



SHUVIRO YAMAI
AMANDA SHINGIRAYI MUSHATE

WWW.FIRSTFLOORGALLERYHARARE.COM

AMANDA SHINGIRAYI MUSHATE

SHUVAIRO YAMAI (MOTHER'S WISH)

First Floor Gallery – Victoria Falls

Complexity is a default in Mushate's life, as in the life of most Zimbabweans. Simple if it ever happens is a minor miracle, nothing less and has been for several generations. Over the past century, they have been overwrought and endured the upheavals of colonialism, the struggle for independences, post-colonial development and the concurrent economic political drama of land reform, HIV epidemic, sanctions and the hyperinflation crisis, often all at once. Add to this the physical and cultural upheavals of urbanisation and the impact of economic migration and their effect on families and you get a prae-cis of an average Zimbabwean's psychological, cultural, economic, physical, intellectual and spatial default.

How does one bring a child into this reality? How does one parent in this present, how much faith can we recover in our hearts to build the courage to start? How does one reflect on one's relationships in the generational chain, knowing now what one knows, also now knowing how much more one does not.

These are the touchstone questions at the heart of Shuvairo Yamai (Mother's Wish) a turbulent, resolute and defiant body of work, which insists that joy and beauty is not only possible but necessary in world where it is often an afterthought.

Beauty is often trivialized in contemporary art discourse as something that is superficial and something we need to apologise for, as a guilty pleasure, as something beneath lofty intellectual ambition. As though aesthetics do not

emerge from fundamental laws of nature, as though adoration we feel when we look at the beauty of our children needs to be validated by something other than love.

Mushate does not allow us to be this small. Her canvases insist on courage and beauty as twin flames, which make life worth living. Colour negotiated by layers and woven lines, which dissolve and overwhelm human shapes into motion and space. They are all of our stories, in a world where we can only try to grasp at the meaning of anything we experience and are almost always guaranteed to fail. Mushate tells us tell that beauty exists, that joy is real, not as a destination but as a way of being. Not in spite of our circumstances but because that is the nature of life.

Mushate's world in Shuvai Yamai is a space of ultimate uncertainty and ultimate freedom, where we shape our world rather than being shaped by it. It reminds the human in all of us that the chois of the artist, can also be our choice. While it might feel like falling, we can only live if we let go of the struggle to survive.

-Valerie Kabov
Curator
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Amanda Shingirayi Mushate

Born 1995, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
Lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe

At just twenty-five, Mushate is establishing herself as a leading voice in contemporary Zimbabwean painting and an innovative young abstractionist with a growing international reputation. As a young woman and a new mother, in a male dominated field Mushate is also a role model and an advocate for women artists, making art and careers possible without sacrificing family. After completing her studies at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe Visual Arts Studio in 2016, Mushate was mentored by Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude to develop a vibrant and unique personal vision and modes of expression, presenting her first solo exhibition in 2018 with First Floor Gallery. Like any young person, Mushate is preoccupied with finding and shaping her place and path in this world, while negotiating the complexity of interpersonal relationships. Drawing her inspiration from music and from people around her but not wanting to be constrained by over figuration, she paints and sculpts her happiness and burdens, and the things that she takes time to visualize. "Art is a way for me to write about a 'future' for me and for all individuals for them to never be overshadowed by negative influences that divert us to our true purpose in life." Mushate's passionate, playful and mazelike canvases have been winning critical and international collector attention globally with works in important private collections in Cape Town, New York, Harare, London, Amsterdam and Paris.



Selected Recent Exhibitions

- 2022 SCENORAMA (Gabi Ngcobo curator), Javett Art Centre - University of Pretoria, South Africa
- 2021: Investec Cape Town Art Fair, First Floor Gallery Harare: Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021: Nguve ine Muridzi, solo exhibition, First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2021: Mirror Mirror! - South South Veza, First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2020: Level Mosi-oa-tunya, First Floor Gallery, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
- 2020: African Galleries Now, African Art Galleries- Artsy Online art fair, First Floor Gallery
- 2020: Tomorrows/Today solo presentation, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, First Floor Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019: Emerging Painting Invitational (finalist), First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2019: On A Clear Day (Amanda Mushate - Mavis Tauzeni), First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2018: Next Level, First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2018: Hupenyu Hwangu Ndapedza Dzidzo (My Life-End of Lessons) solo exhibition, First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2017: Young Artist Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2016: Green Shoots, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe



Muridzi(The Owner), 2022
Oil on canvas
210 x 349.5cm



Muridzi(The Owner) detail

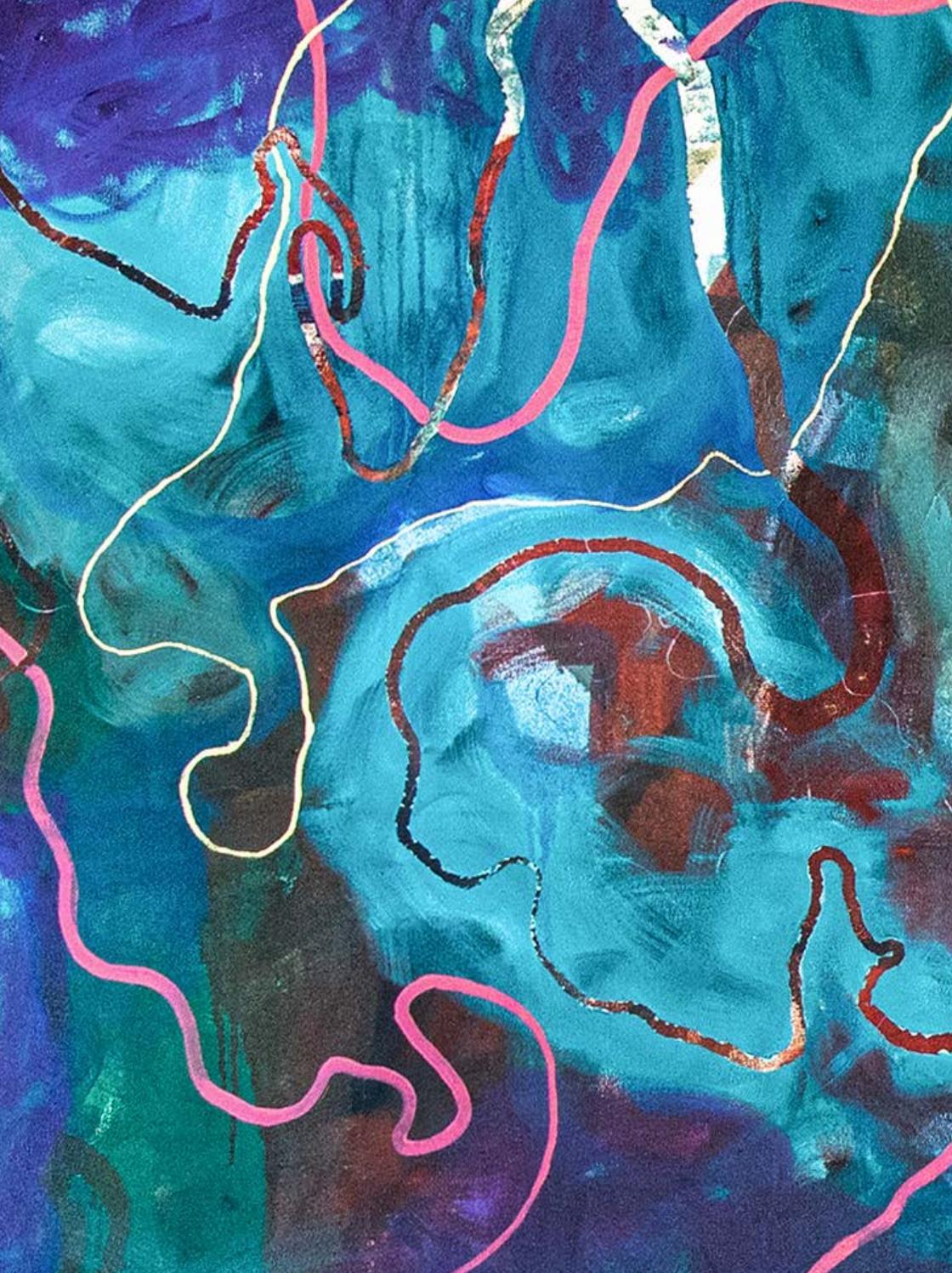




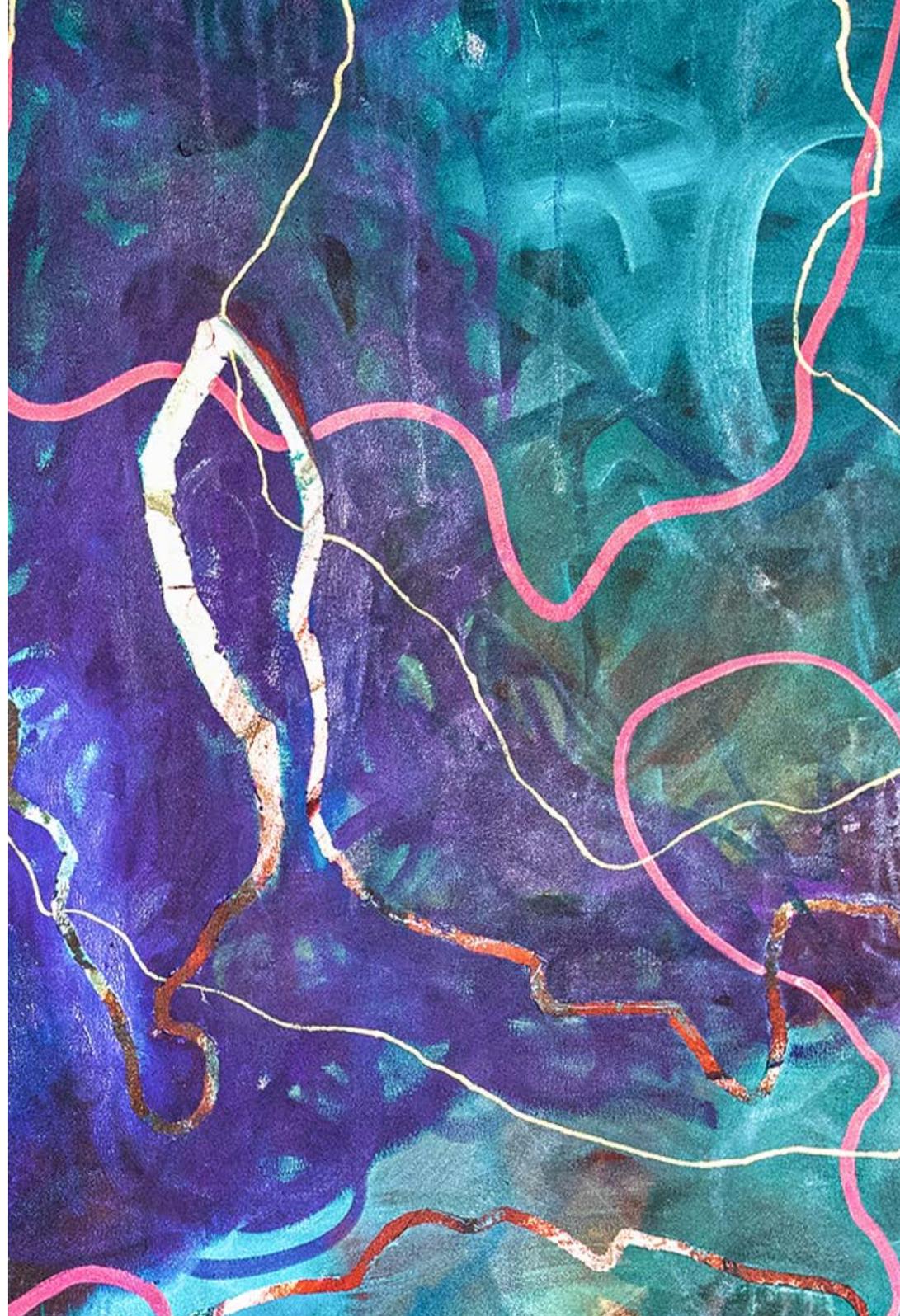
PLEASE
DO NOT
TOUCH THE
ARTWORKS



Ndivhenekereiwo(Lighten my path), 2022
Oil on canvas
208 x 346cm



Ndivhenekereiwo(Lighten my path) detail





PLEASE
DO NOT
TOUCH THE
ARTWORKS



Moyo wangu uzere neshungu usandidzimirewo Mwanangu- To my baby my heart need you to shine always please don't dim, 2022
Oil on canvas
180 x 250cm



Moyo wangu uzere neshungu usandidzimirewo Mwanangu- To my baby my heart need you to shine always please don't dim detail

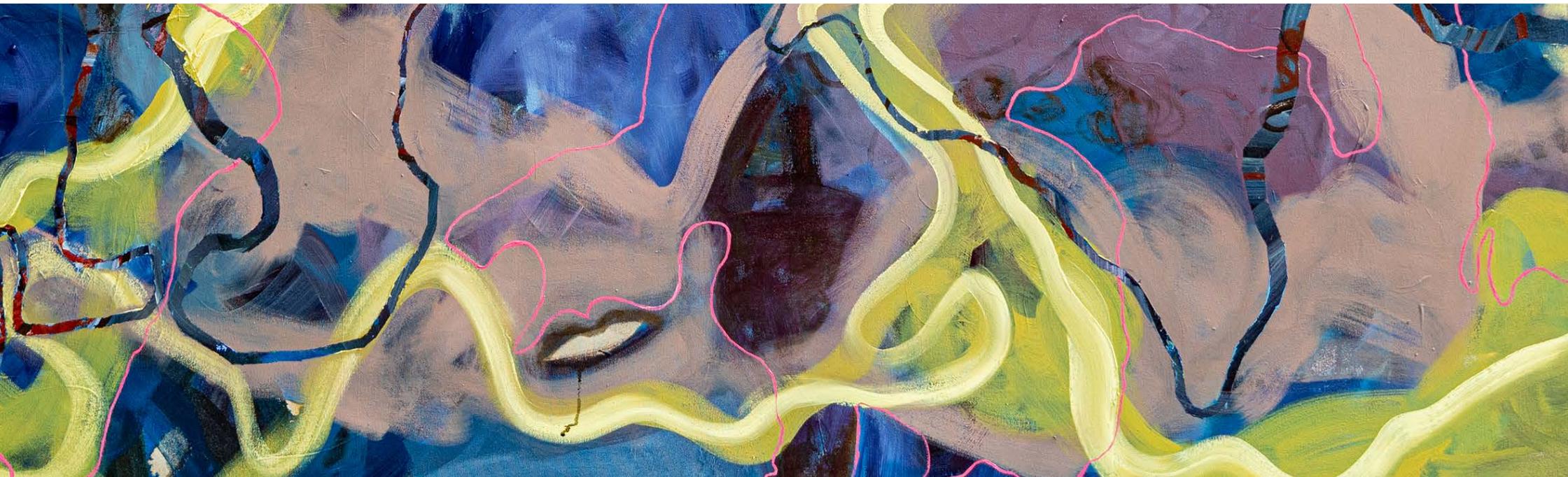




Ndinodirirdzira zvichirema(I water my flowers sometimes its painful), 2022

Oil on canvas

140 x 250cm



Ndinodirirdzira zvichirema(I water my flowers sometimes its painful) detail





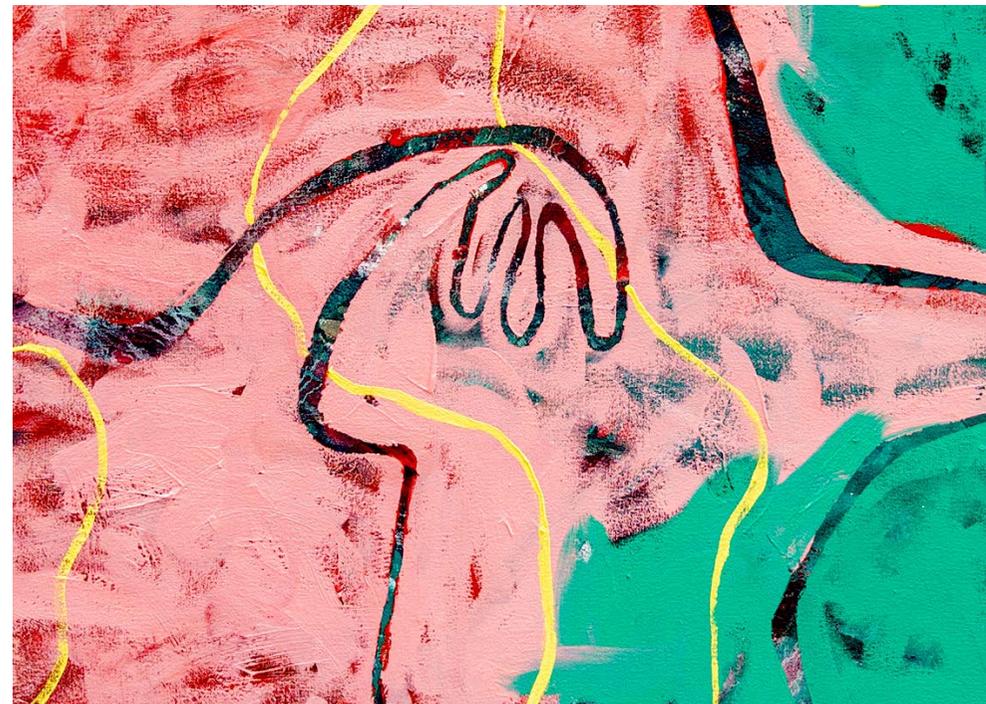
Akula kunyama kuluhlaza(My path is green), 2022
Oil on canvas
150 x 150cm



Akula kunyama kuluhlaza(My path is green) detail



Izintombi zase dolobheni(Girls of the town), 2022
Oil on canvas
150.5 x 150cm



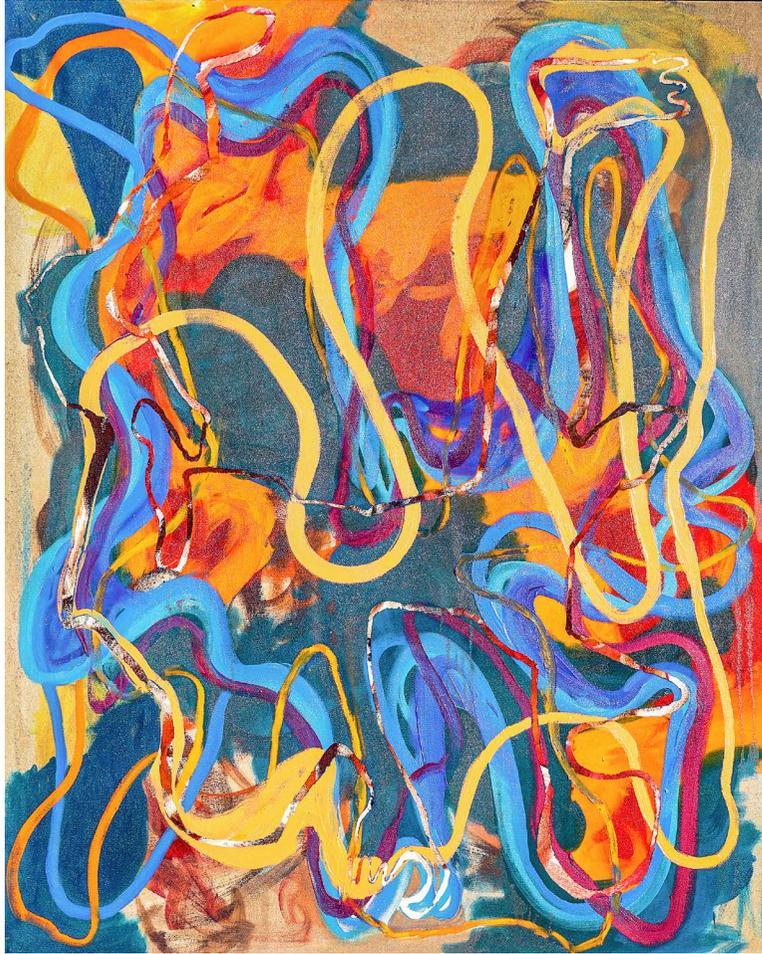
Izintombi zase dolobheni(Girls of the town) detail



Zvakaoma kuti tizoti rugare(Its not easy to keep up), 2022
Oil on canvas
149 x 119cm



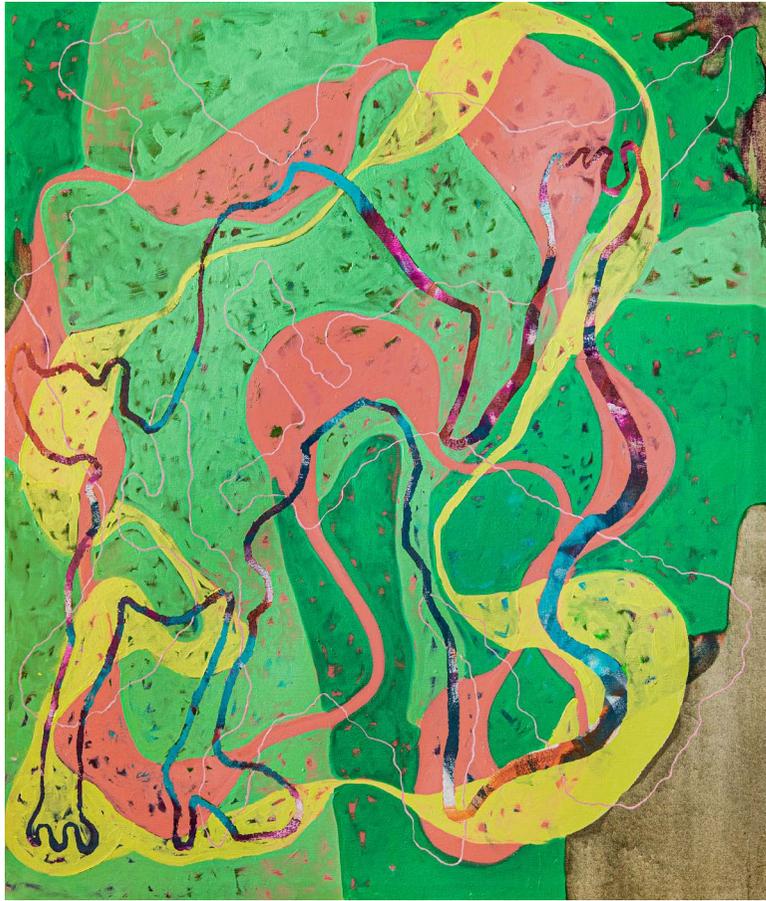
Zvakaoma kuti tizoti rugare(Its not easy to keep up) detail



Sihambisana(Walking together), 2022
Oil on canvas
150 x 120cm



DETAILED SHOT



Wenge mhuka(Like an animal), 2022
Oil on canvas
119.5 x 100cm



Wenge mhuka(Like an animal) detail



Ebunkosini lothando(Royalty with love) 2022
Oil on canvas
150 x 110cm



Ebunkosini lothando(Royalty with love) detail



Ukuyamukela(Beneficiary), 2022
Oil on canvas
130 x 98.5cm



Ukuyamukela(Beneficiary) detail



Catching a good thing, 2022
Oil on canvas
150 x 150cm



Catching a good thing. detail



FIRST FLOOR GALLERY
HARARE | VICTORIA FALLS

WWW.FIRSTFLOORGALLERYHARARE.COM
firstfloorgalleryharare@gmail.com

2ND FLOOR KARIGAMOMBE CENTRE
53 SAMORA MACHEL AVENUE
HARARE

ELEPHANTS WALK
253 MOSI-OA-TUNYA
VICTORIA FALLS

