



GUNS & RAIN

Art Central
Hong Kong
22 - 25 March 2023

Bev Butkow

Yi Tai Sculpture &
Installation Project
(P4)

info@gunsandrain.com
+27 76 294 5332
www.gunsandrain.com



reflective connections (installation view of iteration 1) 2023,
site-specific installation, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
image: Bev Butkow, Guns & Rain, Nidaa Husein

reflective connections

In her materially rich installation *reflective connections* (2023), Bev Butkow creates an environment for exploration, contemplation, and discovery. The installation consists of four large, net-like, woven fabric sculptures that are suspended from above, as well as a reflective vinyl floor design that is based on the play of light and shadow through the semi-transparent sculptures. The soft sculptures are distinct yet interconnected, and visitors can walk through and explore from all sides.

Butkow sources her materials – ribbons, beads, string, and various other kinds of threads – locally in South Africa, but many of them originate in Asia before being exported around the world. Transporting these artworks in turn to Hong Kong emphasizes how the world is interconnected through capital, information and labour.

Less tangible, interpersonal and experiential connections bring us together over vast geographic and cultural distances. In particular, Butkow places the experiences of women at the centre of the worlds conceived by the installation, through how she expands the possibilities of weaving, a technique historically associated with “women’s work”. Her use of textiles, beads, ribbons and threads relates to her memories of her grandmother, who, having escaped Lithuania prior to World War II, kept drawers filled with salvaged materials of these kinds.

Butkow’s work thus interlaces the personal and the social, the private and the public, the past and the present. Regardless of their age, race, nationality or gender, viewers are invited to experience the interplay of Butkow’s abstract soft sculptures and, in the midst of the intense activity of an art fair, to enjoy a space for reflection and speculative associations.

在這個材料豐富的裝置作品《反射性連接》(2023)中,約翰內斯堡的藝術家比弗·巴特科營造出了一個讓人探索、沉思和發現的空間。該裝置由四個懸掛在半空中的大型網狀編織物雕塑組成,底部設計是一個反光的乙 烯基地板,與半透光的雕塑相互呼應,顯得影影綽綽。這些軟雕塑各具特色卻又相互關聯,參觀者可以從各個角度穿過,親自探索這一裝置。

巴特科在南非當地採購藝術品原材料:絲帶、珠子、繩子和其他各種線,但其中許多原材料都是從亞洲出口到世界各地的。現在反過來將這些藝術品運到香港,正好說明了世界上資本、信息和勞動力之間的相互聯繫。

我們也可以多思考一些不那麼有形的、人與人之間的和經驗上的聯繫,這些聯繫讓我們越過了巨大的地理和文化上的差距,走到了一起。值得一提的是,編織在歷史上是與「女性工作」相連的技術,巴特科通過擴展編織的可能性,將女性的經驗置於這個裝置所構建空間的核心。她對紡織品、珠子、絲帶和線的使用,都與她對祖母的記憶聯繫在了一起。她的祖母在二戰前逃離立陶宛後,經常在抽屜里放滿這些零碎的材料。

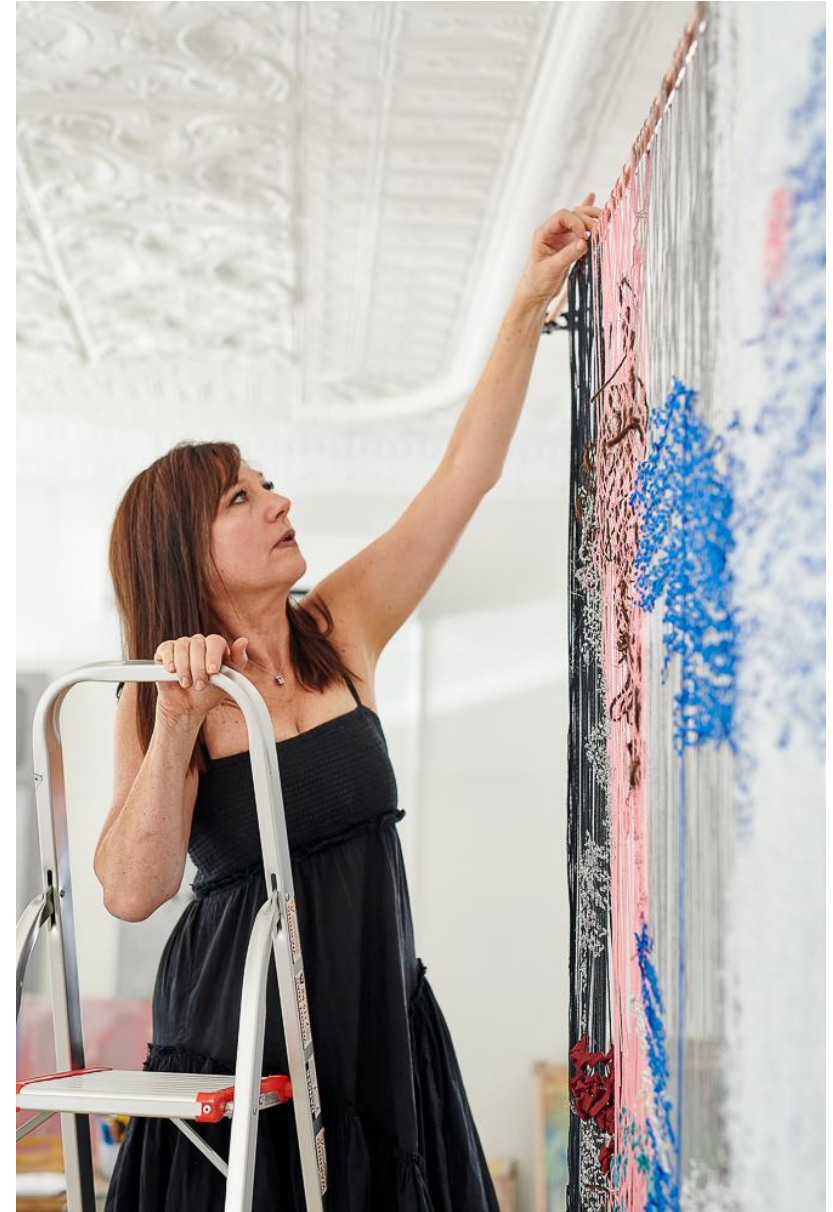
因此,巴特科的作品將個人和社會、私有和公有、過去和現在交織在一起。無論是什麼年齡、種族、國籍或性別的觀眾,都歡迎去體驗一下她這一抽象軟雕塑的交織感,並在熱鬧的藝術博覽會中,享受一個思考和推測的空間。

About the artist

Bev Butkow (b. Johannesburg, 1967) is a South African artist whose work transgresses the boundaries between textile art, painting, sculpture, and installation. She works experimentally across and between these genres, using weaving as a literal and figurative process for connecting the material, the personal and the social. Butkow is a latecomer to art-making, having transitioned from a successful career in finance to a full-time art practice. In 2022 she completed her Master of Fine Arts (*cum laude*) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Wits), with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and presented the outcome of this academic engagement as a solo body of work at the Origins Centre Museum at Wits.

Through processes of making and unmaking, weaving and unravelling, her works dramatise her own experience of occupying different and sometimes conflicting roles simultaneously. Her materially and conceptually rigorous approach to artmaking is a means of interrogating the ways in which we walk upon the earth, as individuals and in community.

Butkow exhibited new work at the Dakar Biennale, Senegal, and in the curated Tomorrows/Today section of the Investec Cape Town Art Fair in 2022. In the same year, she presented her work at Contextile Bienal TextileTALKS, Portugal. Her work has also been shown at 1-54 Art Fair (London), Galerie Christophe Person (Paris), and at Wits Art Museum (Johannesburg). She has forthcoming exhibitions in London, Lisbon and Johannesburg in 2023.

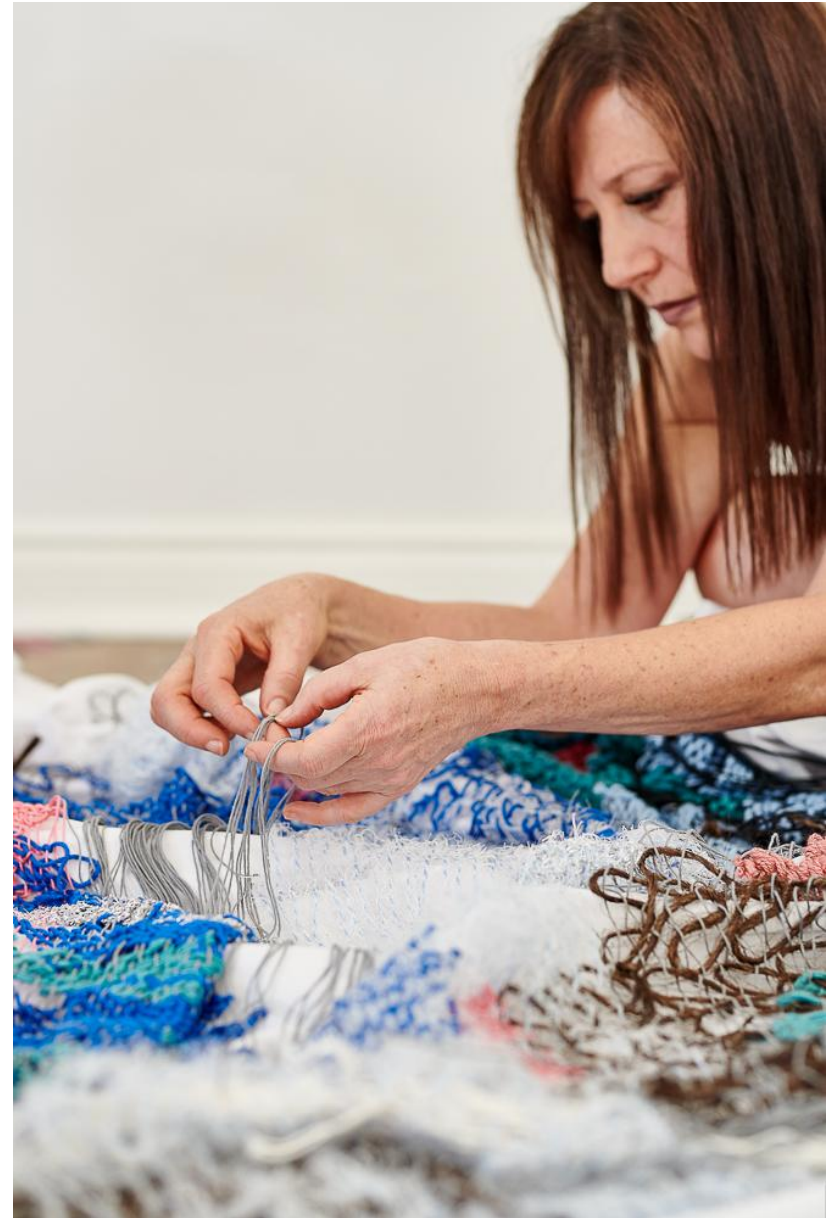


藝術家簡介

比弗·巴特科(1967年生於約翰內斯堡)是一位南非藝術家，她的作品跨越了紡織藝術、繪畫、雕塑和裝置之間的界限。她在這些流派之間相互切換反覆實驗，將實實在在的編織，象徵成把材料、個人和社會相互連接的過程。巴特科開始藝術創作的時間較晚，她從成功的金融行業過渡到了全職的藝術創作。2022年在安德魯·W·梅隆基金會的支持下，她在約翰內斯堡的金山大學完成了藝術碩士學習(優等生)，並在金山的起源中心博物館舉辦個展，正是在這次學術活動中，這個作品的主體亮相了。

在製作和拆除，編織和解開的過程中，她的作品戲劇化地表現了她的不同角色，有時這些角色還同時存在相互衝突。她在藝術創作的過程中，對選材和構思的嚴謹態度，也是對我們在地球上生活方式的一種審視，包括個人和集體。

2022年，巴特科在塞內加爾的達喀爾雙年展上和 Investec 開普敦藝術博覽會的昨日/今日主題展中，展出新作品。同年，她在葡萄牙的紡織品雙年展紡織交流中，展出作品。她的作品還曾在 1-54 藝術博覽會(倫敦)、克里斯托弗·佩恩畫廊(巴黎)和金山藝術博物館(約翰內斯堡)展出過。2023年，她即將到倫敦、里斯本和約翰內斯堡舉辦展覽。





never static (installation view)

never static (detail)





Bev Butkow (South Africa)

never static, 2022

Wool, dressmaking scraps, string,
ribbon, twine, copper rod, time
and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane
& Danily Hunga

250 x 170 cm



HONOR RAIN

never static (detaill)

never static (detail)

GUNS & RAIN





Bev Butkow (South Africa)

*beneath our threshold of
awareness, 2022*

Thread, wool, string, copper
rod, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa
Maxinyane & Danily Hunga
180 x 180 cm

beneath our threshold of awareness (detail)



beneath our threshold of awareness (detail)



dappled perspectives (installation view)



Bev Butkow (South Africa)
dappled perspectives, 2022
Wool, string, twine, copper rod,
time and labour
Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane
210 x 210 cm



dappled perspectives (detail)

dappled perspectives (detail)





dappled perspectives (installation view close-up)



Of generations past, and future (installation view)



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Of generations past, and future, 2023

Thread, dressmaking scraps, copper rod, time
and effort

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

380 x 170 cm

Of generations past, and future (detail)





Of generations past, and future (detail)



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping I, 2023

Thread, wool, ribbon, glass beads, perspex rods,
time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

72 x 54 cm



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping II, 2023

Wool, thread, dressmaking scraps, glass beads, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

50 x 43 cm



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping III, 2023

Wool, thread, glass beads, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

44 x 37 cm



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping IV, 2023

Thread, wool, cord, ribbon, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

38 x 32 cm



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping V, 2023

Thread, wool, ribbon, dressmaking scraps, metallic
balloon, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

51 x 32 cm



Bev Butkow (South Africa)

Unmapping VI, 2023

Wool, thread, dressmaking scraps, time and labour

Made with Thandiswa Maxinyane

50 x 31 cm

About Guns & Rain

Guns & Rain is a Johannesburg-based gallery for contemporary African art, with a strong local and international programme of exhibitions and collaborations. Founded in 2014 as one of Africa's first online galleries, Guns & Rain was established to address the under-representation of African art online and globally. Today, the gallery works with over twenty emerging artists from six African countries - South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Mozambique and Nigeria - and is known both for its leaning towards social and political themes and for identifying new talent.

Guns & Rain has produced regular exhibitions in Johannesburg since 2015 and has had a physical space in Johannesburg since 2018. In addition to our local exhibition programme, the gallery participates in local and international art fairs and regularly collaborates with partner galleries and dealers to present a busy programme of exhibitions in Africa, Europe and the United States. Guns & Rain has helped launch several artists into international careers and has helped place African art in multiple collections around the world.

The gallery is a member of the African Art Galleries Association (AAGA) and the Association of Women Art Dealers (AWAD). We also collaborate with universities and have hosted artists and multiple interns from the University of Johannesburg and University of Oxford.

The name Guns & Rain comes from the work of South African-born British anthropologist and playwright David Lan, who wrote about guerrillas and spirit mediums in Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. Lan's work is concerned with culture, identity, land, struggle, change, and other important African themes that also inform the curatorial focus and programme of the gallery.

www.gunsandrain.com

槍與雨畫廊簡介

「槍與雨」是一家位於約翰內斯堡的非洲當代藝術畫廊，擁有着眾多本地和國際展覽和合作項目。「槍與雨」成立於 2014 年，是非洲首批的在線畫廊之一，旨在解決非洲藝術在網上和全球的代表性不足的問題。如今，畫廊與來自六個非洲國家的——南非、津巴布韋、納米比亞、博茨瓦納、莫桑比克和尼日利亞——20 多位新興藝術家合作，並因其對社會和政治主題的看重，以及善於發現新藝術家而聞名。

自 2015 年以來，「槍與雨」在約翰內斯堡定期舉辦展覽，並自 2018 年起在約翰內斯堡擁有一個實體空間。除了本地展覽計劃，畫廊還參與本地和國際藝術博覽會，並定期與夥伴畫廊、經銷商合作，在非洲、歐洲和美國推出緊密的展覽計劃。「槍與雨」幫助了多位藝術家進入國際職業生涯，也幫助很多非洲藝術品在世界各地被收藏。

本畫廊是非洲藝術畫廊協會（AAGA）和女性藝術經銷商協會（AWAD）的成員。我們還與多家大學合作，接待了約翰內斯堡大學和牛津大學的藝術家和多名實習生。

「槍與雨」這個名字源自於南非裔英國人類學家和劇作家大衛·蘭的作品，他描繪了津巴布韋解放鬥爭中的游擊隊和精神媒介。蘭的作品關注文化、身份、土地、鬥爭、變化和其他重要的非洲主題，這些主題也代表了該畫廊的策展項目和重心。

www.gunsandrain.com