



GUNS & RAIN

Investec Cape Town Art Fair
17 - 20th February 2022

Thebe Phetogo
*On Spec - 5 Propositions for the
Origin of a blackbody*

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'On Spec - 5 Propositions for the Origin of a blackbody'

For the SOLO section of ICTAF 2022, Thebe Phetogo (b. 1993, Botswana) presents 'On Spec - 5 Propositions for the Origin of a blackbody', a body of work whose main theme is speculation. The exhibition is comprised of 5 'suites' of figurative paintings (each suite is made up of 1-2 paintings) that offer different speculative origin stories for the blackbody. In this instance, the artist's use of the term blackbody is loosely borrowed from a namesake concept in physics which defines a blackbody as a hypothetical, idealized physical body that absorbs all incidental electromagnetic radiation; blackbodies do not actually exist. This definition grounds Phetogo's current approach to figurative painting.

This project also includes a component of audience participation. Viewers are invited to cast votes for their favourite or preferred origin story, using corresponding numbered slips of paper dropped into a transparent voting box. No other prompts are given, nor is it explained what the 'data' gathered will be used for.

The different suites of paintings offer speculation in the imaginative, science fictional sense by interpreting the theoretical concept of the blackbody in five distinct ways. The audience's participatory voting is also speculative, but in a manner which acknowledges the art fair as one of the sites for the art market's current speculating on Black bodies, specifically in painting.

This project attempts to work through what art historian Darby English calls "an active blackness, one that is public, participatory, and thereby perpetually innovated, not primordial or pre-existent".

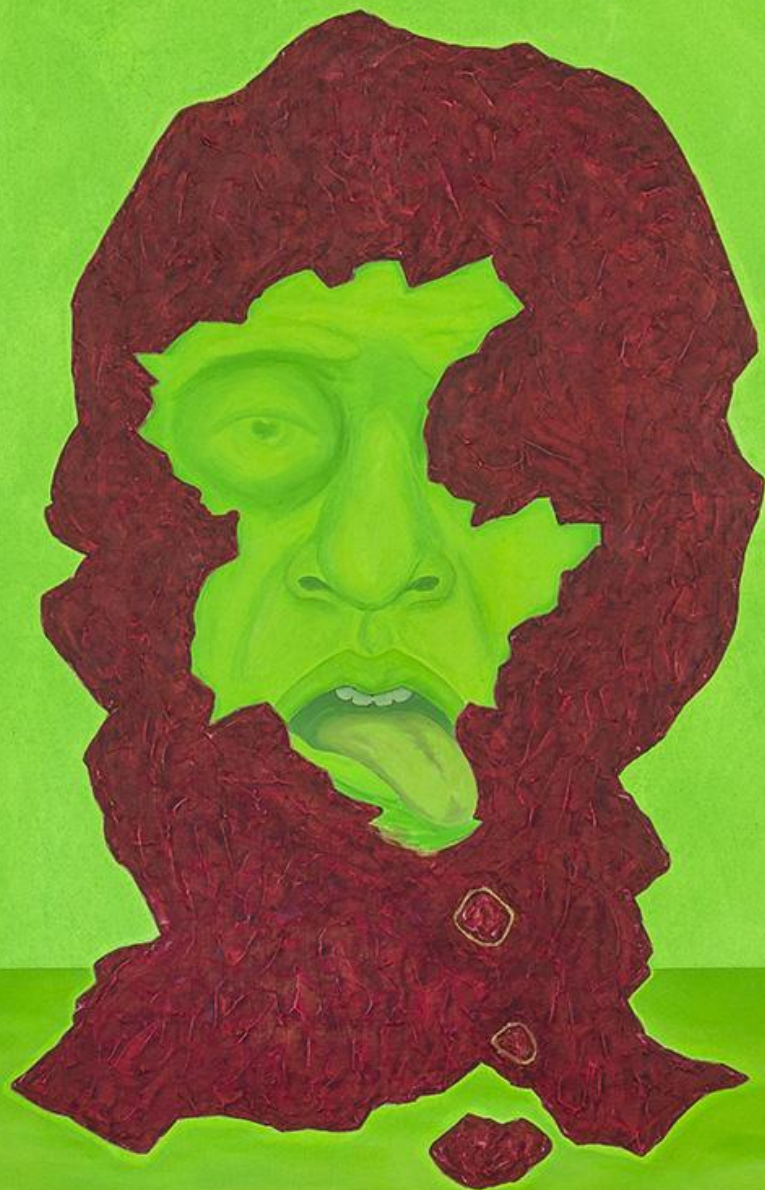
Based in Gaborone, Botswana, Phetogo holds an MFA from Michaelis School of Art, University of Cape Town. Represented by Guns & Rain, he has already exhibited widely, including in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Lagos and New York. His first US solo was held in late 2021 at Von Ammon, Washington DC. Phetogo was a finalist in the pan-African Emerging Painting Invitational (2020) and is a member of The Botswana Pavilion.



Proposition 1, Painting 1

2021

Shoe polish, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas
4 cm



Proposition 1, Painting 2

2021

Oil, acrylic and shoe polish on canvas

91.5 x 76 cm

RESERVED





*Proposition 2 - Material Need and Practical Effects,
Painting 1*

2021

Oil, acrylic, shoe polish and magnets on canvas
127 x 101.4 cm

*comes with 4 changeable magnetic attachments:
see next images

RESERVED

*Proposition 2 - Material Need and Practical Effects,
Painting 1*
2021
Oil, acrylic, shoe polish and magnets on canvas
127 x 101.4 cm
*comes with 4 changeable magnetic attachments
(2 of which shown in this image)



*Proposition 2 - Material Need and Practical Effects,
Painting 1*

2021

Oil, acrylic, shoe polish and magnets on canvas
127 x 101.4 cm

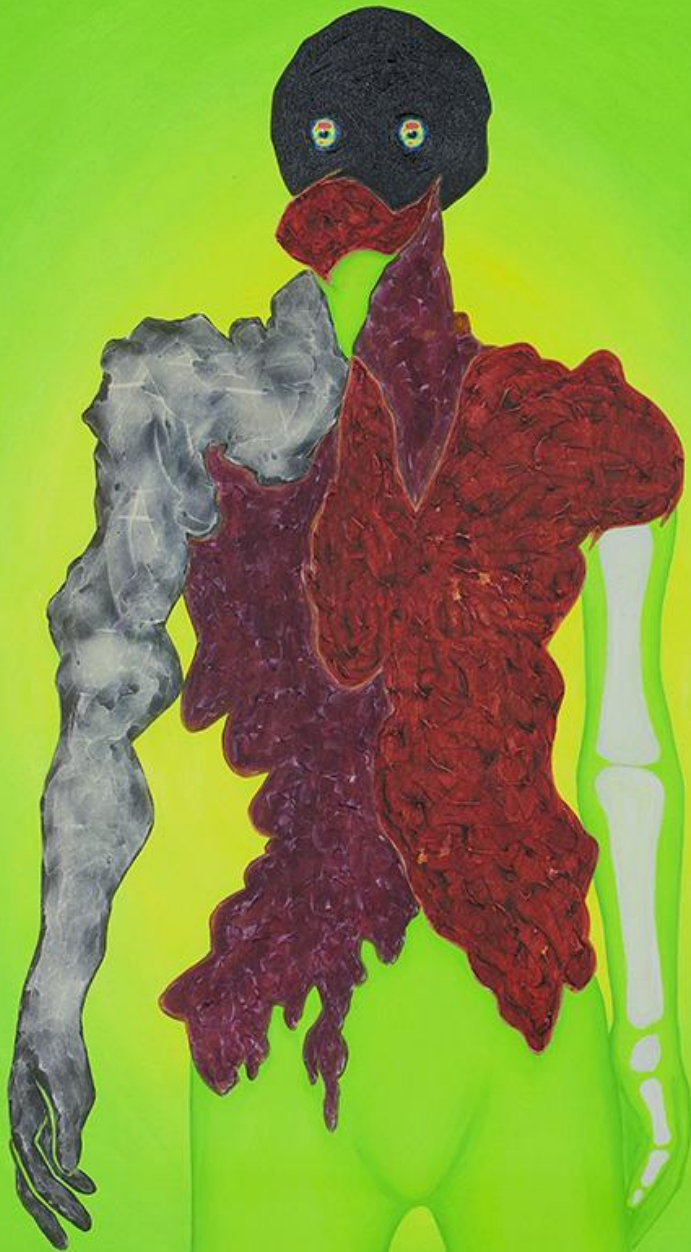
*comes with 4 changeable magnetic attachments
(2 of which shown in this image)



*Proposition 3 - Industrial Melanism/Indicator
Species, Painting 1*
2021
Shoe polish, oil and acrylic on canvas



Proposition 4 - Cosmic Gunk, Painting 1
2021
Shoe polish, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas
m



Proposition 5 - Zombie Figuration, Painting 1
2021

Shoe polish, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas
101.4 x 76 cm
RESERVED





Proposition 5 - Zombie Figuration, Painting 2
2021
Shoe polish, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas
4 cm

**Additional Available Works
(not part of 'On Spec')**



Mouth of Lowe

2021

Oil, acrylic and shoe polish on canvas

127 x 101.4 cm

RESERVED

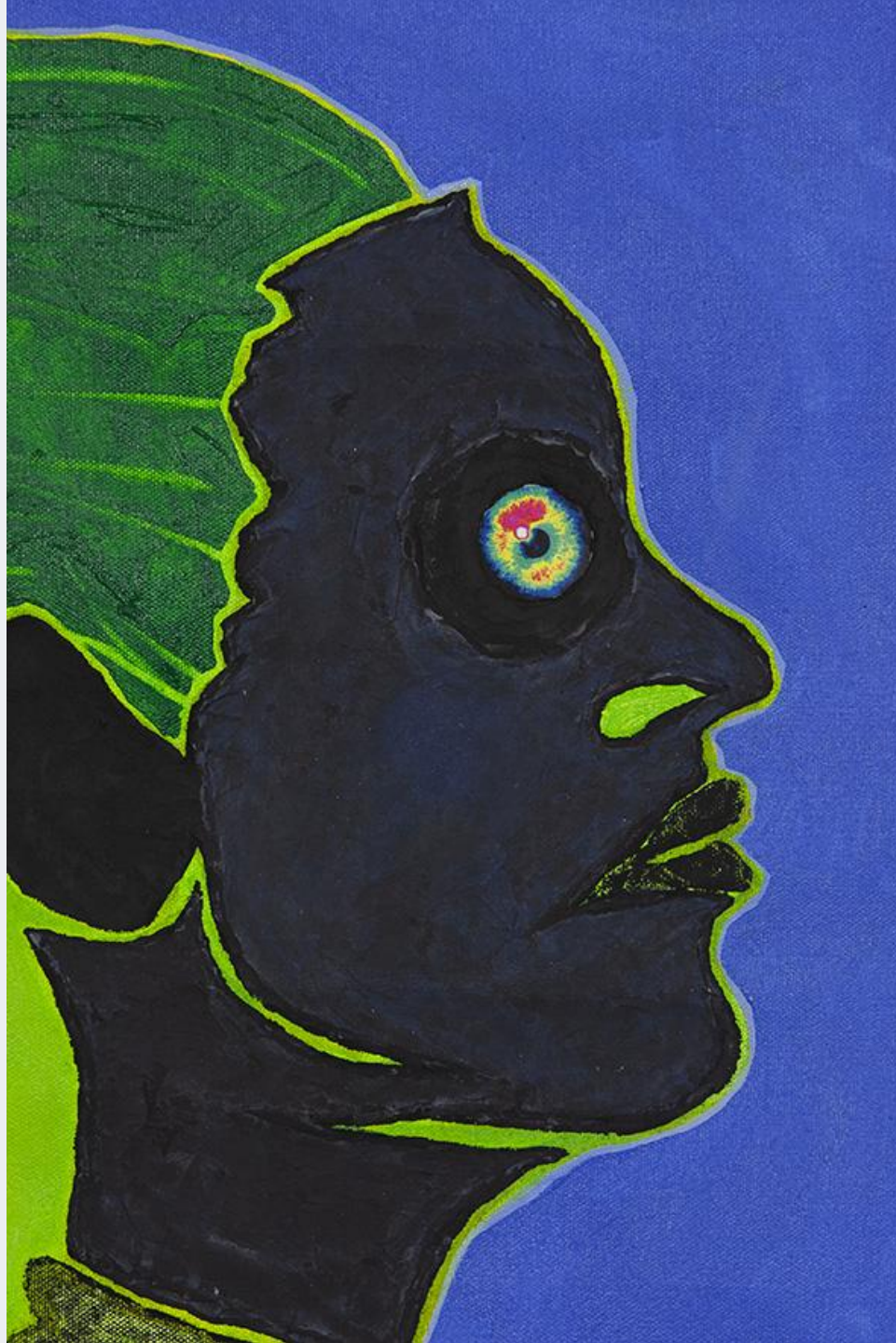




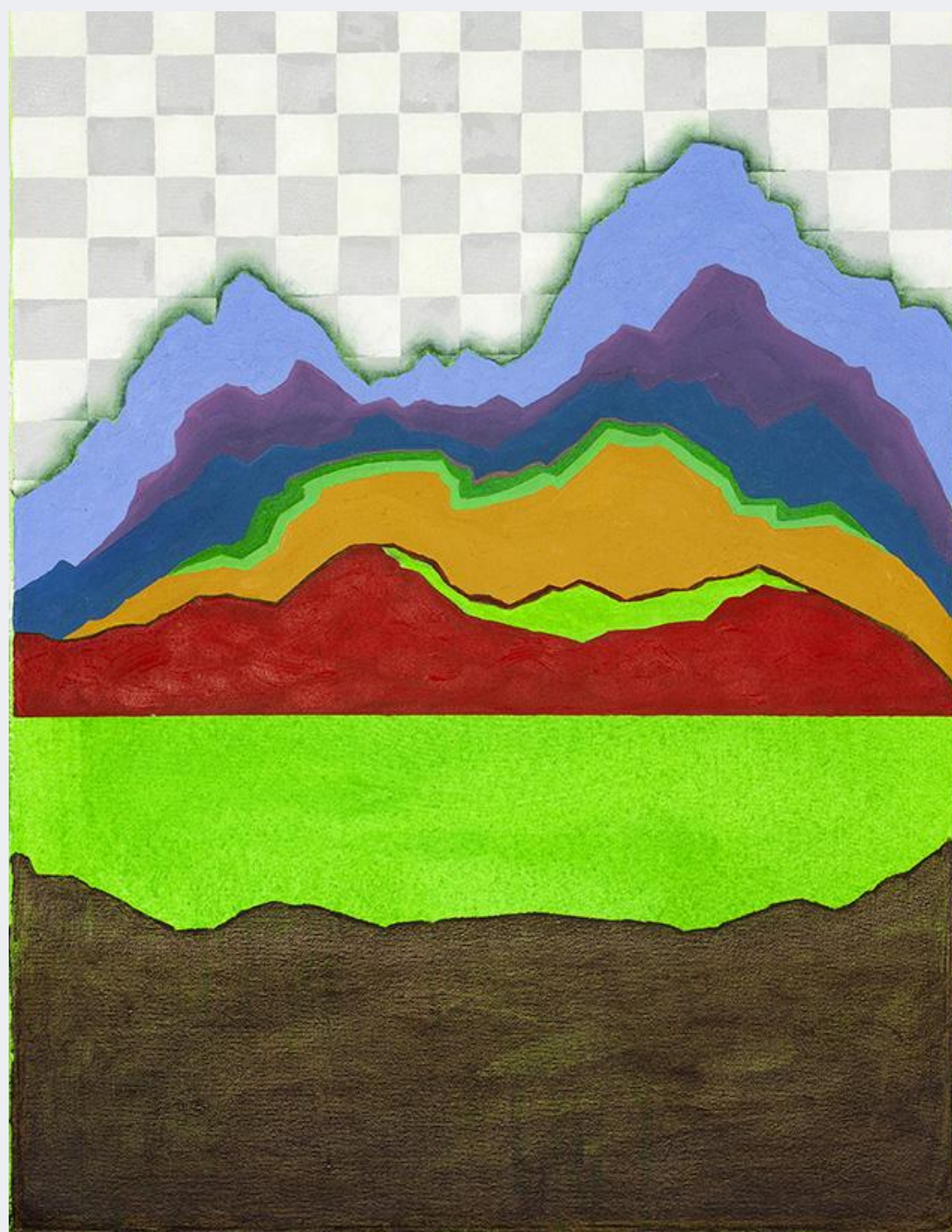
Untitled (Partial Head)

2021

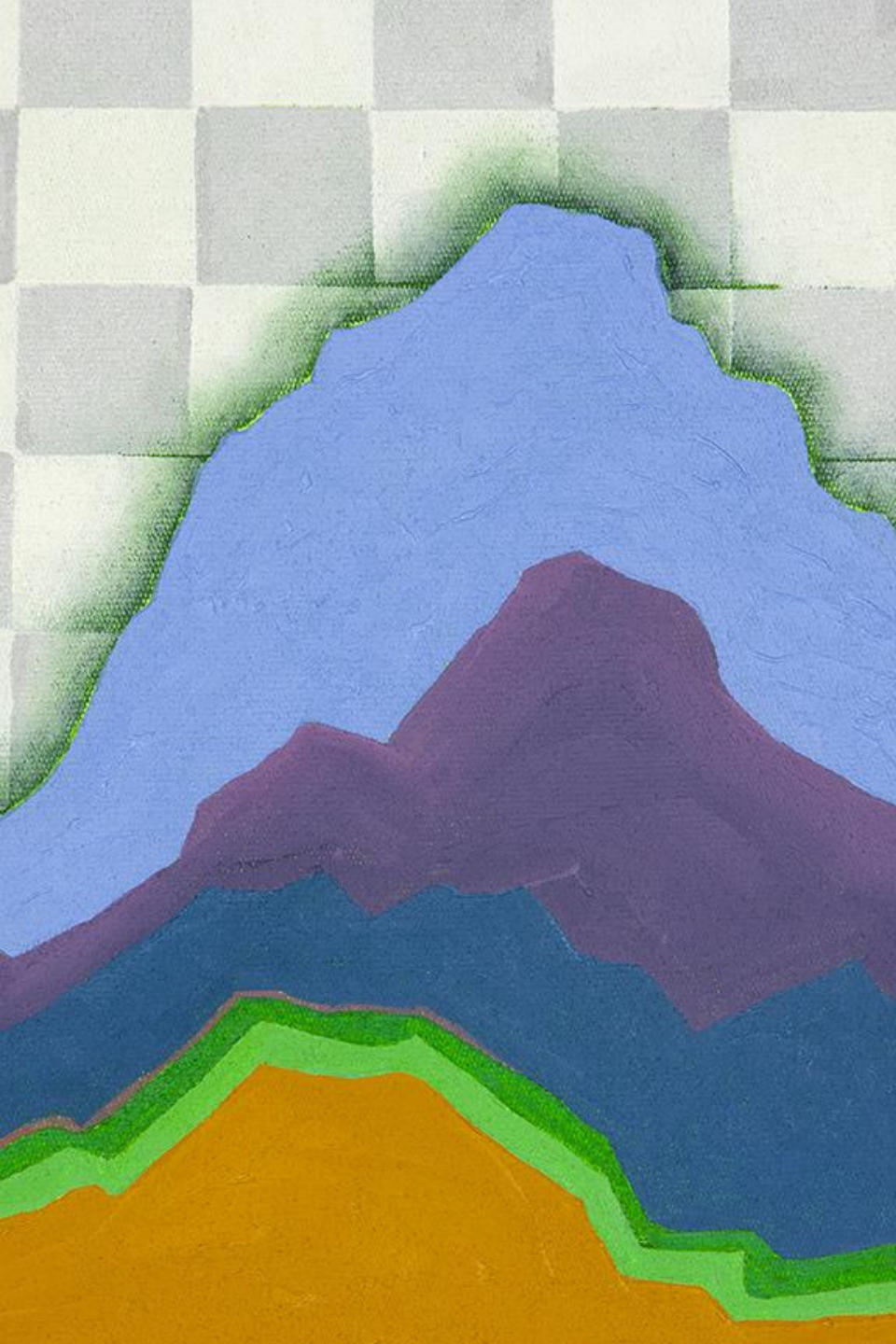
Shoe polish, oil, acrylic and collage on canvas
m



Detail - Untitled (Partial Head)



Lowe (Untitled)
2021
Oil, acrylic and shoe polish on canvas





Dithlare le di thunya go tsweng goo Tintibane II

2021

Oil and Acrylic on canvas

m