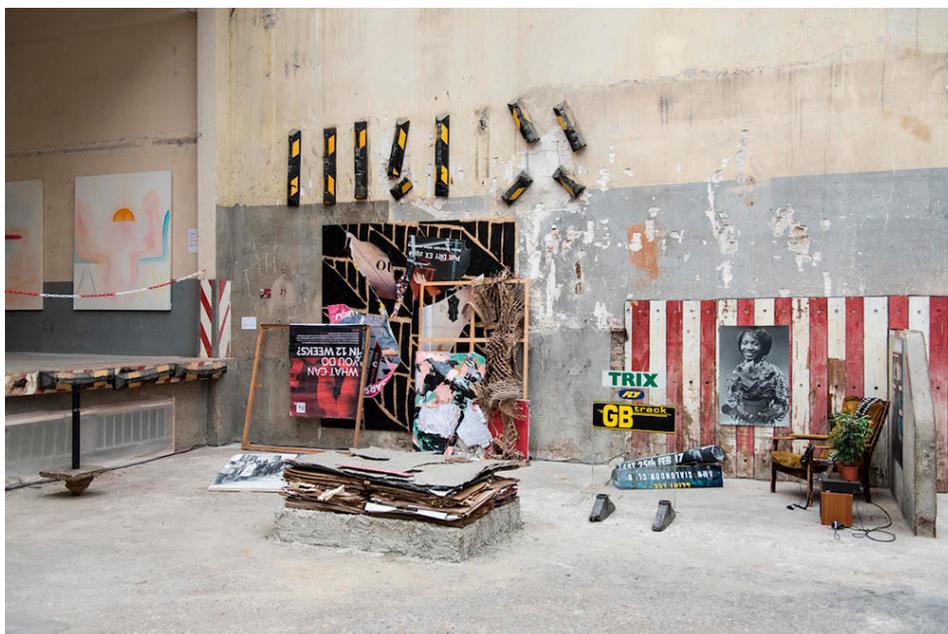


**ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION INVITES:
TAMU NKIWANE: BLUE PLASTIC
8 NOVEMBER–16 DECEMBER**

Exhibition Preview

Thursday 8 November, 6–9pm



THE TORTOISE WHICH FLEW (CRUSHD INTO THESE BONES), 2017.

Chipboard, spray paint, wooden frame, posters, paper, cardboard, acrylic, canvas. Courtesy the artist and Artagon.

Tamu Nkiwane examines his surrounding environment and considers resonances from the past through the gathering, reassembling or recreating of particular objects. Personal identity is explored through the possibilities that the found materials discarded by others can contain. A mode of autobiographical research underpins his projects, be that a focus on the detritus of urban streets of his home town of London or, more recently, the more unfamiliar surroundings of his extended family in Zimbabwe.

Titled *Blue Plastic*, Nkiwane's exhibition emerges directly from his travels and research. In spring 2018 Nkiwane embarked on a four-month trip to Zimbabwe and South Africa, centred on his Grandfather's 90th Birthday celebrations, whom he had never met in-person before. His Grandfather was a prominent figure in the revolutionary struggle of the 1960s and 70s against minority white rule when the country was known as Rhodesia.

Arriving in Zimbabwe only a few months after the resignation of President Robert Mugabe, Nkiwane found a complex situation where a new process of change was ostensibly taking place yet established political figures and structures persisted. With an economy out of cash and where daily commerce is conducted via digital currency on mobile accounts, Nkiwane was drawn to the objects and rituals of everyday trade, specifically places of exchange and techniques for displaying goods.

The exhibition features sculptures that reference temporary street market stalls, with precisely stacked pyramids of dried fruits, posters for evangelical pastors and rolled cardboard seating. Short video clips shot by Nkiwane during his time in Zimbabwe, including a visit to his cousin's illegal back-yard gold mine, play silently on monitors as visual textures in the installation.

Visitors are also offered the chance to read poems and prose written by Nkiwane, printed as booklets with photographic illustrations on newsprint, and to listen to improvised musical sketches he made both back home in London and on his travels. Although welcomed by those he met in Zimbabwe, both his family and strangers, the artist was also a newcomer into an unfamiliar political, social and domestic space. Nkiwane channels the emotion of feeling like an outsider to a context and a history, one that he is deeply connected to, but can only be partially understand.

BIOGRAPHY

Tamu Nkiwane (b.1990, London) lives and works in London. He completed an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art, London in 2017, and a BA Hons in Fine Art (Sound Art module) at Middlesex University in 2013. Recent solo exhibitions include *EITHA UNGUSWI ZIM//CITY*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, March 2018. Group exhibitions include *Artagon III*, Petites Serres, Paris; Café OTO, London; *Medal, Meddle, Metal, Mettle*, RCA Arts Bar, London; *Inventory London*, London; House Dimplex, Norlington Road Studios, London; Soup Kitchen Windmill Extravaganza, London. Awards include, Villiers David Travel Award, Artagon III award and Leverhulme Scholarship & Lucy Halford Bursary Fund for Royal College of Art.

Zabludowicz Collection Invites: Dedicated to solo presentations by UK-based artists without UK commercial gallery representation.)

NOTES FOR EDITORS

ZABLUDOWICZ COLLECTION

Zabludowicz Collection is a philanthropic organisation including a growing collection of contemporary art and a programme of international exhibitions, events and artists' residencies. Founded in 1994, the Collection is dedicated to fostering new audiences and a sustainable environment for contemporary art, offering a variety of opportunities and support for artists and art organisations. All of its activities are privately funded and free for the public to access.

The collection contains over 3000 works of art by more than 600 artists, spanning 40 years of art production. Its focus is on emerging art from the late 20th century to the present day and it is in constant development. The Collection has been directed since 2006 by Elizabeth Neilson.

In 2007 the Collection opened its main exhibition space in London, in a 19th Century former Methodist Chapel, where it has worked with artists, curators and the collection to produce exhibitions and events examining contemporary art practice in a public forum. The Collection now also runs an international programme of exhibitions, events, residencies and commissions across four permanent venues in the UK, USA and Finland. The programme is directed by Maitreyi Maheshwari.

For more information, images or any other press enquiries please contact:

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VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission: FREE

Thursday–Sunday, 12–6pm or by appointment

The **Café** serves tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes during gallery opening hours.

The **Library** and meeting room can be booked for meetings, research, and to view film and video works in the Collection.

The **Shop** sells limited edition artworks, 50% of the proceeds go directly to the artist.

shop.zabludowiczcollection.com

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Transport (TFL stations):

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