

# Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude

56 Henry Street

May 2 – June 1, 2025

**56 HENRY**, in collaboration with First Floor Gallery Harare, presents paintings by Zimbabwean artist Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude. Born and raised in Mbare, located north of Zimbabwe's capital Harare, Nyaude mines the vitality of young Zimbabwean men and is inspired by the brushy and distorted paintings of Francis Bacon as much as the palette and energy of his home town. His work references the rich idioms and proverbs of the Shona language, which is spoken by a majority of Zimbabweans.

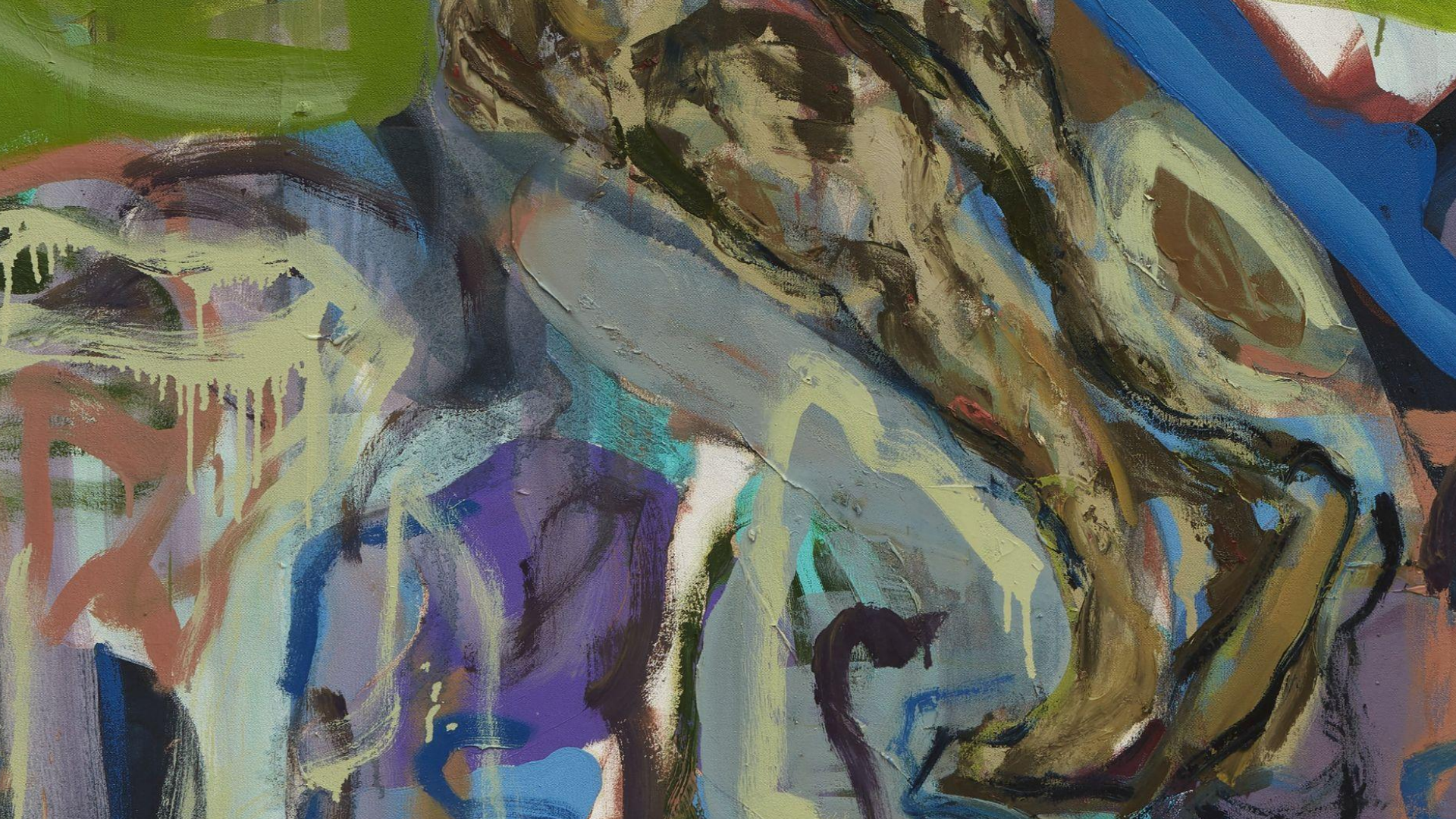
Nyaude's dreamlike scenes have the composition of still lives, but radiate movement and energy. His portraits of tiny humanoid figures hone in on individual mythology, centering a character rather than a tableau. Rife with symbolism, these works speak in code. Motifs recur throughout the presentation: crowns, sneakers, teeth, and chairs are present in differing measures in each of the works. Teeth reference the Shona proverb "*Zino irema rinosekerera warisingade*," (A tooth [smile] is a deceiver, it smiles even at the one it doesn't like). Chairs become symbols of leadership and authority, thrones that comment on the fractured and evolving state of Zimbabwean politics. Male bodies contort and morph, often truncated at the limbs or lacking facial features.

Nyaude presents avenues into the work, but intentionally obscures and encrypts the political messaging in his paintings due to the sensitivity of Zimbabwean politics. His defiant and energetic brushstrokes and a bold color palette act as a call to action. Military camouflage and playful renderings of Basquiat's famous crown symbol reference the West both politically and art historically. Nyaude maintains a distinctly African voice. He says "I want to start conversations with my people about issues that affect us in Africa. I don't want to create work that's reporting to the West about how we live but to allow my people to resolve these issues."



Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*Praying for Random Blessings*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
58 7/8 x 59 in  
149.5 x 150 cm



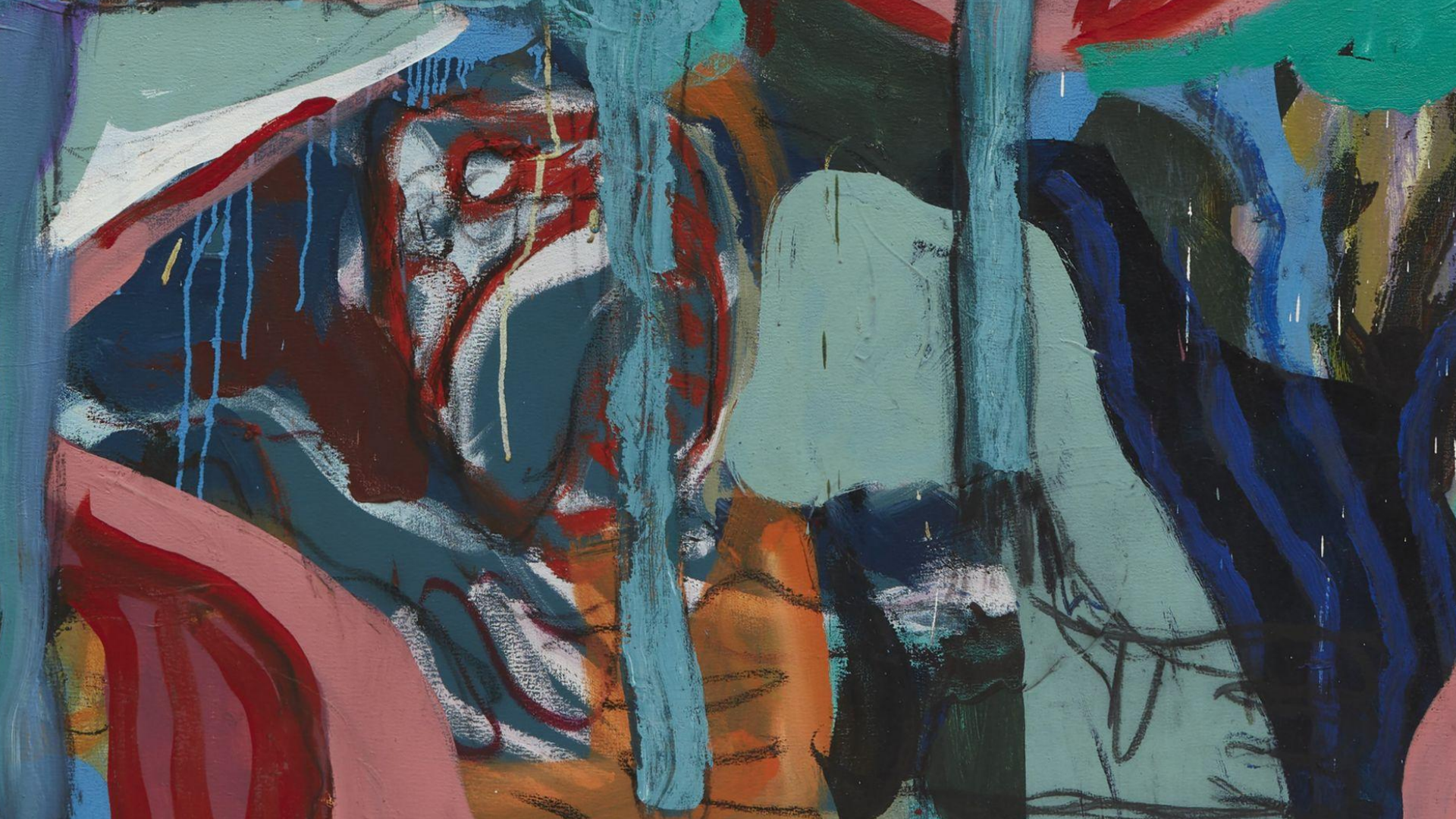






Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*All the early mornings*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
59 x 59 in  
150 x 150 cm



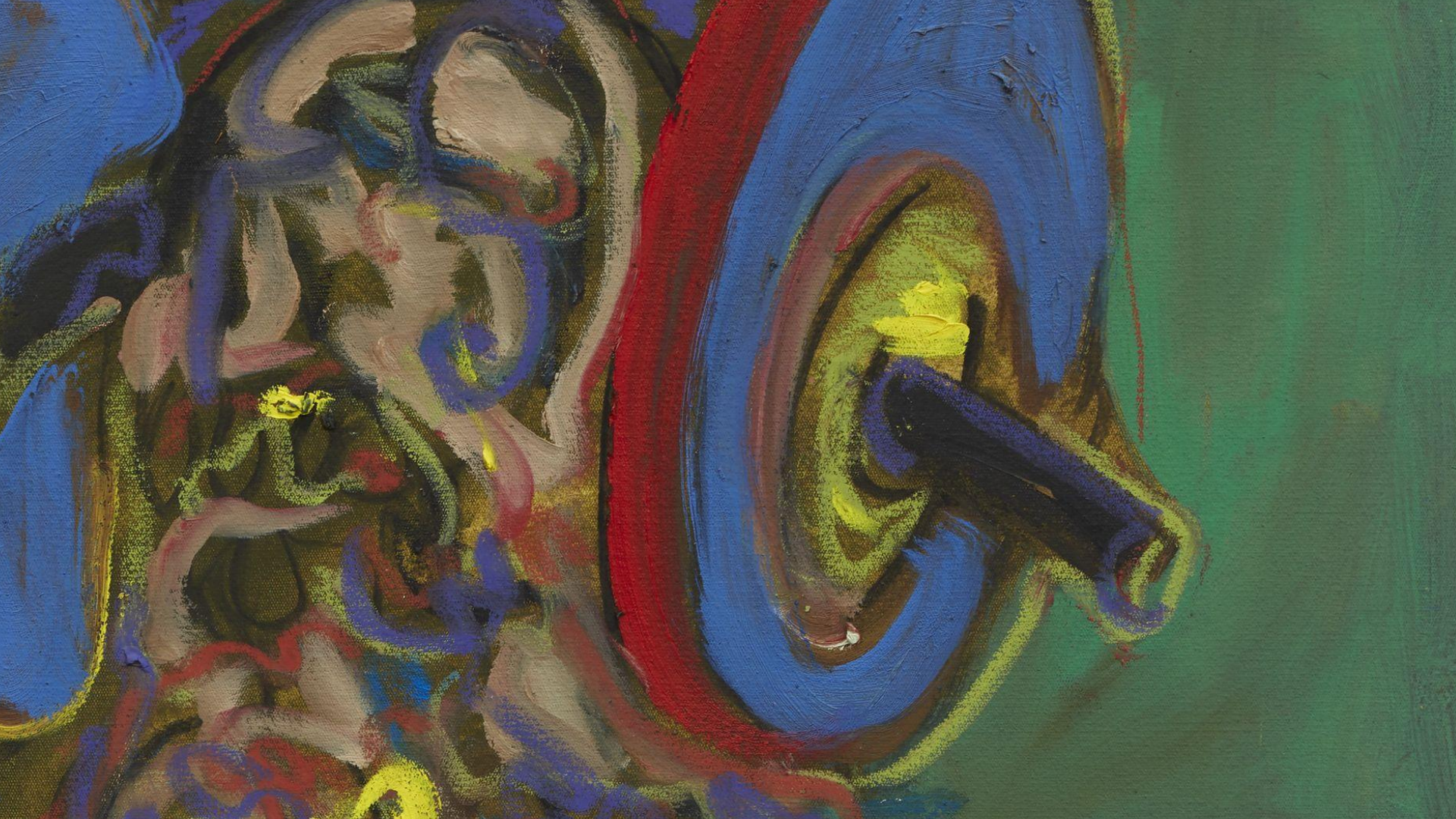






Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*Cartwheels in the Sand Part 3*, 2025  
Oil and charcoal on canvas  
35 3/8 x 27 1/2 in  
89.9 x 69.8 cm



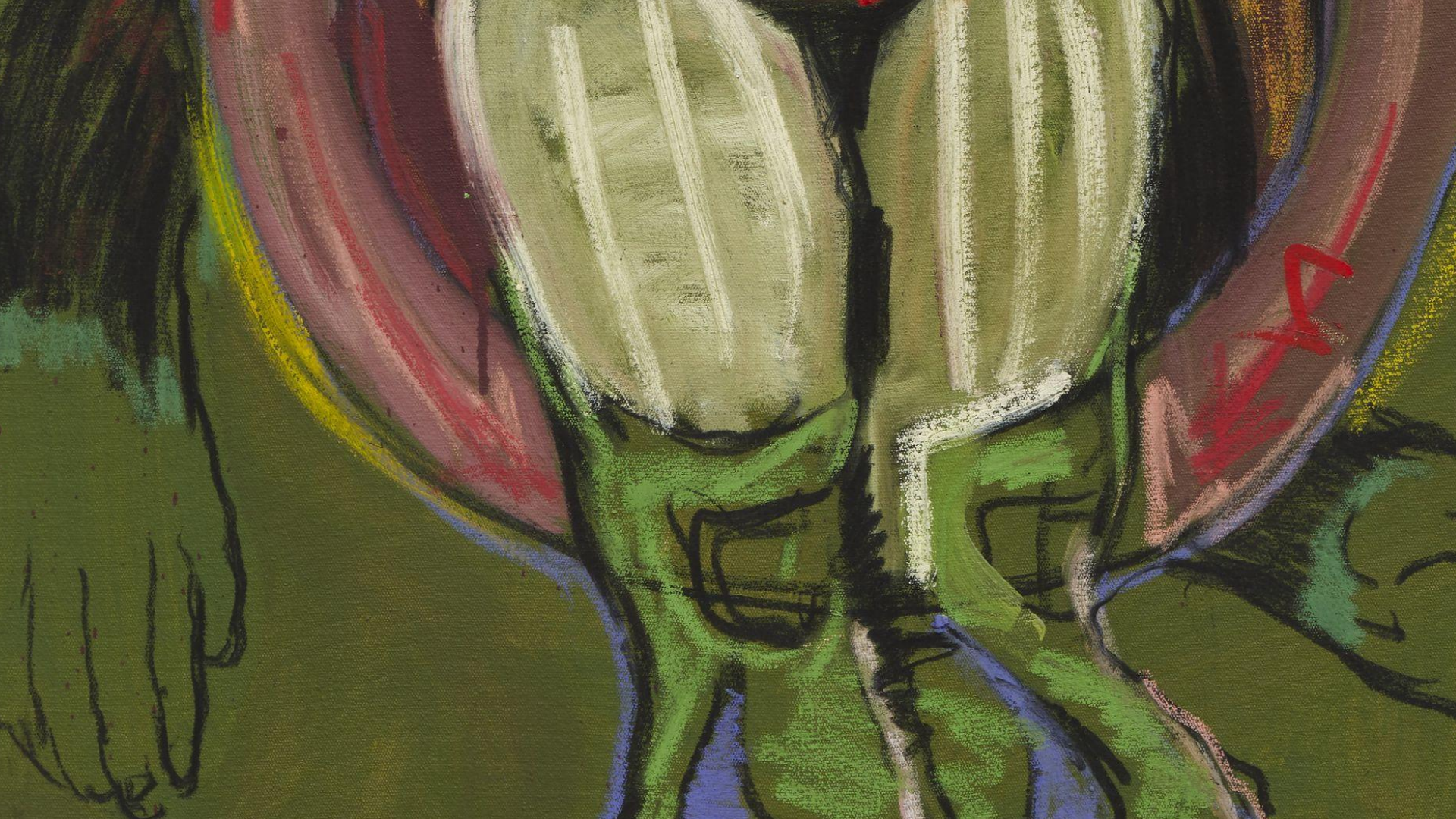






Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*Cartwheels in the Sand Part 5*, 2025  
Oil and charcoal on canvas  
35 3/8 x 27 1/2 in  
89.9 x 69.8 cm









Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*Repost Part 2*, 2025  
Oil and charcoal on canvas  
43 1/4 x 31 3/4 in  
109.9 x 80.6 cm









Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*Echoes of battles won but not ended*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
59 x 59 in  
150 x 150 cm



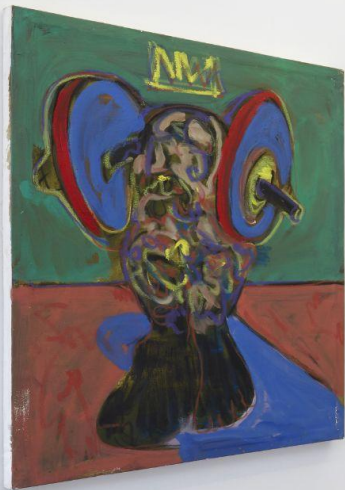




Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude  
*MMXXIV*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
59 x 59 in  
150 x 150 cm







Installation view of  
*Gresham Tapiwa*  
*Nyaude* at 56 Henry





Installation view of  
*Gresham Tapiwa*  
*Nyaude* at 56 Henry



# Information

Born 1988 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Born and raised in Mbare, Harare, Zimbabwe's most vibrant and notorious ghetto, **Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude** works against the sweeping identity, which has been defined for Zimbabweans by the voice of the state and domestic and international media. His images oscillate between figuration, abstraction and hallucination, drawing from the restless energy of his neighborhood and its youth, in a country, where more than 60% of the population is under the age of 30. His gesturally rendered effigies of traditional proverbs and poignant vernacular idioms, defy characterization. Nyaude's work has achieved wide international critical and collector recognition, in 2018 he presented a major body of work in the USA as part of *Songs for Sabotage* at the New Museum Triennial. Nyaude's work is in the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Museum of Contemporary African Art Al Maaden (Macaal), and the Rubell Family Collection. He is represented by First Floor Gallery Harare, Zimbabwe.

Bio courtesy of First Floor Gallery Harare, Zimbabwe



# Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Immanentize the Eschaton*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2023** EXPO Chicago, First Floor Gallery Harare, Chicago, IL
- 2022** *Ziva Munhu Wako*, First Floor Gallery Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe  
*Negotiating Chaos: It's the way it shatters that matters*, Simone Subal Gallery, New York City, NY  
*The Joys of Self-Delusion*, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2021** *Premonition of Civil Peace*, Selma Feriani Gallery, Tunis, Tunisia  
*Grey Spaces*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2020** *True Optimism*, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2019** *Poetry of Rebels*, Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude/Song Yuanuyan, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China  
*Day and Night* (Gresham Tapiwa Nyude and Wycliffe Mundopa), GNYG Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
*Night and Day* (Gresham Tapiwa Nyude and Wycliffe Mundopa), First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2018** *Kubatana*, (Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude/Takunda Regis Billiat), Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London, UK
- 2017** *Mazino*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2016** *Tomorrows/Today* curated solo project Cape Town Art Fair, First Floor Gallery Harare, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015** *Harare >Mundopa*, Nyaude – Hazard Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *In Black and White* (Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude/Anne Zanele Mutema), First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe

# Collections

Fondation Gandur, Geneva

Jorge Perez Personal Collection, Miami

Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA

Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA

Fundación Yannick y Ben Jakober, Mallorca, Spain

Tiroche de Leon Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel

Museum of African Contemporary Art al Maaden (Macaal), Marrakech, Morocco

# Residencies

**2021** Selma Feriani Gallery – Le Studio residency, Tunis, Tunisia

**2018** Africa First Residency, START, Tel Aviv, Israel

**2017** The Gathering, international artist forum (with Theaster Gates, William Kentridge and Wengechi Mutu, hosts Michael Armitage, Mukami Kuria), Kenya

Another Antipodes project residency selected artist, Perth, Australia

**2015** Asiko Art School and Residency (Bisi Silva founder and coordinator), Maputo, Mozambique

# Awards

**2024** FNB Art Prize



# Group Exhibitions

- 2025** *Taona*, S& Projects, First Floor Gallery Harare, New York City, USA
- 2024** *Messe Messe 2024*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe  
*Kuvhunura: The Harare School*, Fondation Blachère, Bonnieux, France  
FNB Art Joburg, First Floor Gallery Harare, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*MIART*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Milan, Italy  
*Vanguard Onwards*, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, First Floor Gallery Harare, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023** *Paper Weight*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe  
ART021 Shanghai Art Fair, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China  
Sovereign Art Prize finalist exhibition, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Messe Messe*, First Floor Gallery Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- 2022** *Unruly Paradigms* at Frieze No. 9 Cork Street, Vanguard Gallery, London, UK
- 2021** *Mirror Mirror! - South SouthVeza*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2020** *Level | Mosi-oa-tunya*, First Floor Gallery Vic Falls, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- 2019** *Harare Fauves* (Mundopa, Nyaude, Teede), Alon Segev Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2018** *Ex Africa aemperaliquidnovi*, Fundación Yannick y Ben Jakober, Sa Bassa Blanca Museum, Mallorca, Spain  
*Songs for Sabotage*, New Museum Triennial, New York, USA
- 2017** *Another Antipodes/urban axis* touring exhibition of Southern African contemporary art, PS Art Space, Freemantle, Australia
- 2016** *'I am because you are'*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2015** *Flaunt*, Africa New Wave Now – Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New York, USA
- 2014** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair 2014, London, UK  
*Wayland Rudd Collection*, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2013** 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair inaugural edition, First Floor Gallery Harare, London, UK