

Tiwani Contemporary
16 Little Portland Street
London W1W 8BP
tel. +44 (0) 20 7631 3808
www.tiwani.co.uk

VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

A Thorn in my Flesh

9 January – 7 February 2015

Private View: Thursday 8 January 2015, 6.30 – 8.30pm

“The thorn represents the many weaknesses and negative situations in life, yet in the right proposed time if we continue with our hope we will be released from the tension and pressures surrounding us. Weakness and strength cannot do without each other.”

Virginia Chihota

Tiwani Contemporary is delighted to announce Virginia Chihota’s first solo exhibition in Europe, *A Thorn in my Flesh*.

Chihota represented Zimbabwe at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013 and was awarded the Prix Canson in the same year, which recognises an international emerging artist working with paper. She uses drawing and printmaking to investigate themes pertaining to universal human experience, including isolation, consciousness and belonging, particularly as it relates to female subjectivity.

A Thorn in my Flesh features a selection of Chihota’s typically bold works that have never been exhibited in the UK, including a number of new large-scale monoprints, as well as smaller drawings.

Over the past years, Chihota has submitted her life, recently her experience of marriage and motherhood, to considerable observation and transformed her thoughts into a body of works on paper of striking symbolic resonance.

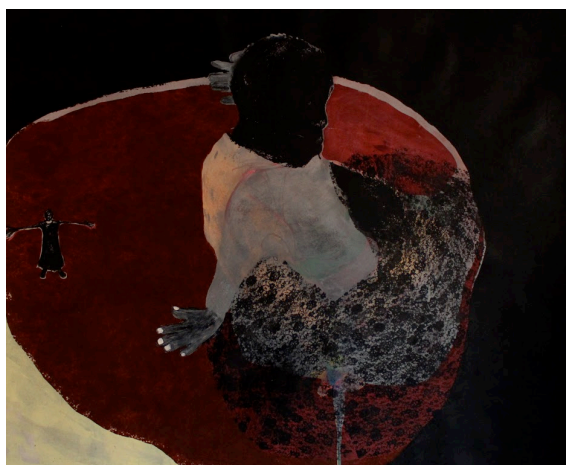
The works in the exhibition often depict the human form, isolated or trapped within womb-like membranes of translucent colours and bold patterns. Chihota’s work comes out of a personal response to relationships and represents a world of boundless desires in which the subject always encounters limitations.

Chihota observes the human figure and depicts it with expressive force. Her bold line and play with transparency convey the artist’s authority as much as her subjects’ vulnerability and anxiety. There is a graphic impulse in her practice, underpinned by her exceptional skills as a printmaker. Chihota has developed a universal language, based on the repetition and mechanical reproduction of forms rife with allusions to domestic life, religious and folkloric symbolism. Her work is an **expression of the essential human impulse for togetherness and belonging**, and a masterclass in how to use the traditional media of drawing and printmaking in the 21st century.



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About Virginia Chihota:

Virginia Chihota was born in 1983 in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe. She currently lives and works in Tripoli, Libya. She graduated in Fine Arts from the National Art Gallery Studios in Harare, Zimbabwe in 2006. Recent exhibitions include *Shifting Africa: Artistic Views from the Sub-Sahara*, Kunsthalle Faust, Hannover (2014); *Giving Contours to Shadows*, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (2014); 55th Venice Biennale (2013), National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare (2012); and the Lyon Biennale, Lyon (2011).

A Thorn in my Flesh
9 January – 7 February 2015
at Tiwani Contemporary

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View on:

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Tiwani Contemporary | 16 Little Portland Street | W1W 8BP
T: + 44 (0) 207 631 3808 | Directions (Oxford Circus tube)
@Tiwaniart | www.tiwani.co.uk

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 11am - 6pm; Saturday 12pm – 5pm

Notes to Editors

For additional information and biographies contact
Eva Langret, Tiwani Contemporary | T. 0207 631 3808
eva@tiwani.co.uk

For all press enquiries, contact
Jenny Prytherch, Flint PR | T. 0203 463 2087
jenny.prytherch@flint-pr.com

About Tiwani Contemporary

Founded in 2011, Tiwani Contemporary exhibits and represents international emerging and established artists, focussing on Africa and its diaspora. The gallery presents work through its exhibition programme and participation in art fairs.

In addition to its commercial activities, Tiwani Contemporary runs a public programme, Art Connect, supported by the A.G Leventis Foundation. This provides a platform for discussing contemporary artistic practice through publications, talks and projects, both within the gallery and in association with other organisations.

Tiwani Contemporary works in collaboration with the Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos (CCA Lagos) on both its exhibition and public programmes.

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