
eclectica
contemporary
Wild Syntax

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What happens when form refuses to follow the rules?

Bringing together Hussein Salim, Yasmine Yacoubi, Helen van Stolk, Ayobola “Zak” Kekere-Ekun and Chrisél Attewell, Wild Syntax explores abstraction as a disruption of familiar ways of seeing. Through colour, gesture, texture and material, the artists construct visual languages that resist fixed meanings and conventional representation.

Salim’s layered compositions draw on cultural memory and diasporic identity.
Yacoubi and van Stolk translate encounters with the natural world into expressive arrangements of colour and movement, while Kekere-Ekun transforms fabric into sculptural terrains shaped by folds, tension and the traces of lived experience. Attewell’s multidisciplinary practice draws on landscapes, collected materials and personal encounters, transforming them into layered explorations of the tension between love, anger and grief.

Each practice operates according to its own internal logic, where structure meets spontaneity and order gives way to possibility. Together, the works challenge the expectation that art must be legible, contained or easily explained.

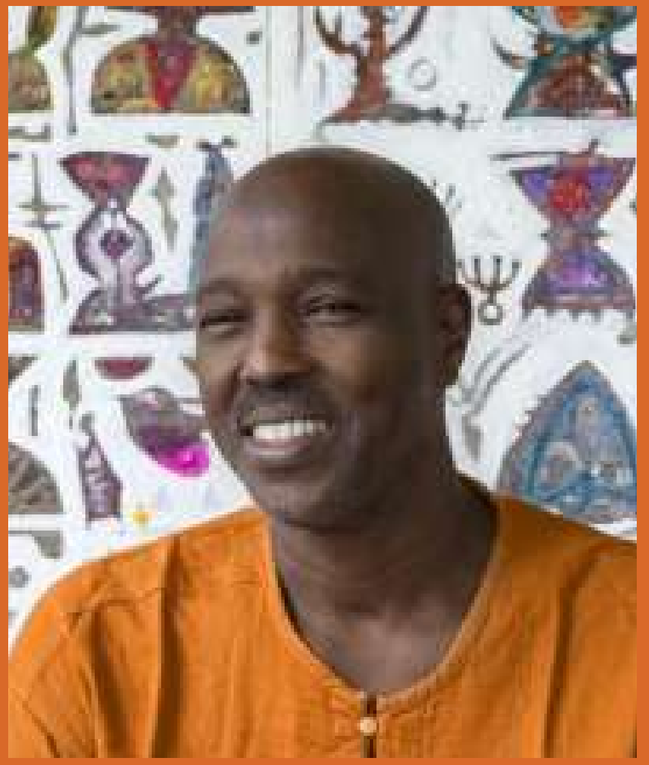
Here, abstraction is not an absence of meaning, but a language in the making, unruly, instinctive and unapologetically open to interpretation.

HUSSEIN SALIM

As a result of a tumultuous political and economical period in Sudan, which too brought about disputes of its historical context, Hussein Salim was displaced from Sudan and spent a number of years in various countries such as England, France, Germany, Norway and South Africa. Despite his artistic training in University of Sudan for Science and Technology, he attained his High degree in art at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

He has exhibited extensively overseas along with acclaimed local galleries, such as Bonisa Private Gallery, Elizabeth Gordon Gallery, Johans Borman and Eclectica Contemporary among others. Inspired by Sudan and Africa at large, the diversity and diasporic multicultural communal structure. His body of work aims to celebrate this through extensive layering of motifs masked by rich colours.

Following the example of graciousness, humility and resilience of the Sudanese, Hussein Salim has worked closely with NGOs such as African Angels and Buccaneers Outreach programs, who focus on the sustenance and uplifting of children and schools in marginalized communities with proceeds of his artwork sales being donated to various outreach schemes.





Hussein Salim
Love Letter 2, 2026
Acrylic and Mixed Media on Canvas
120 x 120 cm
ZAR 55,000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
Desert Aesthetic 6, 2026
Mixed Media on Canvas
120 x 120 cm
ZAR 55,000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
I Am African I, 2026
Acrylic and Mixed Media on Canvas
117 x 117 cm
ZAR 52,000 excl. VAT



Hussein Salim
I Am African II, 2026
Acrylic and Mixed Media on Canvas
117 x 117 cm
ZAR 52,000 excl. VAT

CHRISEL ATTEWELL

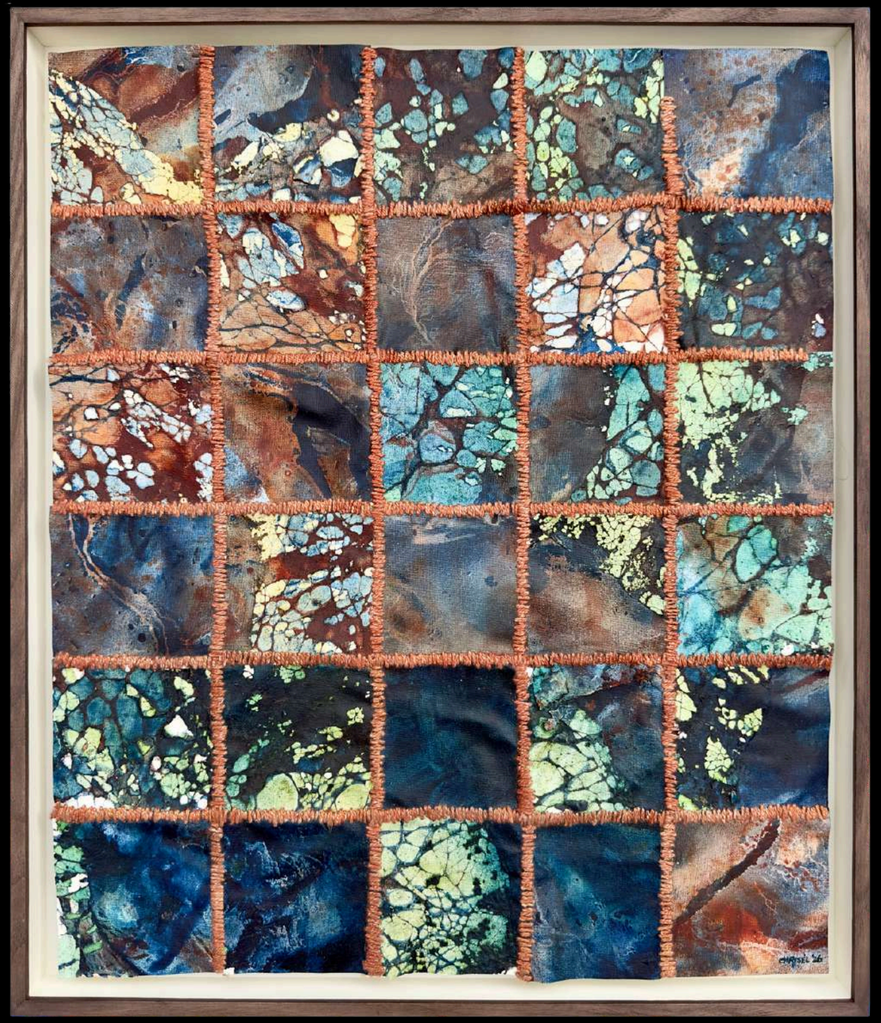
Chrisél Attewell (b. 1994, South Africa) works across painting, lens-based media, installation, and poetry. Her practice grows froma tension between love and anger. Love, in her work, includes curiosity, tenderness, and attentiveness toward people, the earth, and what still feels alive. Anger is closely bound to grief: a response to damage, greed, violence, and the loss of what should be protected. She lives in that contradiction, wanting to hold on to the world while also wanting to escape its weight.

Her work begins outside, in the landscapes she moves through and the people she engages with. She wanders, listens, and gathers. Stones, pigments, photographs, and videos become records of encounter. Together, they form a living archive and a way of staying present to the world.

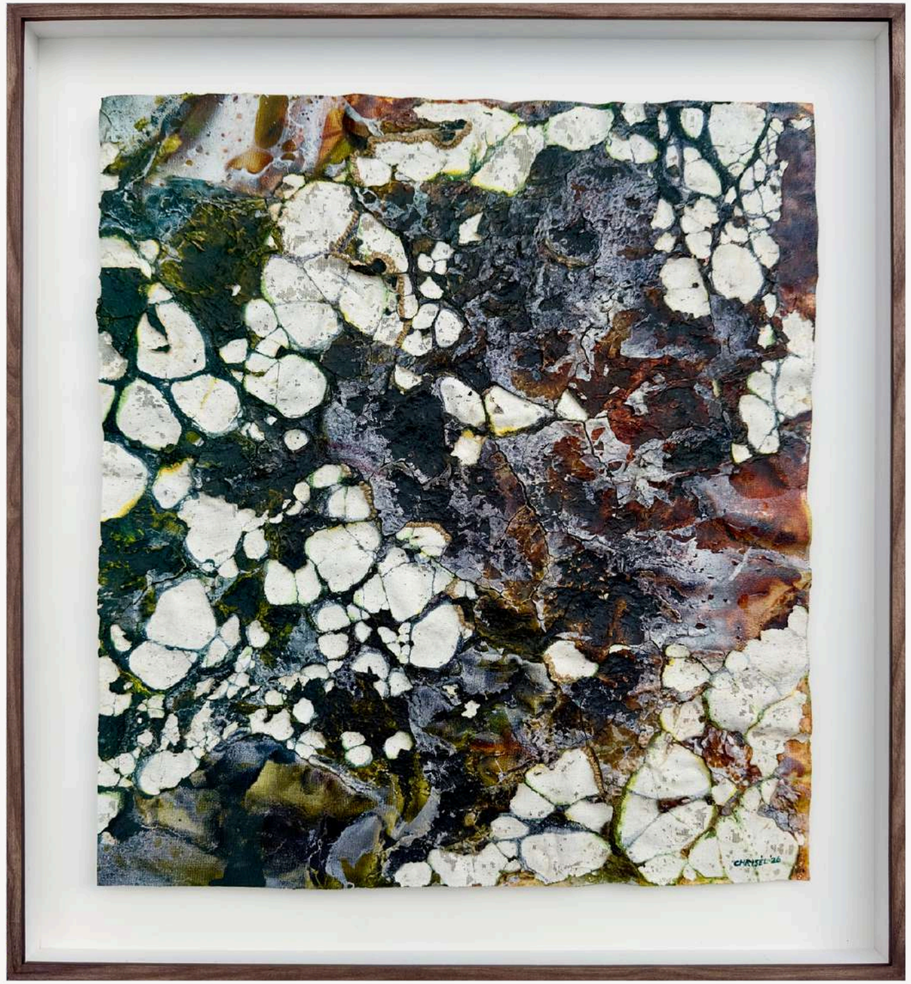
In the studio, these encounters are brought inward and transformed. Photographs, sketches, pigments, and collected materials keep the paintings rooted in physical places, while the materials themselves become collaborators, carrying their own histories into the work. Through mixing, layering, erasure, and mark-making, the process moves between surrender and control.

Attewell holds an MAVA from the University of Johannesburg (2023) and a BFA from the University of Pretoria (2016). Her work has been exhibited at Art Cologne, 1-54 London, Contemporary Istanbul, and the Investec Cape Town Art Fair. In 2024, she participated in the Kommagene Biennale in Türkiye, creating a collaborative land installation titled Hands of Many on Mount Nemrut. Recent solo exhibitions include Rain Shadows (UJ FADA Gallery, 2023), Heat Waves (Berman Contemporary, 2024), and Earth is “a” Story We Inherit (OiR Art Hub, Mongolia, 2025).





Chrisel Attewell
Mindmaps II, 2026
Oil and Clay on Canvas,
Stitched with Bamboo Thread
58 x 49 cm (Framed)
ZAR 62,000 excl. VAT



Chrisel Attewell
Taking a Thread for Walk IV, 2026
Oil and Clay on Canvas, with
Hand-dyed Bamboo Thread
57 x 51 cm (Framed)
ZAR 58,000 excl. VAT

YASMINE YACOUBI

Yasmine Yacoubi grew up between Dresden (Germany) and Casablanca (Morocco), which gave her a wonderful opportunity to explore all kinds of diversities. Living in many places including France (where she studied Psychology), Australia, Chile and presently South Africa expanded her sensitivity and connection to the world.

She has been painting since 1997 and continuously enhances her painting techniques, attending various international workshops including most recently the “Ecole National des Beaux-Arts” in Paris.

Yasmine finds her inspiration in her daily life, emotions being her main focus in her work: turning an overwhelming sight of blossoming prune trees into an abstract painting, and any scene that touches her could result in modern or abstract portrayal. Living in Cape Town offers her the extraordinary opportunity to explore the beauty and complexity of nature.

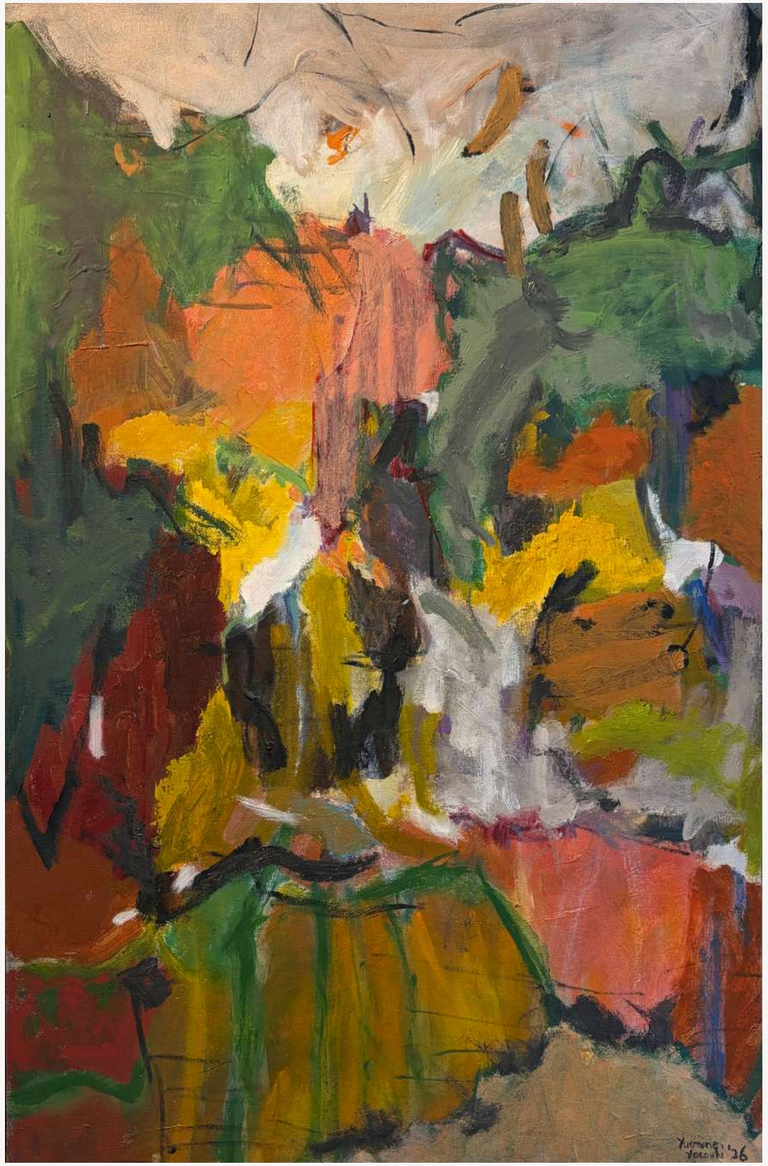




Yasmine Yacoubi
Golden Light, 2026
Acrylic on Canvas
130 x 128 cm (Framed)
ZAR 77,000 excl. VAT



Yasmine Yacoubi
Dawn, 2026
Acrylic Stretched on Board
62 x 69 cm (Framed)
ZAR 22,000 excl. VAT



Yasmine Yacoubi
Left Bank, 2026
Oil on Canvas, Stretched on Board
92.6 x 60 cm (Framed)
ZAR 29,000 excl. VAT



Yasmine Yacoubi
Clairieré, 2026
Oil on Board
37.5 x 64 cm (Framed)
ZAR 16,000 excl. VAT



Yasmine Yacoubi
Boundaries in Motion, 2026
Oil on Canvas
70 x 50 cm
ZAR 18,000 excl. VAT

HELEN VAN STOLK

Helen van Stolk's (b. 1971, South Africa) creative journey began as a powerful act of rebalancing. After a successful career in the fast-paced world of retail property, she stepped away from the corporate grind in 2008 and leaned fully into the liberating world of artmaking. What followed was a transformation—personally and professionally—as she began to explore the magic that happens when one creates without boundaries.

Her large-scale abstract works evoke a sense of immersion—inviting viewers into a world of movement, sensuality, and presence. Deeply inspired by nature's untamed beauty and the emotional undercurrents of life, Helen's paintings radiate their own energy, often described as uplifting, harmonious, and soul-nourishing.

Working from her studio in Woodstock, Cape Town, Helen is known for her expressive use of colour, fluid textures, and the meditative process through which her work emerges. Her creative path has been shaped by time spent at several Cape Town-based studios, including StudioVOOP, Frere Street Studios, and Eastside Studios, as well as formative studio partnerships with artists Lesley Charnock and Margie Johnson.

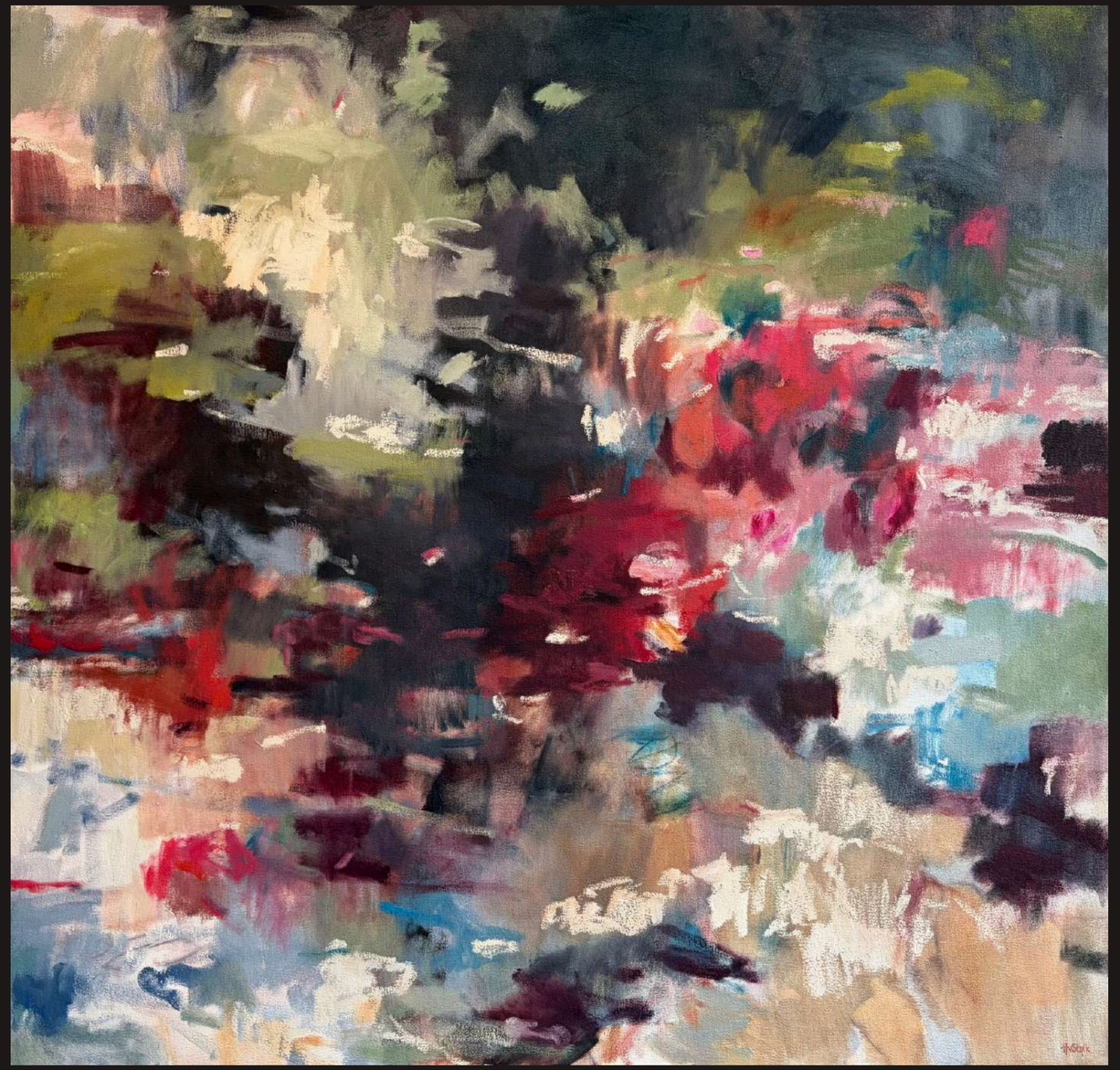
She has trained and workshopped with a number of notable artists including Mary Visser, Jenny Parsons, Martin Campos, Melinda Cootsona, and Emily Ball. Over the years, Helen has held six successful solo exhibitions, completed a five-week artist residency at Lion Sands Game Reserve, is heading to the Cite, Paris for a 2 month residency. She has exhibited locally and internationally, including at the London Art Fair.

Her work has been featured in multiple magazines, earned her a Veluka finalist spot at ArtB, and she has received a Fellowship from the South African Society of Artists along with various awards. Helen's paintings are held in private and corporate collections around the world.

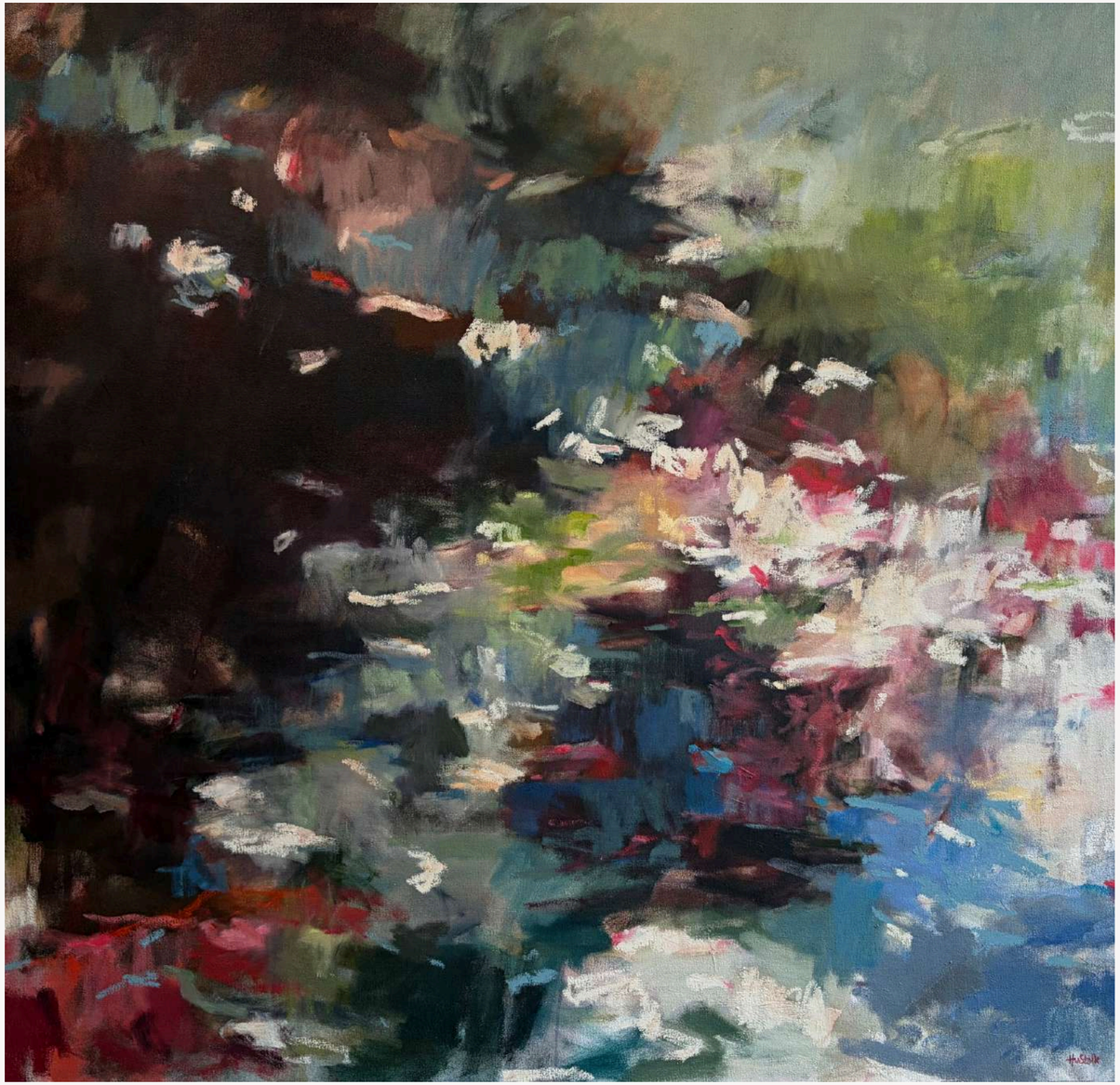




Helen van Stolk
Immersed in Love, 2026
Oil on Canvas
200 x 130 cm
ZAR 92,000 excl. VAT



Helen van Stolk
Where Petals Dream, 2026
Ink Pencil, Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
115 x 115 cm
ZAR 59,500 excl. VAT



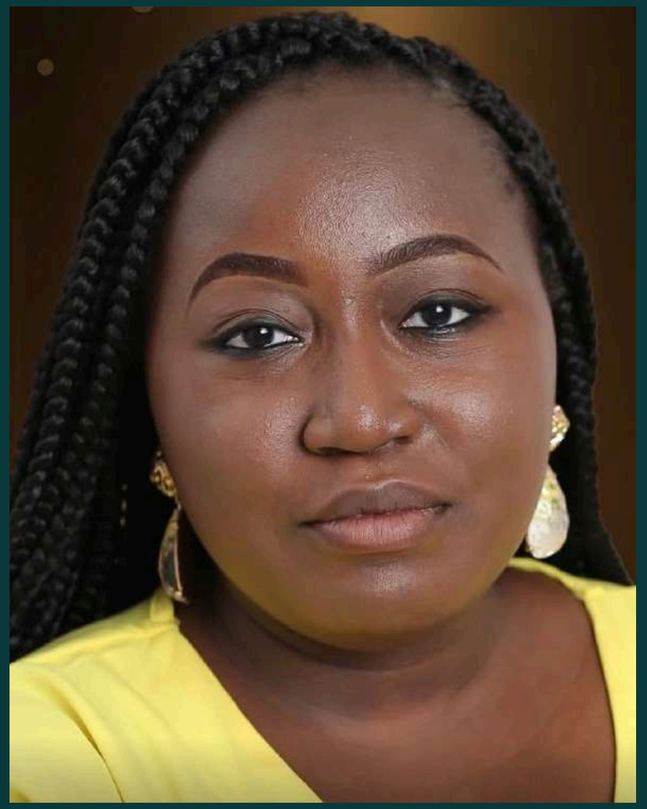
Helen van Stolk
Whispers on Water, 2026
Ink Pencil, Acrylic and Oil on Canvas
115 x 115 cm
ZAR 59,500 excl. VAT

AYOBOLA KEKERE-EKUN

Ayobola “Zak” Kekere-Ekun (b. 1993) is a Nigerian-born contemporary artist living and working in South Africa. Born and raised in Lagos, she holds a BA and MA in Visual Arts from the University of Lagos and a PhD in Art and Design from the University of Johannesburg.
Working primarily with quilling and sculptural fabric-based painting, Kekere-Ekun transforms material through meticulous folding, layering and repetition. Her practice explores movement, memory, identity and transformation, considering how matter can register experience and hold traces of time.

In Terrains of Memory, the fold becomes a landscape, an accumulation of surfaces, pressures and gestures through which memory is continually formed and transformed. The works occupy a space between painting and sculpture, their undulating surfaces suggesting geological formations, organic structures and shifting emotional terrains.

Kekere-Ekun’s work has been exhibited internationally, including at UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles; HOFA, London; the Japan-Africa Contemporary Art Association, Yokohama; Art021, Shanghai; Arte Fiera, Bologna; and ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg. She is a recipient of the 2021 Absa L’Atelier Award, the 2025 Future Awards Prize for Art, the 2018 Future Awards Prize for Creativity, and the Dean Collection 20 St(art)ups Grant.





Ayobola ‘Zak’ Kekere-Ekun
Ori Inu I, 2026
Sculpted Fabric and Acrylic on Canvas
120 x 120 x 2 cm
USD 11,000 excl. VAT

eclectica
contemporary

Eclectica Contemporary is a Cape Town–based gallery dedicated to contemporary artistic practices from Africa and its diaspora.

The gallery presents a dynamic program of emerging and established artists and has participated in leading international art fairs. Artists represented by the gallery have participated in major international biennials and their works are held in significant institutional collections including the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, the Rupert Museum, and the Iziko South African National Gallery, as well as major international foundations and private collections.

Through exhibitions, international presentations, and collaborations with curators and institutions, Eclectica Contemporary contributes to the global discourse surrounding contemporary African art.

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