

ART | NEED TO NOW

Virginia Chihota: A Thorn in my Flesh

Tiwani Contemporary shows the work of a rising Zimbabwean artist



JANUARY 02 2015
VIRGINIA BLACKBURN

Contemporary African art continues to thrill an ever-increasing circle of collectors, and one of its foremost emerging practitioners will be holding her first solo exhibition in Europe at London's Tiwani Contemporary gallery from Friday January 9 to Friday February 6. *A Thorn in my Flesh* showcases the drawing and print works of Virginia Chihota, a Zimbabwean artist now based in Libya, who represented the country of her birth at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, where she was awarded the Prix Canson, which recognises international emerging artists working with paper.

The exhibition comprises of works that have never been seen in the UK before, alongside some new pieces – such as the series of screen prints *The Root of the Flower we do not Know (Mudzi Weruva Ratisingazive)* (£5,350, pictured). The works feature much that is conceived by her response to human relationships, especially her recent experiences of marriage and motherhood – such as *Raising your Own (Kurera Wako)* (£8,900), a giant matriarch with inverted head who supports her family in her arms. Especially impactful are bold patterns with human forms seemingly trapped in constricting, moving shapes – such as *Constant Search for SelfKudzokorodza Kuzvitsvaga (The Constant Search for Self)* (£6,600) and *The Day will Arrive (Zuva Richasvika)* (£6,600). The anxious undertone has references to domestic life, folklore and religion. “The thorn represents the many weaknesses and negative situations in life,” she says. “Yet if we continue to hope, we will be released from the tension and pressures surrounding us. Weakness and strength cannot do without each other.”

Born in 1983, Chihota studied fine arts at the National Art Gallery Studios in Harare and has in recent years shown her work in Hannover, Berlin, Lyon and the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. She is becoming particularly acclaimed for her focus on domestic relationships and all the travails they can entail. “I need to research where we have gone wrong – going to the dark, yet true, side of life to find answers – in order to progress,” she says. “In my work I have the space and freedom to ask questions, offer suggestions and ask for forgiveness... I want to nurture the love and respect that seems to have frozen and to free the massive tension that holds us.”

A Thorn in my Flesh, Friday January 9 to Saturday February 7 2015 at Tiwani Contemporary, 16 Little Portland Street, London W1 (020-7631 3808; www.tiwani.co.uk).

See also

Galleries, Virginia Chihota, Tiwani Contemporary, London, Exhibitions

SHARE THIS ON...



EMAIL THIS

Most popular



ARTS & GIVING
Process-based art's rise



ART | FINDERS KEEPERS
Cuban art



ARTS & GIVING
Fondation Louis Vuitton's opening



ART
The art of photojournalism



PROPERTY
Homes in art-rich cities



ROLLS-ROYCE
MOTOR CARS
FINANCIAL SERVICES

DISCOVER MORE



Tell us what you think of
How To Spend It

for you the chance to win
£250*
*or local equivalent

Enter the Prize Draw now >>

Archive choice

