

DOZIE KANU

–value order [gentrify.pt]–

MADRAGOA

---

Rua do Machadinho, 45 1200-705 Lisboa - PORTUGAL  
galeriamadragea.pt - info@galeriamadragea.pt

---

Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*

05 February - 20 March 2021  
Madragoa

Video game #1.  
Commissioned text by manuel arturo abreu

You are in a war against abstraction, which has destroyed your lineage. Your only weapon is abstraction. An apothecary houses you, trains you to join the militant anti-abstraction faction—the Realists. Every time you die, you wake up in the apothecary's spare bed. You clean his hut. You gather materials for concoctions. Once you're ready, you attend the graduation ceremony.

You fall in love with the guest speaker: the leader of the Realists, Antigone, who says you're now ready for the whole truth. The world is the dream of a sleeping giant, a creature called Sycorax, closely guarded by her son Caliban, the leader of the Abstractionists. Her sick lusts dream up the destruction of generations, the wholesale displacement and dehumanizing of people, the vast castles of blood that bind you all together as Realists in your loss. Like your ancestors before, You must wake Sycorax by any means, no matter how many respawns.

You hone your skills and rise in the ranks. You learn Antigone loves her aide-de-camp; as you interface more with the latter, she realizes your intentions. Enthralled, you flare up the aide's jealousy. Once you start crossing paths with Antigone more, something itches. It clicks: Antigone realizes that You and her are locked in a blood feud. Your great grandfather killed hers.

You have a choice: do you sacrifice yourself to absolve your ancestor? You decide sacrifice is the right thing. The aide-de-camp gleefully steps forward; but her blade cannot slice You. Antigone realizes from this that You are her soul twin and can't die if she still lives. But since you've offered yourself for sacrifice, absolution holds. You can now move forward to the final, epic battle against Caliban and the Abstractionists.

We can redact this epic battle to a Single Word. Tragically and heroically, the aide-de-camp gives her life for victory. And once Caliban is defeated, you approach Sycorax, and another choice: do you wake her? If not, you return to the apothecary's bed, but the world is good for the Realists now. The generations can begin to heal since the Abstractionists are defeated; a Realist can guard Sycorax and do whatever is necessary to make her dreams sweet, and not nightmares. Or you can wake her and see what happens.

You confer with Antigone. She's excited about the possibilities. What could it all mean? You both give Sycorax a push, call her name. She opens her eyes and in them You see Yourself; everything fades to Black. You were Sycorax all along, of course. You were Caliban and Antigone and Sycorax and the apothecary. The question is whether you had a choice in setting this scheme up for yourself to overcome. You reach out your hand hoping Antigone is there. It's just empty space.

For Amo  
manuel arturo abreu

mindlike  
the spirit  
senses not  
passively (acted  
upon, bodylike)  
impassivity  
or ἀπάθεια  
of spirit = deep abstraction  
of functionalism

mindlike  
the spirit must choose  
to enter the carnival / ruins  
of sense in a leap  
of faith  
falling upward  
like a tongue

Dozie Kanu (b. 1993, Houston, TX) lives and works in Santarém, Portugal.

He graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 2016. Selected solo and two person exhibitions include: Re-

---

coil, International Waters, Brooklyn, New York, 2020; Owe Deed, One Deep, Project Native Informant, London, 2020; FUNCTION, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, 2019. Selected group exhibitions include Enzo Mari, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Triennale Milano, 2020; Crack Up – Crack Down, Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, 2020; Transformer: A Rebirth of Wonder, 180 The Strand, London, 2019; Midtown, organized by Salon 94 and Maccarone Gallery, Lever House, New York, 2017.

manuel arturo abreu (b. 1991, Santo Domingo, DO) is a poet and artist currently based in Portland, Oregon.

They studied linguistics at Reed College and graduated in 2014. They wrote two books of poetry and one book of critical art writing. They have published at Rhizome, Art in America, CURA, The New Inquiry, Art Practical, SFMoMA Open Space, AQNB, amongst others. abreu also cofounded and co-runs home school, a free pop-up art school in Portland in its sixth year of curriculum. Recent solo and duo shows: Portland State University, Portland; Yaby, Madrid; the Art Gym, Portland; Open Signal, Portland; Institute for New Connotative Action, Seattle. Recent group shows: Superposition, LA; Veronica, Seattle; Felix Gaudlitz, Vienna; Critical Path, Sydney; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; NCAD Gallery, Dublin; online with Rhizome and the New Museum; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva. Recent curatorial work: Yale Union, Portland; Center for Afrofuturist Studies, Iowa City; SOIL, Seattle; Paragon Gallery, Portland; old Pfizer Factory, Brooklyn; S1, Portland; AA|LA Gallery, LA; MoMA PS1, New York.

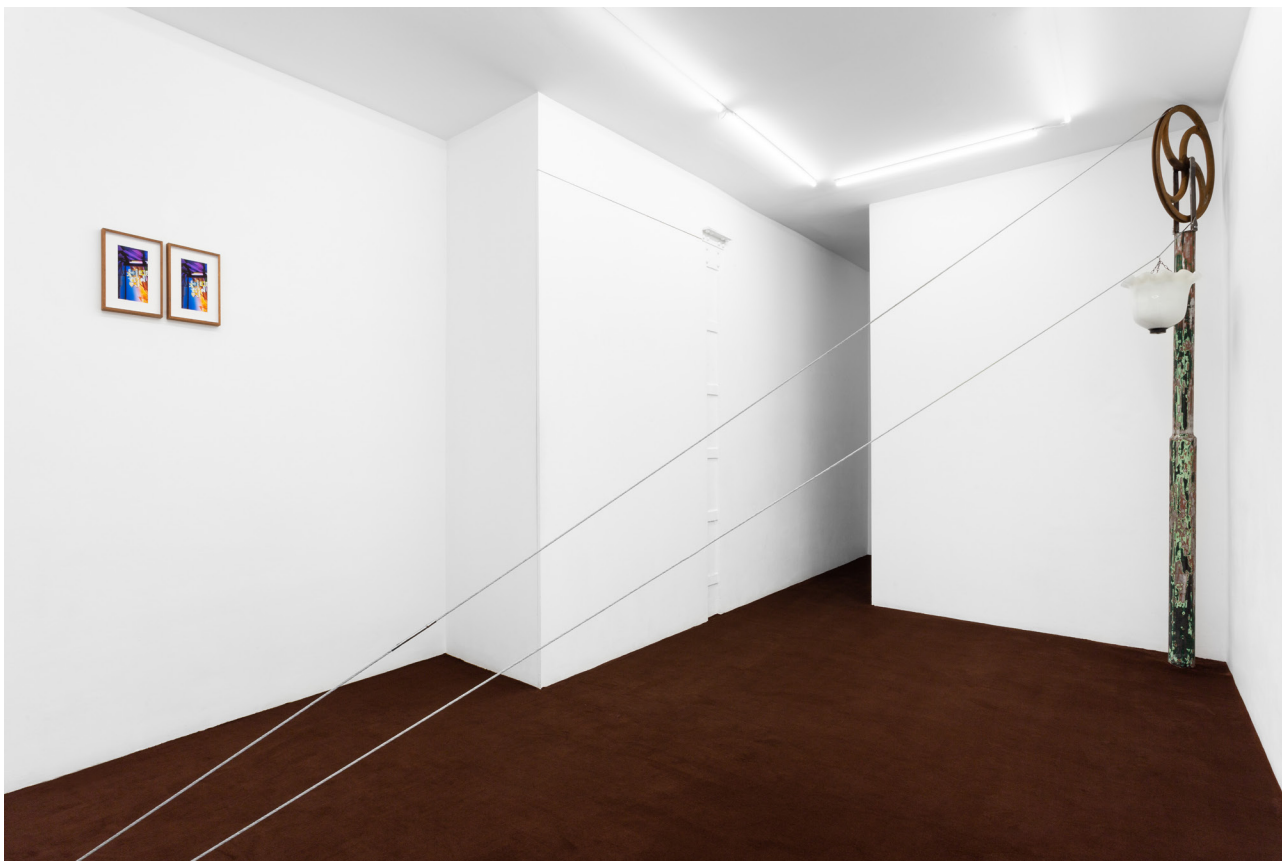


Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, PT



Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, PT





Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, PT

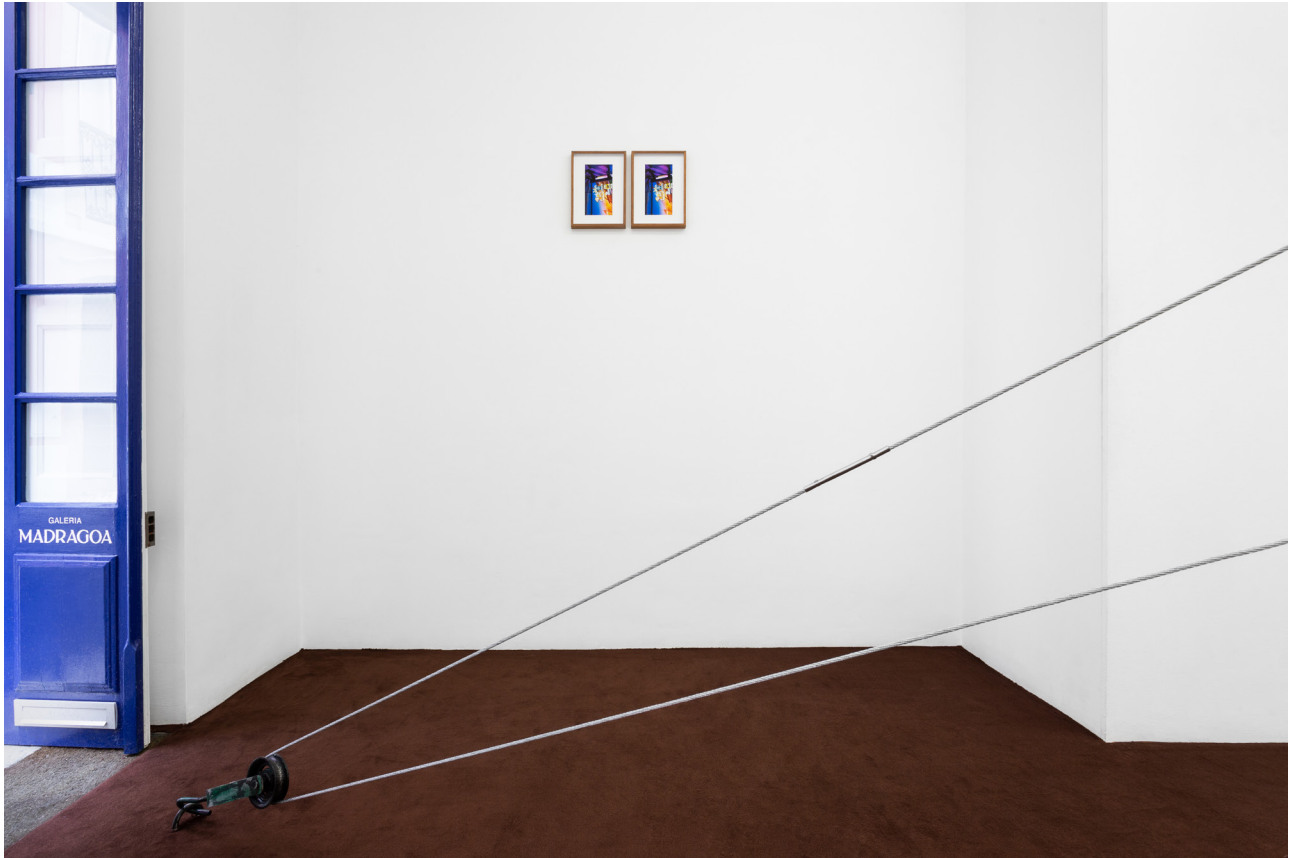


Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, PT



Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, PT





Dozie Kanu  
*value order [gentrity.pt]*  
2021  
Installation view at Madragoa, Lisbon, P



Dozie Kanu

*Pulley Trial*

2021

steel wire, metal, paint, found glass, inkjet print on paper

280 × 500 cm

installation dimensions variable

unique



Dozie Kanu  
*Headboard Trial*  
2021

Found headboard, glass, paper, stones, nails, metal, found listing pages, pastel on paper  
75 x 134 cm  
unique



Dozie Kanu  
*Las Vegas Arcade Soho London (Z-Ro Merits)*  
2021  
inkjet print on paper  
31 x 22 cm  
2 parts (31x22 each), framed

## MADRAGOA

Rua do Machadinho, 45 1200-705 Lisboa - PORTUGAL  
[galeriamadragoa.pt](http://galeriamadragoa.pt) - [info@galeriamadragoa.pt](mailto:info@galeriamadragoa.pt)