burying lengths of silk and canvas in the soil, allowing them to become stained by the earth. She later digs them up again and brings them into the studio. The symbolic death and resurrection of these materials - such as in "Deliver me from all my burdens" - are a loving acknowledgement of her ancestors.

The presence of female ancestors and relatives, and acts of mothering, are particularly important for Mekondjo. Her connection to her mother, whom she lost when she was 12 years old, and grandmother are the beginning of a cycle of connections to female ancestors stretching back beyond the colonial period. Imagery related to wombs, fetuses, roots, and blood are often embroidered into her works, metaphorically connecting the beginnings of life to the soil and to women.

Represented by Guns & Rain since 2019, Mekondjo has exhibited in multiple exhibitions and fairs, including museum shows, in Namibia, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Germany, United States and the UK. She had a solo exhibition with Hales New York in 2022. Mekondjo is currently participating in the prestigious DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program in 2023.



Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia)

Xupifa nge momaudjuu aeshe /

Deliver me from all my burdens

2021

Image transfer and gold marker on canvas,
cotton embroidery thread, crochet yarn silk
fabrics, rusted silk fabrics, rusted and dyed
cotton fabric

107 x 58 cm



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Xupifa nge momaudjuu aeshe / Deliver me from all my burdens (detail)



*Xupifa nge momaudjuu aeshe / Deliver me
from all my burdens (detail)*



Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia)

Mules, Lines and Telegraphs

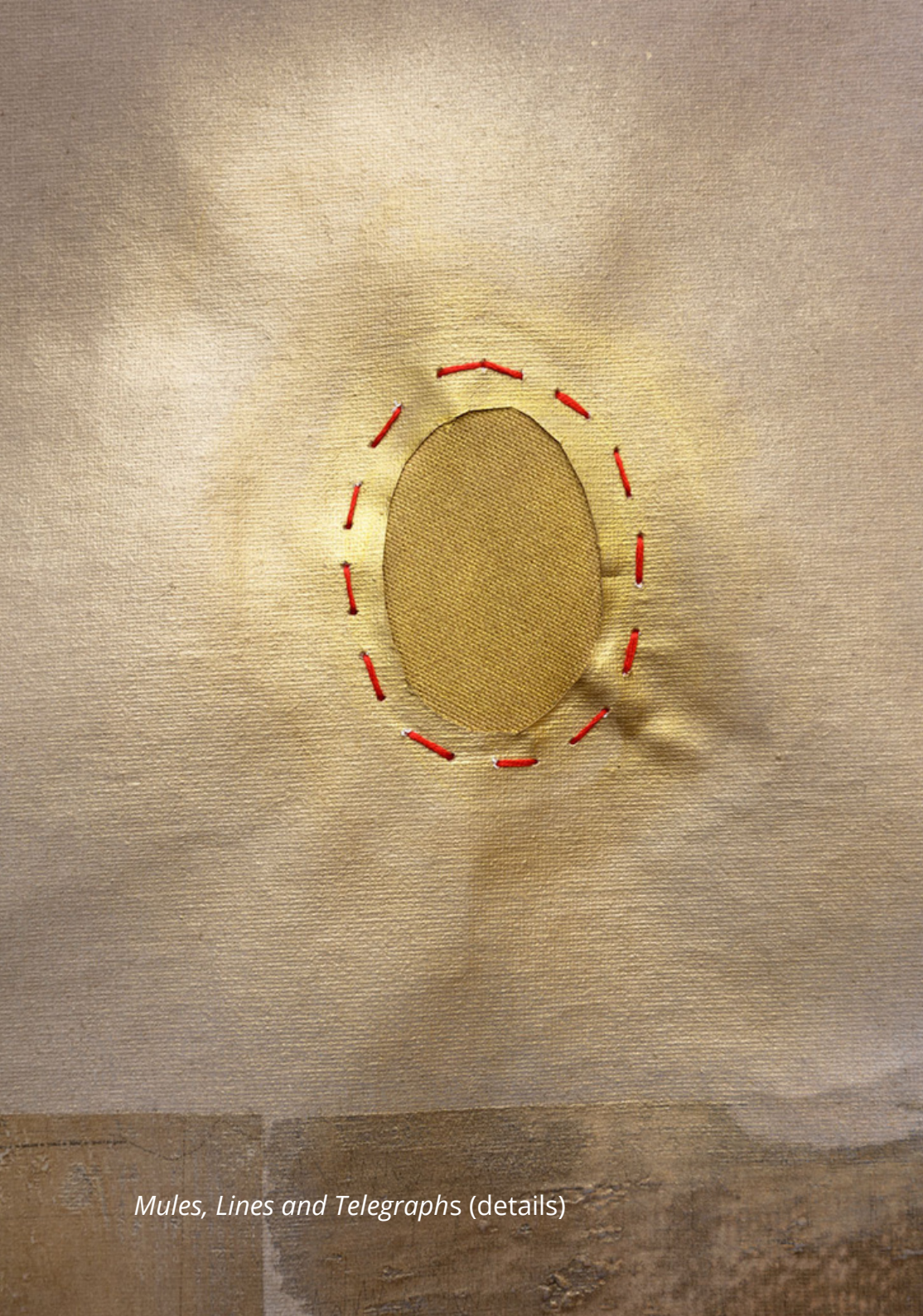
2023

Image transfer on canvas, embroidery threads, acrylic paint, acrylic ink,
gold spray paint

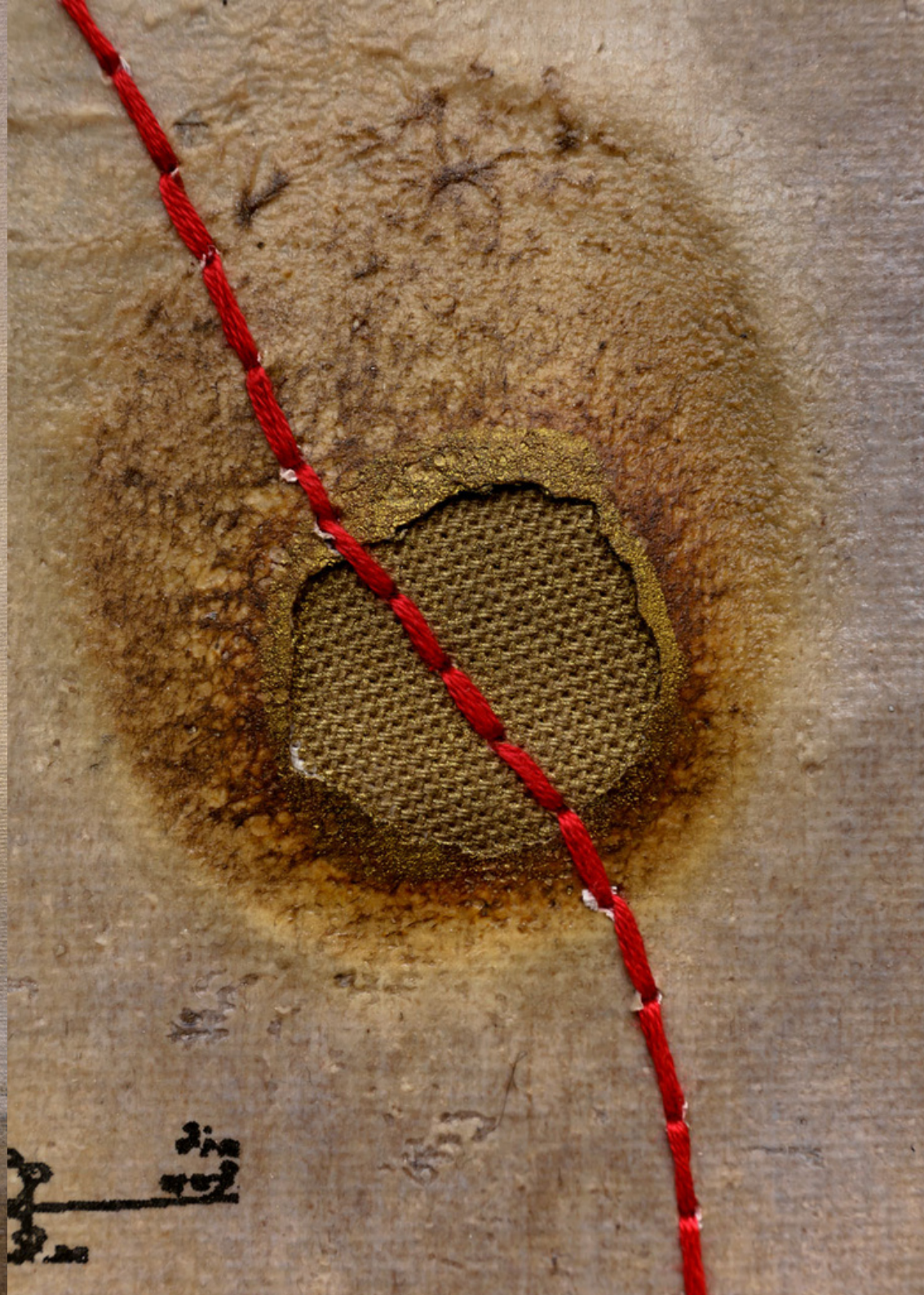
82 x 172 cm



Mules, Lines and Telegraphs (detail)



Mules, Lines and Telegraphs (details)





Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia)

Okaana na meme wako omutima umwe /

A child with its mother is one heart

2021

Image transfer, collage, mahangu, resin, cotton embroidery thread, gold paint marker, cotton fabric, silk fabric on canvas

85.5 x 49.5 cm



Okaana na meme wako omutima umwe
/ A child with it's mother is one heart
(detail)



Tuli Mekondjo (Namibia)

Okaana ka meme, ka tekulwa ku meme ko mbada/

A child of mother, raised by mother in exile
2021

Image transfer, collage, mahangu, resin,
embroidery cotton threads, gold embroidery
threads, copper leaf, gold paint marker, rusted
silk fabric, silk fabric on canvas
93 x 55.5 cm



*Okaana ka meme, ka tekulwa ku meme ko
mbada/ A child of mother, raised by mother in
exile (detail)*

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