

Hazel Mphande

portfolio.

**Berman
Contemporary
All Women Art
V&A Waterfront**



HAZEL MPHANDE

ARTIST STATEMENT AND BIOGRAPHY

In 2012 I was diagnosed with clinical depression. Growing up, speaking about mental illness, in a black and religious home, was completely taboo. As a child, I would experience feeling tired and overwhelmed and I assumed that these feelings would eventually go away, but they didn't. I continued to experience mental exhaustion well into my adulthood and quite often it affected my work and relationships. I am interested in how we process and cope, when our minds are still trying to grasp our lived experiences, especially when dealing with trauma; how it effects our bodies and, in return, how we see the world.

My work focuses on the way our memories manifest in our consciousness when affected by generational trauma. The effects of trauma identity and the abstract representation of nature is characterised using long shutter speed and double exposure, using blur to create a sense of movement and transition. These photographs embody a temporal impression of fleeting experiences, memory, growth and decay, and begins to mimic the shape-shifting apparitions of recollection and reminiscence of transition.

Hazel Mphande, also known as Hazey Jane (b.1989), is a self-taught photographer based in Pretoria. Hazel's photography journey began with a profound encounter with a DSLR camera, igniting her passion for self-expression. Seeking to refine her craft, she enrolled in The Market Photo Workshop and completed foundational and intermediate courses in 2014. Continuing her professional development, she pursued an advanced photography course with Through the Lens Collective in Johannesburg for 10 months in 2021.

In 2023, Mphande received further recognition when she was selected to participate in the esteemed New York Portfolio Review, a renowned event organised by the New York Times photo department, Photoville, and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at the City University of New York.

Mphande's work has been exhibited at 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in New York (2024, 2025) and London (2021, 2023). Her work has also been showcased in various group exhibitions at Berman Contemporary since 2021. Hazel opened a duo photography exhibition with Kamogelo Machaba titled Strand by Strand at Berman Contemporary in 2025.

Hazel Mphande is represented by Berman Contemporary.

Instagram @hazey_Jaay

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ARTIST RESUME

Duo Exhibitions

2025 Strand By Strand, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg

Group Exhibitions

2025 Ke Rona, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2024 #ARTladies, curator Candice Berman, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2024 PRETTY BRILLIANT, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2023 THE 2020s: new forms in abstraction – part 2, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2023 #ARTladies, ARTSY – online exclusive, Berman Contemporary
2023 REIMAGINING: NEW PERSPECTIVES, curated by Morgan Kunhardt, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2022 THE ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW, Berman contemporary, Johannesburg
2022 #ARTladies, curator Gcotyelwa Mashika, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2022 International Woman's Day, Through The Lens Collective, Online Exhibition
2022 FLEX, Through The Lens Collective, Online Exhibition
2021 SUN IN YOUR EYES, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2021 42ND AUGUST 2073 - WOMAN'S SHOW, Through the Lens Collective, Online Exhibition
2021 THE IMAGE IS OUR VOICE, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
2016 SHE Clix, David Bailey Gallery
2015 30 Days in a CITY, Studio-X, Johannesburg

Art Fairs

2025 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, New York
2024 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, New York
2023 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, London
2021 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, London

Publications

2025 New York Times, Back in New York, an African Art Fair Relishes the Sense of Place
2023 Foto Femme United, Interview for Feminist Friday feature, 2023
2023 Hazel Mphande featured in House & Leisure Magazine, Vol. 8 : Create, February 2023
2021 Mphande, Hazel - Berman Contemporary, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, 2021
2021 Hazel Mphande, Curated by Girls by Laetitia Duveau, 2021
2020 Art Of This Place, Interview between Hazel Mphande and Tebogo Nong, 2020

Awards

2023 Selected for 10th annual New York Portfolio R

Collections

2025 Foundation H, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Experience

2016 Photographers' assistant for Judd Van Rensburg

Education

2022 Advanced Photography Course, Through the Lens Collective, Johannesburg
2014 Advanced Course, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg
2014 Intermediate Course, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg
2013 Foundational Course, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg
2011 BA Corporate Communications, University of Johannesburg





INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | 1-54 NEW YORK | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2025

Strand by Strand | 2025

As a Black woman, my hair is more than just a physical attribute; it is a symbol of my identity, culture, and resilience. Through this series, I aim to capture the complex, deeply personal experiences of Black women and our hair. Growing up, I was bombarded with messages from the media that my hair was unkempt, unmanageable, and unacceptable. I was forced to conform to contemporary European beauty standards, sacrificing my natural texture and beauty in the process. As I grew older, I began to reclaim my hair as a source of pride, strength, and beauty. This body of work explores how Black hair influences our identity, self-esteem, and sense of belonging.

My photographic process is a deliberate and intimate exploration of Black hair, using black-and-white photography to strip away distractions and highlight its complexity. I combine natural elements with photo manipulation, such as double exposure, to create high-contrast images that emphasize texture, tone, and form. The aim is to invite viewers to appreciate the beauty, strength, and resilience of Black women, and to bear witness to the ways in which our hair and hairstyles are intertwined with our identity, culture, and history.



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | STRAND BY STRAND | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2025



A Braided Narrative (the hot water edition), 2025
Felix Schoeller True Fibre
textured matt paper
59.4 x 84.1 cm
framed 60 x 86 x 5cm
Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | STRAND BY STRAND | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2025



My mother taught me to tie my hair up like this #1, 2025
Felix Schoeller True Fibre
textured matt paper
59.4 x 84.1 cm
framed 60 x 86 x 5cm
Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof

My mother taught me to tie my hair up like this #2, 2025
Felix Schoeller True Fibre
textured matt paper
59.4 x 84.1 cm
framed 60 x 86 x 5cm
Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof



LANDSCAPE AS PORTRAITURE | 2024

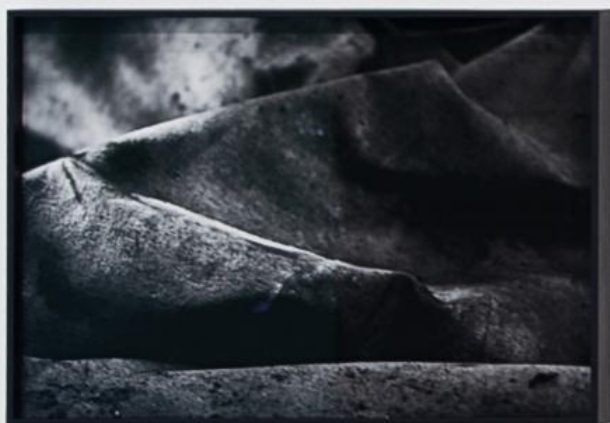
This series asks the question; what does a landscape mean to me as a self portrait artist? Can a landscape be considered a self portrait? If I'm exploring ideas such as identity and my connection to nature with my self portraits, could I possibly do the same with my landscapes.



A good place, 2025
Diabond
42 x 59.5 cm
Edition of 5 plus 1 artist's proof (#1/5)



Central and remote, 2025
Felix Schoeller True Fibre
55 x 82.5 cm
framed 57 x 84.5 x 3.5 cm
Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof (#1/10)



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | KE RONA | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2025

Silver and Silent, I, 2025
 Felix Schoeller True Fibre
 29.7 x 42 cm
 framed 30.5 X 42.5 x 3.5 cm
 Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof (#1/10)

Loneliness is still time spent, 2025
 Felix Schoeller True Fibre
 28.5 x 41 cm
 framed 30.5 x 42.5 x 3.5 cm
 Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof (#1/10)



The Far side, 2025
Felix Schoeller True Fibre
41 x 58 cm
framed 42.5 x 60 x 3.5 cm
Edition of 10 plus 1 artist's proof (#1/10)

THE UNFURLING | 2020 - ONGOING

The Unfurling is an ongoing body of work, born from the pandemic's impact – it is an immersive exploration that delves into the depths of my personal struggles, both mental and emotional, while embracing the enduring effects of trauma, and their profound impact on memory and psychosis. This body of work represents an intricate unraveling, a meticulous dissection, and a profound assimilation of childhood memories, whose imprint upon our behavior as adults can range from subtle nuances to profound transformations.

Serving as a testament to the human psyche itself, this collection aims to document its intricate complexities, while critically examining my own perceptions of the world. As time weaves its intricate tapestry, memories begin to blur, the fine details dissipating, but the essence of the broad strokes and, most significantly, the intense emotions felt at their inception persist. Infused with deliberate graininess, my images undergo a transformative shift in texture, assuming a timeless quality akin to evanescent snapshots of dreams or fragments of distant memories and vivid imaginations.

Amidst the chaos of existence, how can we discern the delicate fissures of our own minds, how do we ever know when our minds are breaking apart, or is there so much sensory overload that we are glitching? These probing questions serve as guiding compasses, illuminating my artistic exploration, directing me not toward definitive answers, but rather toward the ever-unfolding mysteries. As humans, we are in a perpetual state of metamorphosis, continually evolving alongside our fluid minds and fleeting memories.



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | THE 2020's - NEW FORMS OF ABSTRACTION PART 2 | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2023



Untitled V, 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
42 x 39.3cm
Framed size: 43 x 40 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP

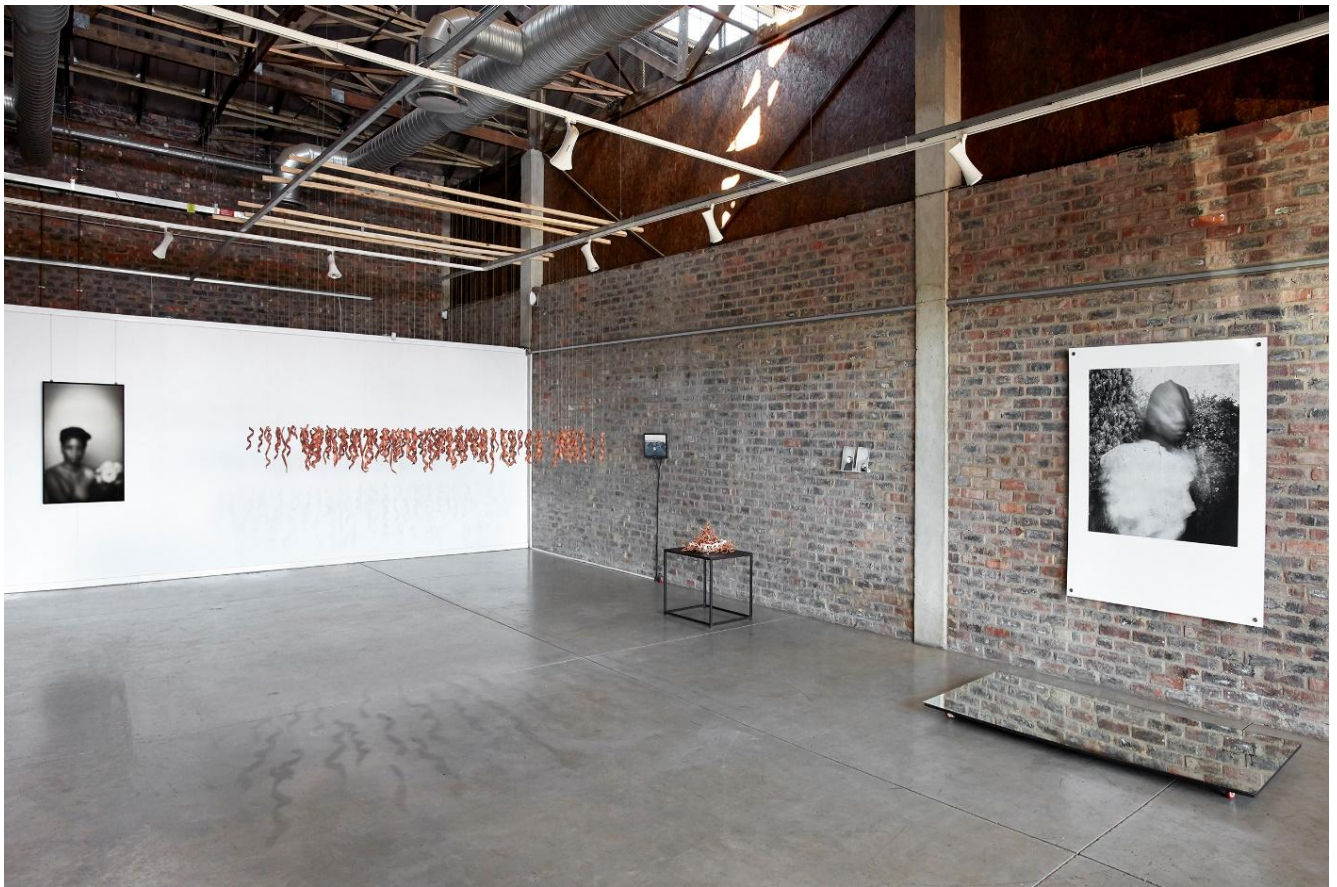


No such, 2021
 Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
 21 x 14cm
 Framed size: 21.5 x 14.5 x 5cm
 Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
 Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Untitled IV, 2021
 Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
 21 x 14cm
 Framed size: 21.5 x 14.5 x 5cm
 Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
 Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Day dreamer (where the sound goes), 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
20 x 20cm
Framed size: 21.5 x 21.5 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | REIMAGINIG: NEW PERSPECTIVES | BERMAN CONTEMPORARY | 2023



Stone or Lavender, 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
62 x 45cm
Framed size: 63 x 46 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



A Fatalistic Warning 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
62 x 45cm
Framed size: 63 x 46 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



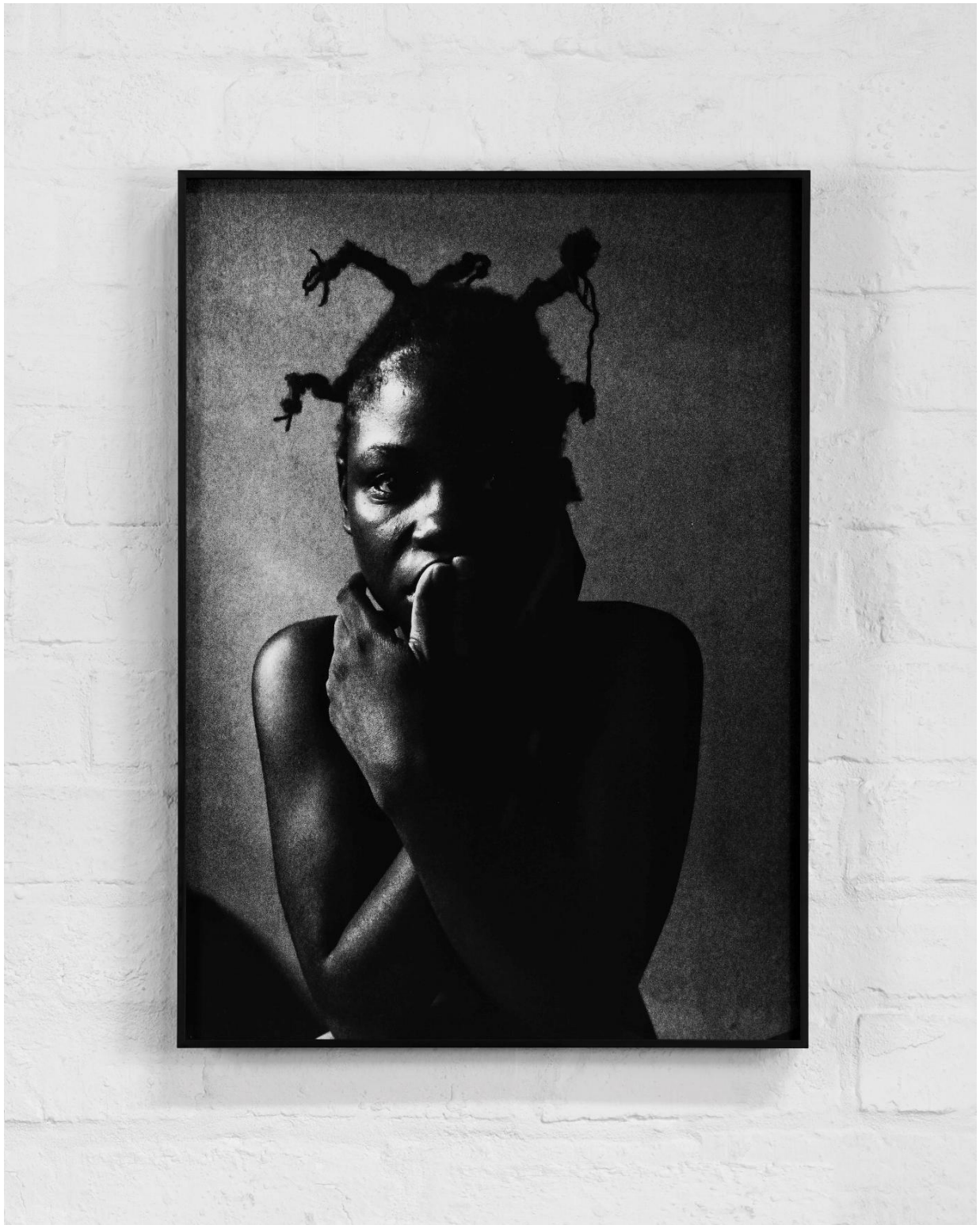
Hazel Mphande
Cover Me #1, 2022
Archival pigment printed onto Felix Schoeller True Fibre
58 x 38.5 cm
Framed size: 60 x 40 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



For Her Too, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
15 x 21cm
Framed size: 16 x 22 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | 1-54 CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART FAIR – LONDON | HAZEL MPHANDE | 2021



Insula, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
62 x 45cm
Framed size: 63 x 46 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Sleep to Dream, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
29.5 x 21cm
Framed size: 30.5 x 22 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



The Apocalypse Song, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
10 x 11cm
Framed size: 11 x 12 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | 1-54 CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART FAIR – LONDON | HAZEL MPHANDE | 2021



Dismantle #2, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
37 x 27.5cm
Framed size: 38 x 38.5 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | THE IMAGE IS OUR VOICE | HAZEL MPHANDE | 2021



Shadowboxer #2, 2020
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
36 x 29cm
Framed size: 37 x 30 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Diviner, 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
29.5 x 21cm
Framed size: 30.5 x 22 x 5cm
Framed in a black aluminium frame with (AR) anti-reflective glass
Edition of 5 + 2 AP



Sun in your eyes, 2021
Archival pigment on Felix Schoeller True Fibre
56.4 x 84.1cm
Edition of 30 + 2 AP



Berman Contemporary All Women Art V&A Waterfront

Berman Contemporary is a concept-driven, practice-led gallery founded by Candice Berman in 2016. Based in Cape Town, the gallery works with artists whose practices unfold through sustained inquiry, experimentation, and material investigation. We platform women artists because many of the most rigorous and conceptually engaged practices today are being developed by women.

We do not simply present objects. We present how artists think.

We understand exhibitions as propositions: spaces in which artistic practices are brought into conversation and ideas can be encountered through form, material, and process. Against accelerated and image-driven modes of consumption, we create conditions in which art can be encountered slowly, thoughtfully, and with curiosity.

Through exhibitions, publications, events, and collaborative projects, the gallery cultivates sustained engagement with contemporary art and fosters exchanges between artists, ideas, and audiences.

Our programme brings together emerging and established artists whose practices are driven by questions rather than predetermined outcomes. We work with artists who test the capacities of their materials, challenge ways of seeing, and open new possibilities for experience. The gallery's commitment is to artistic rigour, intellectual generosity, and the long-term support of artistic practice.

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