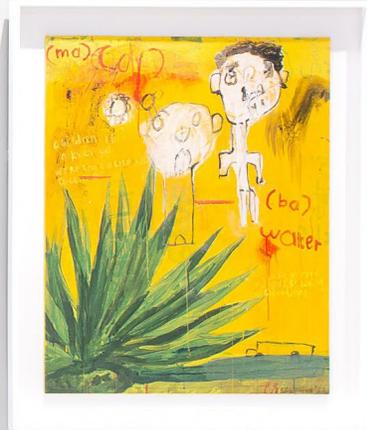
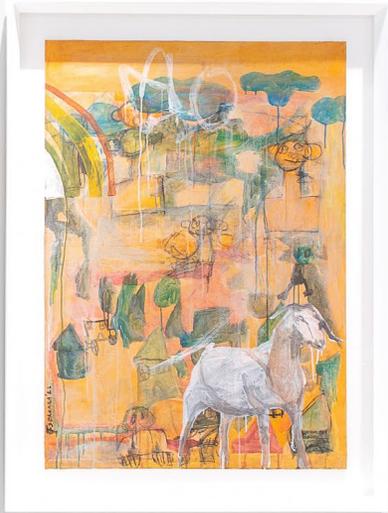
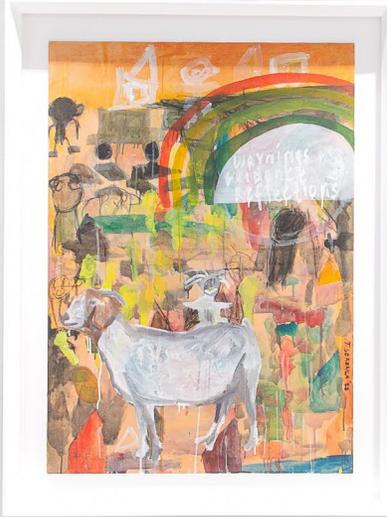
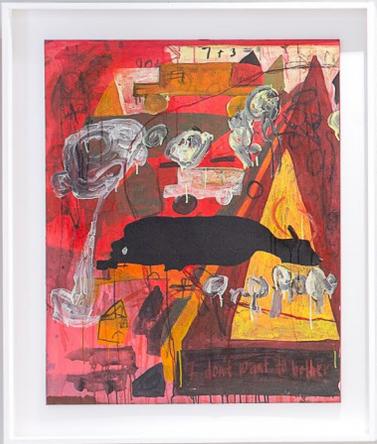


Candice Berman

Thapo Sekoaila
a memory of a dream, 2023





A MEMORY OF A DREAM

THAPO SEKOAILA

CANDICE BERMAN GALLERY

24th June – 7th July 2023

At the heart of this series lies the significance of the goat symbol in African culture. The goat has a rich and multifaceted meaning across various African traditions, representing qualities such as fertility, abundance, sacrifice, and spiritual power. Its presence in Sekoaila's work signifies a deep connection to the artist's cultural roots, evoking a sense of ancestral heritage and the cyclical nature of life. Moreover, the goat serves as a bridge between the physical and spiritual realms, embodying the divine and acting as a guide in the exploration of memory and dreams.

Sekoaila's deliberate choice to depict these scenes in a child-like manner carries profound implications. By employing a faux naif (simple or naïve) approach, he taps into the universal language of innocence, simplicity, and imagination that transcends cultural boundaries. The vivid colors and whimsical compositions evoke a sense of nostalgia, reminding us of the unbridled joy and curiosity we experienced in childhood. Through this lens, Sekoaila invites viewers to approach his works with a child-like openness, encouraging us to delve into our own memories and dreams, free from the constraints of adult rationality.

Sekoaila's masterful fusion of cultural symbolism, child-like aesthetics, and the evocative power of memory and dreams creates a visual narrative that speaks to the universal human experience. "Mohopolo le toro I (A Memory and a Dream)" invites us to explore the essence of our existence, reconnect with our roots, and unlock the transformative potential of our own memories and dreams. We invite you to immerse yourself in Sekoaila's enchanting world and embark on a deeply personal and introspective journey through this captivating series.

Candice Berman, 2023



THAPO SEKOAILA

Thapo Sekoaila, born in 1980 in Polokwane, South Africa, is a visual artist and curator currently living and working in Springs, east of Johannesburg. Sekoaila completed a National Diploma in Fine Arts at Wits Technikon in 2003, and further obtained a BTech FA, majoring in sculpture.

Sekoaila works in multimedia on canvas or paper, often producing works that are textured and multidimensional, with central human subjects becoming the conduit for the emotion the artist is exploring. The stylised faces and etched inscriptions that surround many of the figures speak of a deep yearning that connects to a past of struggle, as well as a future of hope.

The palette and mark-making techniques employed by Sekoaila suggest an eternal childlike experience of the world - where what is felt looms more imposingly than what is sensed or can be transmitted to the audience. When engaging with Sekoaila's oeuvre, the viewer is drawn back into their own vivid life of the mind, and the ghosts, dreams, memories that might dwell there.

In Sekoaila's recent works, the artist draws attention to the idea of memory, recalling, and finding clues to dreams. These dream representations mirror his worldview, which incorporates personal and cultural beliefs.





"I hardly remember my dreams or have any distinct recollections of the elements, narratives, or occurrences of most of my dreams. The failure to remember a dream when you wake up does not mean you weren't aware of it when it occurred. It just means the experience was never really carved into your memory, that the dream has decayed in storage, or is not accessible for adequate recollection."



Thapo Sekoaila (b.1980)

*Seipone (Mirror) & Koli ya le-Sangoma
(The Sangoma's Car), 2023*

Mixed media on canvas

100 x 80cm

F: 120 x 100 x 5cm





"Dreams are said to be experiences that are made up of images, thoughts, fears, movements, transcendence beyond ordinary limitations of space and time. Dream experiences tend to encapsulate extreme feelings of joy or fear, at times they are very vivid and direct, while at other times they tend to be a bit iffy.

Warnings
and
reflections

“Within African spirituality, it is believed that dreams, at times, can be encounters with and messages from our own ancestors, who serve as our guides and protectors”.



“Through his faux naif artistic style, vibrant colours, and the prominent inclusion of the goat symbol, Sekoaila invites us into a world where memories and dreams coalesce, intertwining cultural symbolism and child-like wonder.”



Thapo Sekoaila (b.1980)

*Mohopolo le toro (A memory
and a dream) I&II*, 2023

Mixed media on canvas

100 x 80cm

F: 120 x 100 x 5cm



In "Mohopolo le toro I (A Memory and a Dream)," Sekoaila skillfully juxtaposes elements of reality and fantasy, inviting us to question the boundaries between the two. The vibrant hues and dreamlike imagery challenge our perceptions and invite us to embark on a journey of introspection and self-discovery.

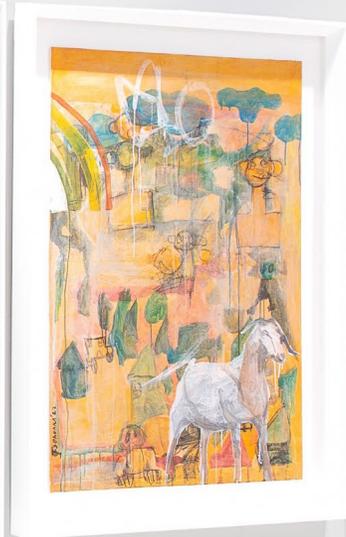
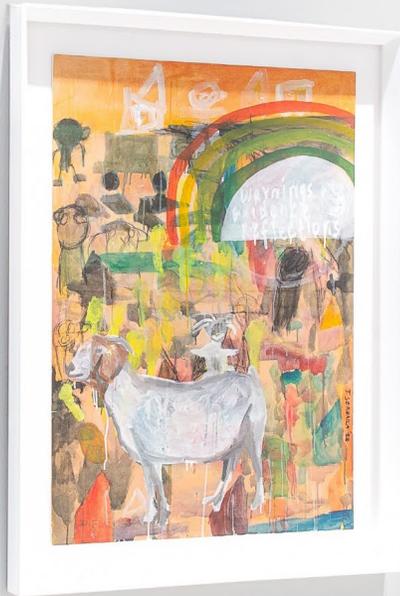


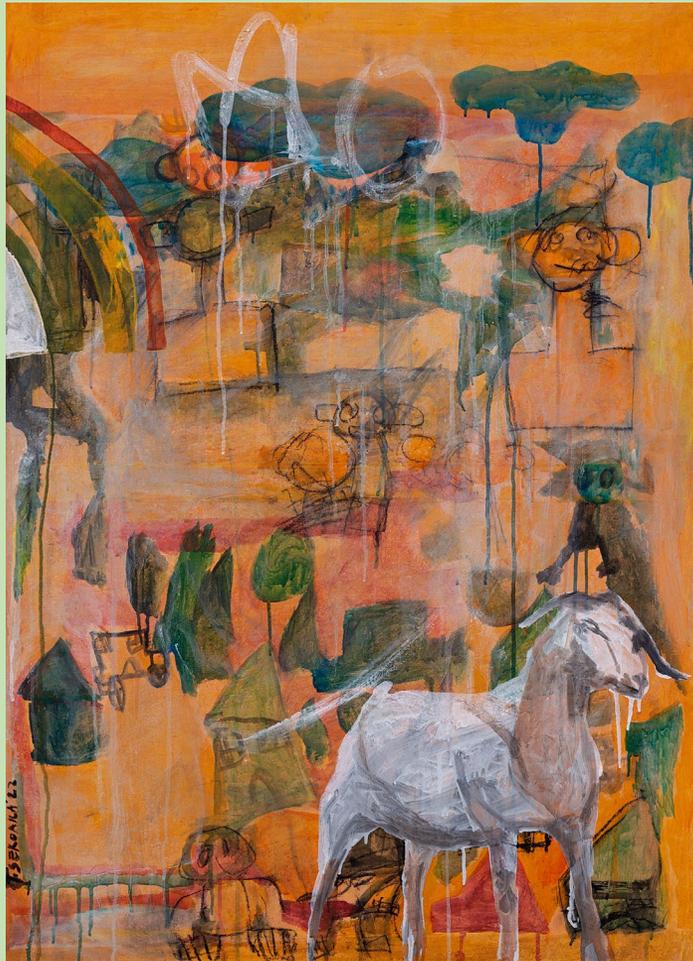
Through this body of work, the artist prompts us to reflect on the significance of memory and its relationship to our dreams, urging us to embrace the interplay of past and present in shaping our identities and aspirations.



MID

A LESSER GOD
AS GODS, AND LIKE ALL
GODS, DIE





Thapo Sekoaila (b.1980)

*Ba tla ditorong tšaka, 'ba' bolela le nna
(They come to my dreams, they speak to me), 2022*

Mixed media on canvas

118 x 83cm

F: 131x 105.5 x 8.5cm



Thapo Sekoaila Resume

Born, 1980, Limpopo Province, South Africa

Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa

Education

B Tech Degree: Fine Arts, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

National Diploma: Fine Arts, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Art Access Course: Academic Support Unit, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Solo Exhibitions

2023 A Memory of a Dream, Candice Berman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2022 Our Father/ s Who at in Heaven, The Art Room, Parkhurst, Johannesburg, South Africa

2004 Personal Migration, Group Exhibition by seven post-graduate's students from Wits Technikon, RAU Art Gallery, Auckland Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

2003 Wits Technikon Fourth Year Art Student Exhibition, Museum Africa, Newtown, South Africa

2003 ABSA L'atelier, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2002 ABSA L'atelier, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2002 Wits Technikon Third Year Art Student Exhibition, Museum Africa, Newtown, South Africa

Curatorial Projects

2015 - 2022 Curated solo and group exhibitions at the Turbine Art Fair with BLAQUE INQ

Contemporaries –

Community Arts Collective based in SA

2009 Public Art Survivor Johannesburg - Presented by the Visual Art Network of South Africa (VANSA Gauteng) in partnership with Art at Work (AAW), Trinity Session and the Joubert Park Project (JPP)

Workshop Projects

2019 Project Convener, ART-SOUNDS-PERFECT Series - Kgolofelo 'Steezy Stylish' Boshielo, Peggy Mapule Ntsepe (Creative Researcher) and Ntsikelelo Mzibomvu (Author, Speaker, and Coach) about the relationship between visual arts and digital music making and highlights collaborative energy that is happening in locations around the East Rand

Community Projects

2019 Project Co-Ordinator, New Breed Photo Series – Photography Exhibition, Workshop Talks - providing free and convenient community access to photography and the visual arts, to educate and create a dialogue between creatives and the public by taking the Art to the people, The Community Development Centre Kwa Thema (Monametsi Community Development Centre).

2003 Project Co-Ordinator, Cell C for the City



Candice Berman

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