

Strauss & Co
Africa's Leading Art Auction House


**STONEHAGE
FLEMING**



**GUIDE TO
AFRICAN ART**



GUIDE TO AFRICAN ART

African and Afro-diasporic
exhibitions, fairs and events in
Europe, United Kingdom and
United States

April to August 2026

PRESENTED BY

Strauss & Co and

Strauss&co



COVER: Isaac Julien, *All That Changes You. Metamorphosis*,
2025, installation view Palazzo Te, Mantua.

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND VICTORIA MIRO. PHOTO: ANDREA ROSSETTI / PALAZZO TE

Frank Bowling *Potarospray*, 1980,
acrylic on canvas, 116 x 81 x 5 cm, (detail).

COURTESY THE ARTIST. PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESS LITTLEWOOD.

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INTRODUCTION

Strauss & Co, Africa's leading art auction house, is proud to present this edition of The Guide to African Art. Now in its fourth edition, this publication highlights select art events taking place across Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States until September 2026.

At Strauss & Co, education is a cornerstone of our business. We are privileged to work with and champion many talented artists from Africa whom you will find featured in this guide, and we are thrilled to see their presence expanding globally, with a rich and diverse array of exhibitions at museums, galleries and art fairs in the months ahead.

Among our activities, we are presenting the educational, non-selling exhibition *Artist Proof Studio at 35: A Continuing Commitment to Artists, Access and Excellence* (until 17 April 2026) at our Johannesburg gallery and salesroom. In May, we return to Venice as sponsor of the African Art in Venice Forum (5 May 2026), alongside the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. The Forum takes place during the professional week of the 61st Venice Biennale, which includes a significant number of African artists in the main exhibition, *In Minor Keys*, curated by the late Koyo Kouoh.

Strauss & Co presents numerous live auctions every year from our flagship offices in Johannesburg and Cape Town, complemented by regular online auctions that attract buyers from across five continents. In May, we are presenting two notable single-owner collections during Johannesburg Auction Week (25–27 May 2026). We are offering art from the collection of legendary South African auctioneer Stephan Welz, a founding director of Strauss & Co. We are also presenting Lalique glassware, ceramics and art acquired by Durban patron of the arts Vera Dubin.

Notwithstanding a challenging global backdrop, Strauss & Co delivered steady growth in 2025, driven by an expanded auction programme, strong demand for exceptional works, and the continued diversification of our collecting categories. We achieved sales of R475.5m / \$28m from 6 927 lots sold, an increase of 26% over 2024. This growth stems in part from the sustained growth in international buyers.

We extend our sincere thanks to Stonehage Fleming for their generous sponsorship of this guide and their steadfast commitment to supporting art and artists on a global stage.

Bina Genovese

Executive Director, Strauss & Co

Marketing, Business Development and Client Advisory

Strauss&co



ARTCLUB

MESSAGE FROM OUR PARTNER

At Stonehage Fleming, we have the privilege of advising some of the world's leading families and wealth creators. With a commitment to protecting and managing wealth across generations and geographies, we embrace the values that foster family harmony and success: integrity, excellence and trust. As one of the few international, multi-family offices to offer independent, in-house collection management services, we are dedicated to the care and strategic growth of our clients' art collections

Our expertise encompasses art advisory, collection management and strategic planning, all guided by a commitment to long-term value and sustainability. At the heart of our work, however, lies a deep passion for art. We are proud to celebrate, support and safeguard the work of artists – past and present.

Stonehage Fleming's roots in South Africa have played a significant role in shaping our perspective. Our longstanding relationships with African families have deepened our appreciation of the rich diversity and vibrant history of African art. Now in its fourth edition, this guide – produced in partnership with Strauss & Co – has expanded considerably in scope. It brings together art and artists from across Africa and the African diaspora, reflecting a wide range of geographies and perspectives. We hope it will both inform and inspire our readers, just as it continues to inspire us.

Maria de Peverelli

Partner and Executive Chairman
Stonehage Fleming Art Management

VENICE BIENNALE

2026

The 2026 Venice Biennale, a place to marvel and dream

The 61st Venice Biennale (9 May – 22 November 2026) comes into focus through a distinctly African lens, anchored by *In Minor Keys*, conceived by the late Cameroonian-born curator Koyo Kouoh. The first African woman appointed artistic director, Kouoh framed artists as ‘the vital interpreters of the social and psychic condition and catalysts of new relations and possibilities’.

Following her death in May 2025, her curatorial team has taken on the difficult posthumous task of realising a project attuned to the ‘sensate’ and ‘affective’, inviting visitors to ‘marvel, meditate, dream, revel, reflect and commune’. The curatorial emphasis falls less on monumentality than on material intelligence, embodied knowledge and quieter, durational forms, with a notable gender balance.

Staged across the Giardini and Arsenale, *In Minor Keys* includes more than 40 African and Afro-descendant artists, among them Sammy Baloji, Torkwase Dyson, Nicholas Hlobo, Thania Petersen, Johannes Phokela, Tabita Rezaire, Buhlebezwe Siwani and Billie Zangewa. Some, like Hlobo, Wangechi Mutu and Berni Searle are return exhibitors to the headline central pavilion. Others, like Petersen, Phokela, Alfredo Jaar, Otobong Nkanga, Tuán Andrew Nguyễn and Cauleen Smith previously exhibited at Zeitz MOCAA, where Kouoh was chief curator.



The Central Pavilion in the Giardini. PHOTO: FRANCESCO GALLI

Otobong Nkanga

'I am interested in opening up ways of understanding material.'

Nigerian-born, Antwerp-based artist and performer Otobong Nkanga – who will appear in the main exhibition at the 61st Venice Biennale (9 May – 22 November 2026) – examines the entanglements of land, natural resources and the body through a multidisciplinary practice spanning drawing, tapestry, installation and performance. Her works often incorporate plants, stones and other haptic materials, foregrounding the substances that compose lived environments. Nkanga resists privileging sight alone, engaging touch, smell and sound in projects, such as a Hamburg installation using coffee, peat, tea and tobacco, and soap for her Documenta installation in 2017. 'I am interested in opening up ways of understanding material,' she says, 'not only as something we use, but for what it means, their interconnectedness.' MCBA Lausanne is hosting a career-spanning survey of her practice, titled I dreamt of you in colours (until 23 August 2026).



Otobong Nkanga, *Emptied remains (Waiting to migrate)*, 2005–15. COURTESY THE ARTIST



Otobong Nkanga, *Reflections on the Raw Green Crown*, 2014. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND MCBA LUASANNE



Map of West Africa in Palazzo da Mosto, Venice. PHOTO: SEAN O'TOOLE

Egypt, Morocco and Zimbabwe fly the flag of Africa

National participation is reduced this year. Egypt, Morocco and Zimbabwe have pavilions, down from ten African pavilions in 2024. South Africa's pavilion is empty following the controversial cancellation of Gabrielle Goliath's proposal by a cabinet minister. Her rejected work is showing in the Chiesa di Sant'Antonin in Castello.

Armen Agop, an Egyptian-Armenian artist based in Pietrasanta, represents Egypt. He makes abstract, minimalist sculptures using granite, basalt and bronze covered in brown and black patina. Zimbabwe's pavilion, curated by Fadzai Veronica Muchemwa, includes Gideon Gomo, Eva Raath, Franklyn Dzingai, Felix Shumba and Pardon Mapondera. Shumba is best known for his charcoal drawings, a medium inspired by his time in Johannesburg, while Cape Town-based Mapondera makes trailing wall-hung sculptures incorporating plastic straws, thread and plastic beads.

Elsewhere, Lubaina Himid, born in the Zanzibar Sultanate, takes over the British Pavilion, while Kenyan-born painter Michael Armitage is the subject of an early-career survey at Palazzo Grassi (until 10 January 2027). These exhibitions across Venice are expected to realise Kouoh's ambition of stilling 'the anxious cacophony of the present chaos raging through the world' by tuning audiences into joy, solace, hope and transcendence – 'the frequencies of the minor keys.'



Gabrielle Goliath's film installation *Personal Accounts* (2024) in the Giardini at the 2024 Venice Biennale.

Michael Armitage

A three-way dialogue between artists in Nairobi

In November 2019, Kenyan-born artist Michael Armitage's painting The Conservationists (2015) sold for \$1.52 million at Sotheby's New York, over 21 times its high estimate. His career has been in overdrive since. Two exhibitions spotlight his achievements and influences. In Venice, at Palazzo Grassi (until 10 January 2027), the Pinault Collection presents paintings and drawing from the past decade. Displayed in a thematic sequence, they trace the persistent subjects and narrative strategies defining his practice. Travelling to Nairobi from Kunsthau Bregenz, the exhibition Michael Armitage, Maria Lassnig, Chelenge Van Rampelberg, at the Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute (until 5 May 2026), showcases his work in dialogue with two seminal influences. Armitage considers Austria's Lassnig one of the most important painters of all time, while Kenyan sculptor Van Rampelberg is long-time mentor, teacher and friend of the artist. Armitage, the founder of Nairobi art institute, shaped the selection of works.



Michael Armitage. PHOTO BY MIRO KUZMANOVIC COURTESY OF KUNSTHAUS BREGENZ



Michael Armitage, *Mydas*, 2019. PHOTO MARKUS TRETTER COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND WHITE CUBE



African Art in Venice Forum 2026

Beyond Visibility: A Method of Inquiry

Hotel Monaco & Grand Canal, Venice.

5 May 2026

A collaboration between African Art Dialogues, Strauss & Co and the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, this free discursive forum – founded in 2017 and held during the professional week of the Venice Biennale – addresses contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas. The theme is ‘Beyond Visibility: A Method of Inquiry.’ Artists, curators, scholars, collectors and institutions will discuss who is seen, how narratives are constructed and histories are written, and the role of institutions in framing, categorising and preserving meaning. ‘The Forum recognises the lack of African country pavilion representation at the Venice Biennale and creates a space of coming together for artists, curators and audiences,’ says Kate Fellens of Strauss & Co. This year’s edition is distinguished by the involvement of the Washington-based museum, a storied institution founded in 1964 that serves as ‘an artist-centred platform for discussions about the meanings of ‘Africa’ and ‘art,’ notes Kevin D. Dumouchelle, a curator at the museum. Forum founder Neri Torcello emphasises collaboration, sustained dialogue and mutual listening as essential tools for engaging a field shaped by overlapping temporalities and fluid cultural affiliations.

www.aavforum.com



African Art in Venice Forum 2024

EXHIBITIONS

Veronica Ryan

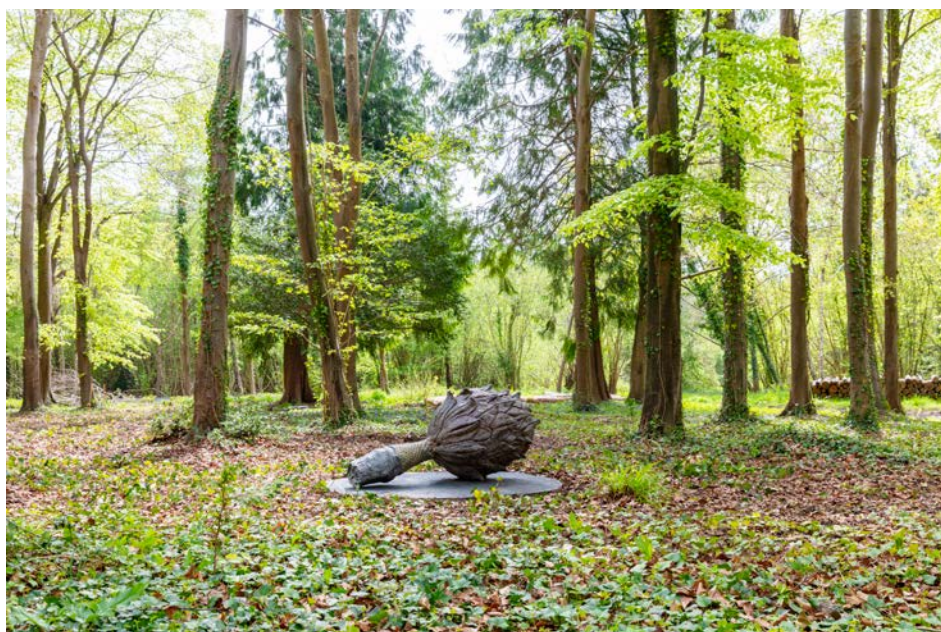
Multiple Conversations

Whitechapel Gallery, London

Until 14 June 2026

Born on the Caribbean island of Montserrat and raised in England, 2022 Turner Prize winner Veronica Ryan creates meticulously handcrafted work using a wide range of materials, including bronze, plaster, marble, textile and found objects. Encompassing more than 100 works, this exhibition draws on every aspect of her practice, revealing her multifaceted work across sculpture, textiles and works on paper. It includes recently rediscovered works from the 1980s, among them large-scale sculptures made from plaster and beaten lead, revealing enduring artistic interests across her career.

www.whitechapelgallery.org



Veronica Ryan
Multiple Entry Points, 2022
Upholstery tape, pins, sculpey | 30 × 30 × 5,5 cm
© VERONICA RYAN | COURTESY ALISON JACQUES AND PAULA COOPER GALLERY, NEW YORK | PHOTO MICHAEL BRZEZINKSI

Veronica Ryan
Untitled (Magnolia Pod), 2024
Bronze | 73.7 × 160 cm
Collection of Lorenzo Legarda Leviste and Fahad Mayet
© VERONICA RYAN | COURTESY GOODWOOD ART FOUNDATION
PHOTO LUCY DAWKINS

Various artists

Project a Black Planet: The Art and Culture of Panafrica

Barbican Art Gallery, London

11 June – 6 September 2026

The term pan-Africanism refers to a broad spectrum of political and philosophical movements advocating anti-colonial resistance and transnational solidarity amongst peoples of African descent. Long recognised as a galvanising force in 20th-century global history, *Project a Black Planet* is nonetheless the first exhibition to consider the reciprocal relationship between art and pan-Africanism. This globe-spanning showcase, overseen by curator Elvira Dyangani Ose, includes contemporary titans Chris Ofili, Marlene Dumas and Kerry James Marshall.

www.barbican.org.uk



David Hammons, *African American Flag*, 1990

© ARS, NY AND DACS, LONDON 2026. PHOTO © WHITE CUBE (FRANKIE TYSKA)



Abdias Nascimento, *Simbiose Africana nº 3*, 1973. MUSEU DE ARTE NEGRA [BLACK ART MUSEUM] IPEAFRO COLLECTION



Wifredo Lam, *Mere et enfant*, 1947. © WIFREDO LAM ARCHIVES, PARIS (1)



Ernest Mancoba, *Untitled*, 1980. COURTESY OF THE FERLOV MANCOBA



Simone Leigh, *Dunham*, 2017. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO © 2017 SIMONE LEIGH. PHOTO JONATHAN MATHIAS

Elvira Dyangani Ose

'Notice what draws your attention, and stay with it.'

Spanish-born curator Elvira Dyangani Ose, of Equatorial Guinean heritage, has built an international profile shaped by institutional leadership and a sustained engagement with contemporary art. Before her appointment as artistic director of the second Abu Dhabi Public Art Biennial, opening in late 2026, she led Barcelona's MACBA for five years. She previously worked at Tate Modern in London and later directed The Showroom. Her curatorial projects include solo exhibitions with Theaster Gates, Nástio Mosquito and Betye Saar at the Prada Foundation. She is co-curator of Project a Black Planet: The Art and Culture of Panafrika, a major travelling exhibition examining the influence of pan-Africanism on artistic and cultural production at London's Barbican Art Gallery (11 June – 6 September 2026). 'I always encourage people to stroll through a museum,' she says. 'Simply notice what draws your attention without necessarily assessing why, and stay with it.'



Elvira Dyangani Ose. PHOTO MACBA



Elvira Dyangani Ose. PHOTO EMMA RAHMANI, COURTESY OF ART BASEL

Isaac Julien

All That Changes You. Metamorphosis

The Cosmic House, London

22 April – 18 December 2026

This site-specific installation incorporates a new single-screen film, *Metamorphosis*, made specifically for The Cosmic House, a Grade 1-listed house in Holland Park. The film incorporates footage of the property, designed by architectural historian Charles Jencks, as well as California's redwood forests, a house in the Cotswolds, and the frescoed interiors of Palazzo Te, a suburban villa in the northern Italian city of Mantua that was designed and decorated by Giulio Romano. The film is based on a ten-screen film presented at Palazzo Te in 2025, the year of its 500th anniversary.

www.thecosmichouse.org

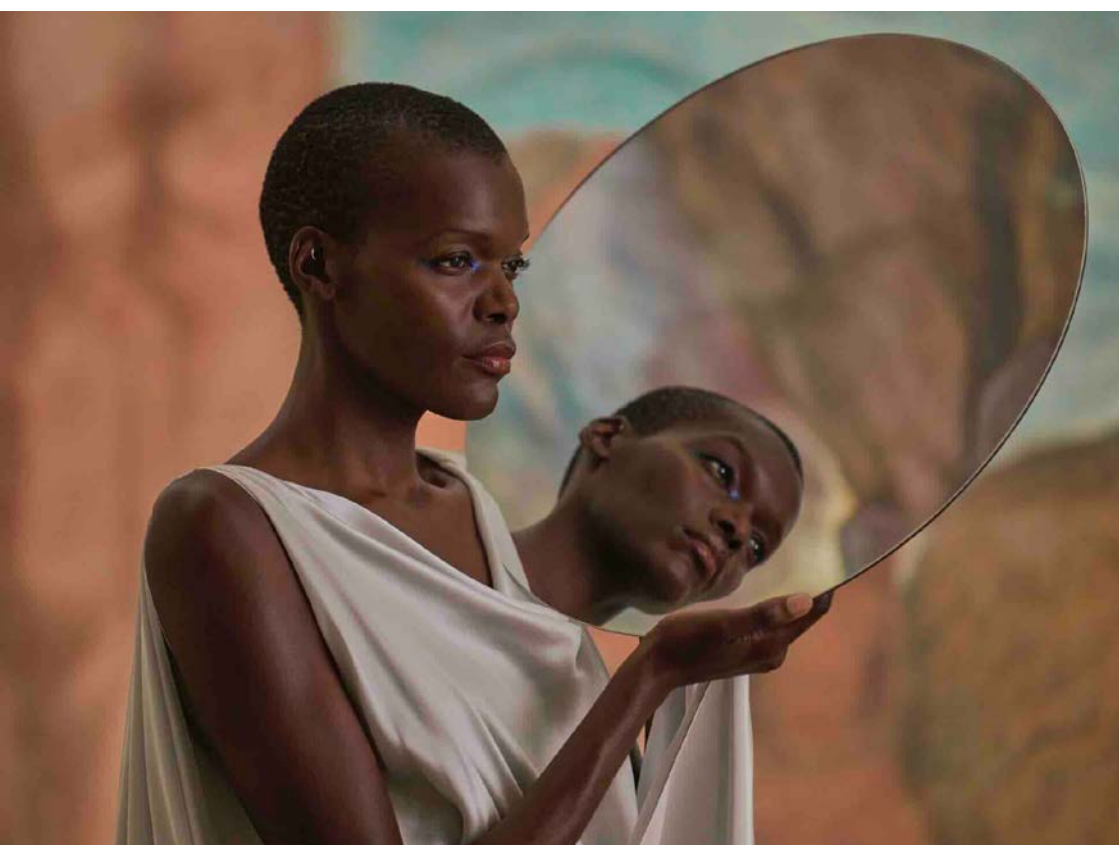


Installation view, Isaac Julien, *All That Changes You. Metamorphosis*, 2025 | Palazzo Te, Mantua

© ISAAC JULIEN. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND VICTORIA MIRO PHOTO: ANDREA ROSSETTI / PALAZZO TE



Isaac Julien, *Metamorphosis I (All That Changes You. Metamorphosis)*, 2025 | Inkjet Print on Ilford Gold Fibre Gloss mounted on aluminium | 150 x 200 cm. © ISAAC JULIEN. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND VICTORIA MIRO



Isaac Julien, *Satellite (All That Changes You. Metamorphosis)*, 2025 | Inkjet Print on Ilford Gold Fibre Gloss mounted on aluminium | 110 x 147 cm. © ISAAC JULIEN. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND VICTORIA MIRO

Frank Bowling

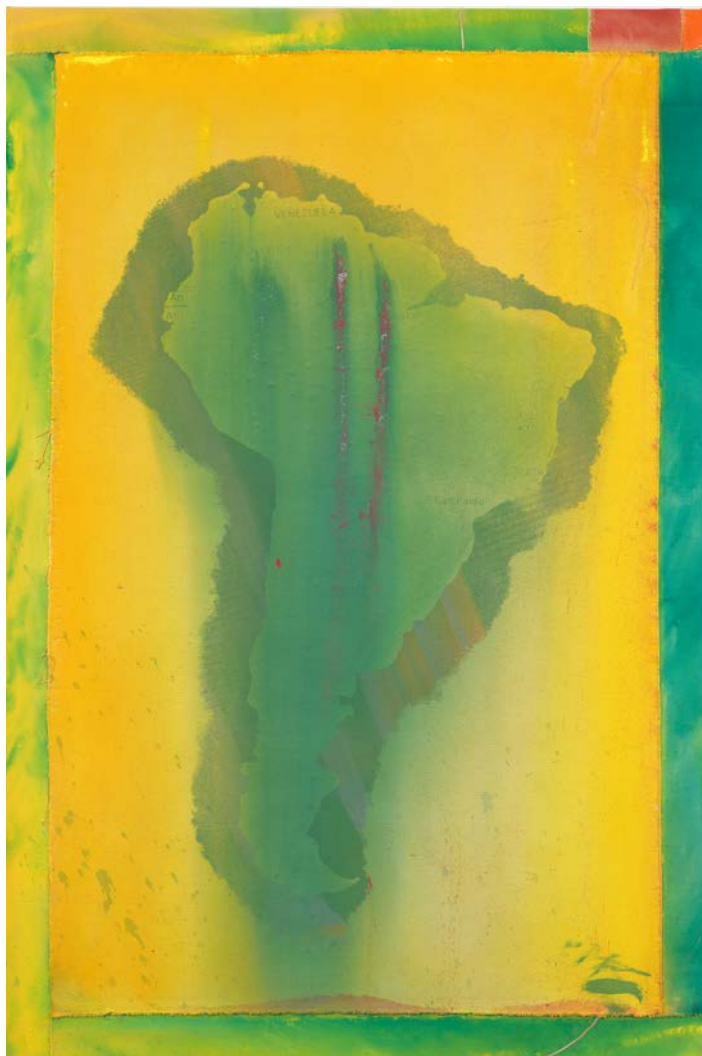
Seeking the Sublime

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

Until 17 January 2027

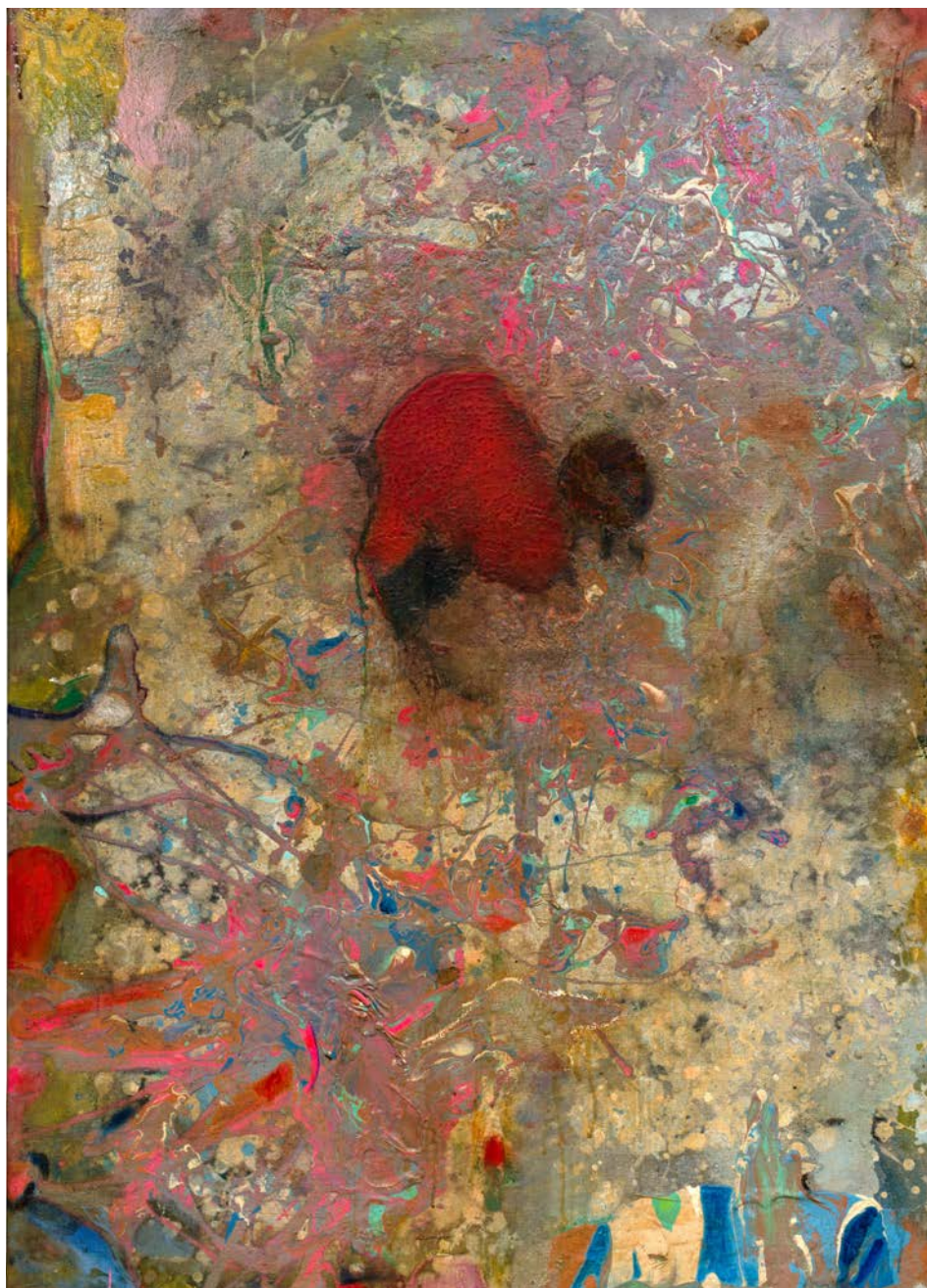
Guyana-born Frank Bowling moved to London in 1953, studying at the Royal College of Art, where he befriended David Hockney. Visits to New York in the 1960s led to a move there in 1966, before returning to London in the mid 1970s. He sustained a transatlantic practice for decades, working between studios in both cities. This survey charts his evolution from figurative painter in the early 1960s to grand master of colour-field abstraction in the present. It includes previously unseen works from the past five years.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk



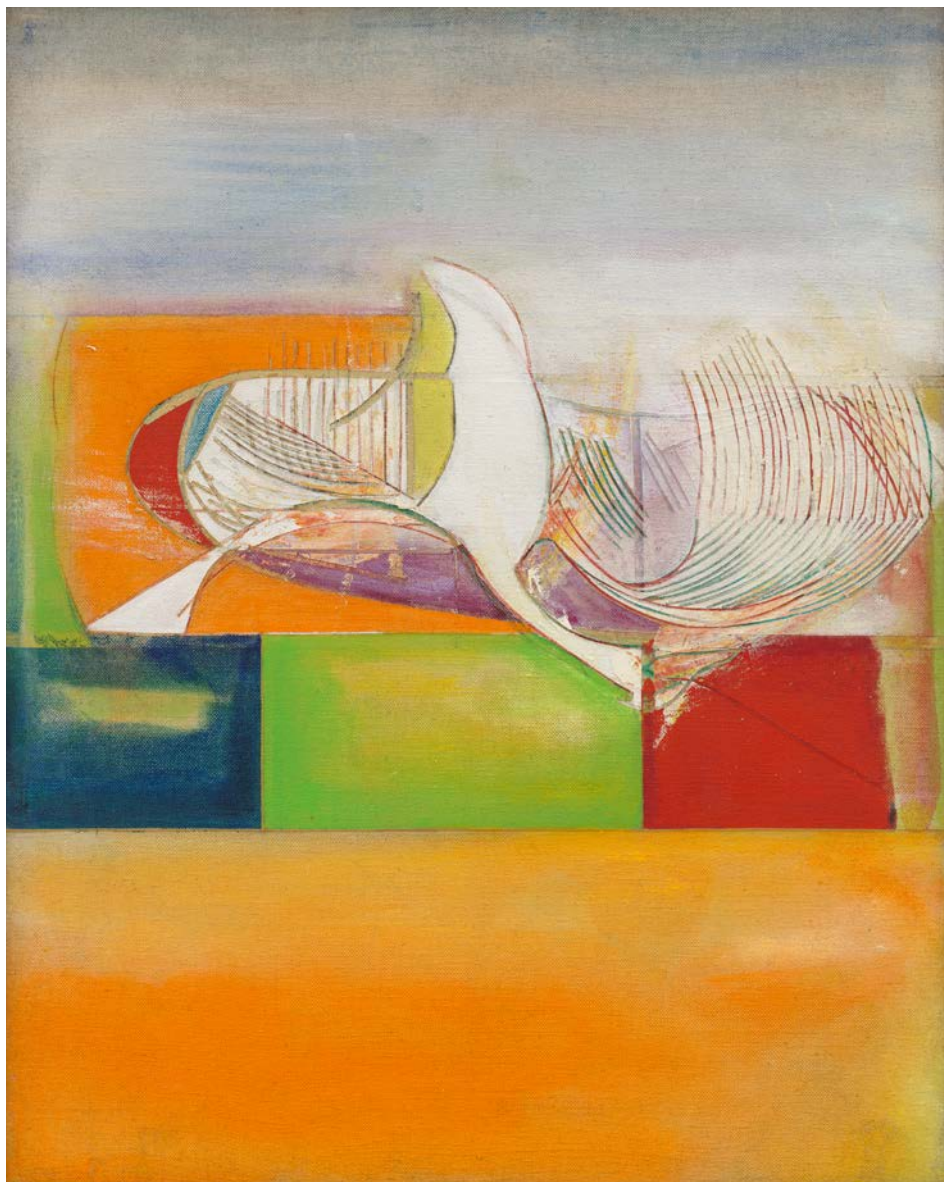
Yellow Map, 2025, acrylic on canvas with marouflage, 161.5 x 107.3 x 4.5 cm.

COURTESY THE ARTIST. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNA ARCA. © FRANK BOWLING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, DACS 2025



Potarospray, 1980, acrylic on canvas, 116 x 81 x 5 cm.

COURTESY THE ARTIST. PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESS LITTLEWOOD. © FRANK BOWLING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, DACS 2025



Swan, 1964, oil on canvas, 50,5 x 40,4 x 1,1 cm.

COURTESY THE ARTIST. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNA ARCA. © FRANK BOWLING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED, DACS 2025

Donald Locke

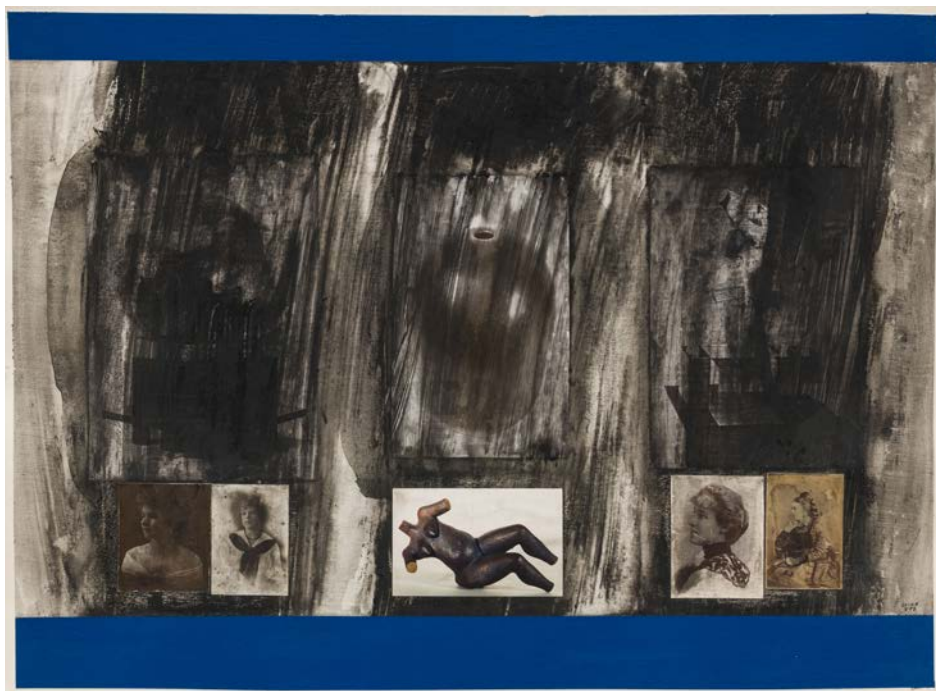
Resistant Forms

Camden Art Centre, London

10 April – 30 August 2026

This comprehensive survey of Guyanese-British artist Donald Locke (1930–2010) travels from Birmingham to London and explores his practice in Guyana, the UK and the United States. The exhibition includes his early biomorphic ceramics evocative of human and natural forms; mixed-media sculpture and paintings from the *Plantation Series*; large-scale paintings that incorporate found images along with ceramic, metal and wood elements; as well as examples of his late work made in Atlanta, influenced by the assemblage traditions of the American South.

www.ikon-gallery.org



Georgia Peach #2, 1993. Acrylic, photograph collage, magazine cutting on paper.

COURTESY ESTATE OF DONALD LOCKE AND ALISON JACQUES © ESTATE OF DONALD LOCKE. PHOTO: MICHAEL BRZEZINSKI

Igshaan Adams

Between Then and Now

Mudam, Luxembourg

Until 23 August 2026

Comprising more than 60 works produced over the past decade, this is the largest to date to survey the output of this in-demand South African textile artist. At the heart of the exhibition is the gold cloud installation *Gebedswolke iii* (2025), specifically conceived by the artist for Mudam. The exhibition opens with an expansive installation of textile samples which visitors are invited to touch, welcoming them into Adams' collective process. It also includes a new large-scale environmental installation of his dance prints.

www.mudam.com



Igshaan Adams Workshop with Garage Dance Ensemble. ZEITZ MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART AFRICA, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 2022 © IGSHAAN ADAMS. COURTESY THE ARTIST, THOMAS DANE GALLERY AND BLANK PROJECTS PHOTO: LINDSEY APPOLIS

In summary

Other exhibitions to diarise

Marilyn Nance: *Spirit Faith Grace Rage*

Melly, Rotterdam

Until 26 April 2026,

www.kunststituutmelly.nl

This exhibition presents five decades of Nance's documentary photos describing African American life, community, faith and activism since the 1970s.

Various Artists: *Nigerian Modernism*

Tate Modern, London

Until 10 May 2026, www.tate.org.uk

Comprising over 250 works by more than 50 artists the exhibition traces 50 years of modern art in Nigeria, from the 1940s to the late 20th century.

Various Artists: *Hip Hop Is*

Groninger Museum, Groningen

Until 10 May 2026,

www.groningermuseum.nl

Photographs, painting, sculpture and graffiti by Arthur Jafa, Rammellzee, Jamel Shabazz, Martha Cooper and others explore hip hop's sizable influence on art.

Tizta Berhanu: *Love Is A Practice*

Tiwani Contemporary, London

Until 16 May 2026, www.tiwani.co.uk

Mentored by modernist painter Tadesse Mesfin, Addis-based Berhanu's entangled female figures inhabit colour-drenched dreamscapes.

Jack Whitten: *Jack Whitten*

Dia Beacon, New York

Until 18 May 2026, www.diaart.org

Suite of recently acquired black-and-white works on paper that commemorate definitive shift in Whitten's studio methods in 1970.



Tizta Berhanu, *Olive sisters*, 2024. COURTESY ARTIST AND TIWANI CONTEMPORARY



Jo Ractliffe, *Man Maintaining the Lawn of Monumento de Agostinho Neto*, 2007. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND STEVENSON



Jo Ractliffe, *Nadir 16*, 1988. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND STEVENSON



Buhlebezwe Siwani *Inkanyamba*, 2021 soap, pigment and resin on canvas. COURTESY AKZONOBEL ART FOUNDATION, AMSTERDAM

Jo Ractliffe: *Out of Place*

Jeu de Paume, Paris

Until 24 May 2026, www.jeudepaume.org

This survey of the boundary-pushing South African photographer focuses on her interest in aftermath, and includes over 100 previously unseen photos.

Buhlebezwe Siwani: *uYana umhlaba*

Consonni Radziszewski, Milan

Until 30 May 2026,

www.consonniradziszewski.com

The Netherlands-based South African artist presents new mixed-media paintings that abstractedly invoke landscapes from Johannesburg and the Eastern Cape.

Ndidi Dike: *Rare Earth Rare Justice*

Secession, Vienna

Until 31 May, 2026, www.secession.at

This British-Nigerian artist uses found objects, photographs and sculptural elements to investigate cobalt extraction in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Camille Norment: *Lemma Dilemma*

Galleri F 15, Moss, Norway

Until 7 June 2026: www.gallerif15.no

Following on her Studio Museum commission, a sculptural installation in the stairwell, this versatile Oslo-based American artist presents new sound work.

William Kentridge: *L'Orfeo*

Glyndebourne Opera Festival, Lewes, East Sussex,

14 June – 25 July 2026:

www.glyndebourne.com

This new staging of Monteverdi's baroque masterpiece *L'Orfeo* (1607) marks a significant return to the operatic canon for Kentridge.

Various Artists: *Ideas of Africa: Portraiture and Political Imagination*

Museum of Modern Art, New York
Until 25 July 2026, www.moma.org

Using photography, the exhibition considers the transatlantic call and response that constructed Africa as a political idea.

Yinka Shonibare: *Legion of Honor 100*

Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Until 26 July 2026, www.famsf.org

First major museum exhibition on the US West Coast for this pioneering British-Nigerian artist is an episodic adventure.

Ravelle Pillay: *Proof Life*

National Portrait Gallery, London

Until 3 August 2026, www.npg.org.uk

South African painter Pillay's new paintings include portraits of her English great-great grandfather and his Indian wife.

Virginia Chihota: *Kupinduka*

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain

Until 6 September 2026, www.caac.es

Paintings, drawings and large-format works on paper by this Zimbabwean artist engage themes in the work of writers Fernando Pessoa and Dambudzo Marechera.

The Otolith Group: *A Flock of Keen-Eyed and Far-Seeing Magpies*

Ibraaz, London

Until 6 September 2026,

www.ibraaz.org

Library-in-Residence artists Anjalika Sagar and Kodwo Eshun brings together selected materials related to their three decades as The Otolith Group.



Virginia Chihota, *Kupinduka*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville.



Installation views of *América – Diasporic Connections* in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, with work by Yinka Shonibare, (above). COURTESY CENTRO ANDALUZ DE ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO (CAAC), SEVILLE



Zohra Opoku: *We Proceed in the Footsteps of the Sunlight*

Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town
Until 4 October 2026,

www.zeitzmocaa.museum

Accra-based Zohra Opoku's first museum survey highlights the intimate relationship between cloth and the body.

Various artists: *América: Diasporic Connections in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Seville
Until 10 January 2027, www.caac.es

Exhibition explores resonances between artists from the Americas and Africa, including Theaster Gates, Zizipho Poswa and Barthélémy Togo.

Jorge M. and Darlene Pérez

'Art has the unique power to connect people.'

Miami-based philanthropists and collectors Jorge M. and Darlene Pérez have assembled a far-reaching collection shaped by instinct and sustained engagement. Born in Buenos Aires to Cuban parents, Jorge began collecting in the early 1970s, acquiring a lithograph by Man Ray as his first purchase. In 2019, he opened El Espacio 23, a private museum in Miami housing a growing body of work that includes textiles by Igshaan Adams, Abdoulaye Konaté and Esther Mahlangu. 'I follow my instincts and buy only what I truly love,' he has said, resisting market-driven 'hype' in favour of emotional resonance. The Pérezs are also notable lenders (see listings, p. X) and benefactors. In 2025, they donated 36 works by artists from Africa and its diaspora to Tate and endowed a curatorial post for African art. 'Art has the unique power to connect people across geographies, histories and experiences,' Jorge said.



Darlene Pérez (left) and Jorge M. Pérez. PHOTO: RELATED GROUP

ART FAIRS

ART FAIRS

Frieze New York

The Shed, New York

13–17 May 2026

This fair's 14th edition includes many blue-chip galleries, albeit only two from Africa: Stevenson (SA/ Holland) and Southern Guild (SA/ USA), which represents ceramicist Zizopho Poswa, whose work offers bold invocations of African womanhood. The global downturn in primary-market sales has prompted fairs to pivot. This year sees a significant Latin American presence, including galleries like Mendes Wood DM, which represents Afro-descendent artists like Alvaro Barrington, Julien Creuzet, Coco Fusco and Paulo Nazareth. This year's Focus section, dedicated to solo presentations from galleries operating for 12 years or fewer, includes galleries from Buenos Aires, Mexico City, São Paulo, London, Biarritz and New York.

www.frieze.com



Patrick Bongoy, *Barred Spiral*,
2026, found inner rubber tubes,
tyre valves & timber board. COURTESY

LEA CRAFFORD, SOUTHERN GUILD

ART FAIRS

Photo London

Olympia, London

14–17 May 2026

The new address for 11th edition of the UK's leading photography fair is the National Hall at Olympia, Kensington, near leading institutions like the Victoria and Albert Museum and Serpentine. Participants include Goodman Gallery (SA/ UK), which is collaborating with Prix Pictet to show Alfredo Jaar's project *Searching for Africa in LIFE* (1966/2022); Fondation H (Madagascar), which recently hosted the first major showcase of Yinka Shonibare on the African continent; BETA Contemporary (Spain), which reps Afro-Venezuelan artist Gabriel Pinto; and David Hill Gallery (London), a staunch supporter of Burkinabe photographer Sanlé Sory. There is a book market and Jaar features in the talks programme.

photolondon.org



Alfredo Jaar, *Searching for Africa in Life*. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GOODMAN GALLERY

ART FAIRS

Art Basel

Messe Basel, Basel

18–21 June 2026

This marquee fair presents over 200 of the world's leading galleries, including blank projects (SA), Goodman Gallery (SA/ UK) and Stevenson (SA/ Holland). One of the inaugural Art Basel Awards Gold Awardees, Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama presents a new public commission, a large-scale installation on the Münsterplatz. Galerie Cécile Fakhoury, established in 2012 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, will show work by Senegalese painter Souleymane Keïta in Feature, a section devoted to historical work. Despite buyer caution, last year's fair registered strong interest in Afro-descendent artist. Paintings by Chris Ofili and Njideka Akunyili Crosby, both of Nigerian descent, fetched \$700 000 each. William Kentridge's *Pour* (2022), an enormous bronze moka pot, fetched \$500 000.

www.artbasel.com/basel



Art Basel in Basel, COURTESY OF ART BASEL PHOTO MATTHIEU CRO

ART FAIRS

Africa Basel

Gärtnerstrasse 2, Basel

18–21 June 2026

Sales data from the inaugural edition of this fair was scant, but its return is proof enough of its appeal as a platform for artists, galleries, curators, institutions and collectors interested in contemporary African artistic practices. Occupying the newly renovated modernist building Klybeck 610, next to Dreirosenbrücke Bridge, exhibitors include London's October Gallery, an early champion of sculptor El Anatsui, which last year showed Ghanaian photographer James Barnor and Zimbabwe's Xanthe Somers. Other return exhibitors include Harare's First Floor Gallery, which promotes new Zimbabwean painting, and Nubuke Foundation, established in 2006 in Accra by the Ghanaian artist Kofi Setordji.

www.africabasel.com



Africa Basel's new venue, Klybeck 610

ART FAIRS

VOLTA Basel

Messeplatz 21, Basel

17–21 June 2026

The rivalry among Basel fairs to represent African and Afro-descendant artists is pronounced. Last year's 20th edition included a section dedicated to the Middle East and North Africa region. VOLTA has since appointed Tallulah Patricia Bär, a Swiss-born entrepreneur with Ghanaian and Egyptian heritage, to its advisory board. Bär is the founder of AfroSwissters, a network for Afro-descendant women in Switzerland. This year's line-up includes The Southern Art Hub, a nomadic gallery founded by Abraham Abia, a lawyer and entrepreneur from Equatorial Guinea. The gallery will showcase works by artists Amina Jules Dia (Senegal) and Luma Nascimento (Brazil).

www.voltaartfairs.com/basel



Visitors at VOLTA Basel 2025

Calendar of important events and auctions presented by Strauss & Co

April to August 2026

Artist Proof Studio at 35: A Continuing Commitment to Artists, Access and Excellence,

Organised by curator Wilhelm van Rensburg, this exhibition celebrates the lasting impact of the Johannesburg print studio founded by Nhlanhla Xaba and Kim Berman in 1991.

Until 17 April 2026

89 Central Street, Johannesburg

Johannesburg Auction Week

This flagship auction presents two notable single-owner collections. One comprises a selection of art acquired by legendary South African auctioneer Stephan Welz, son of modernist painter Jean Welz. Durban patron of the arts Vera Dubin's collection spans Lalique glassware, ceramics and art. Includes high-value works by Alexis Preller, J.H. Pierneef and George Pemba.

26–27 May 2026

89 Central Street, Johannesburg

RMB Latitudes 2026

A fixture of Johannesburg's autumn art calendar, Strauss & Co returns to this fair with an exhibition featuring Gerard Sekoto, Keith Alexander and Norman Catherine.

22–24 May 2026

Shepstone Gardens, Johannesburg

Hermanus Fynarts Festival

Established in 2013, this winter festival has grown into a vibrant, multi-format event showcasing the very best in South African arts, including an outdoor exhibition of sculpture. Strauss & Co is a title sponsor and will present lectures, valuations and more.

6–14 June 2026

Various venues, Hermanus

Welgemeend Art Month

Now in its thirteenth edition, this dynamic collaboration between the Kilbourn Collection and Strauss & Co returns to the historical Cape manor home of Welgemeend, built c. 1700, with a themed exhibition and diverse cultural programme.

1–31 August 2026

2 Welgemeend Street, Gardens, Cape Town

Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

Tuesday 26 May at 7pm, 89 Central Street, Johannesburg

The auction will be live-streamed on www.straussart.co.za



Jacob Hendrik Pierneef

Hartjie van die Bosveld, Potgietersrust (Transvaal), 1924

Mixed media on paper laid down on board

Estimate R1 000 000 – 1 500 000 / \$58 294 – 87 441

Strauss & Co
Africa's Leading Art Auction House

Modern and Contemporary Art Evening Sale

Tuesday 26 May at 7pm, 89 Central Street, Johannesburg

The auction will be live-streamed on www.straussart.co.za



Deborah Bell

Caesura (also known as *Las Meninas*), 2012–13
oil on canvas

Estimate R600 000 – 800 000 / \$34 909 – 46 545

Strauss & Co
Africa's Leading Art Auction House



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