



# L'Atelier

**Refuge: An uncommon home**  
2021 Absa L'Atelier Ambassadors  
collaborative exhibition.





# Exhibition Statement

## **Refuge: An uncommon home**

This exhibition is a journey of self-reflection by the three 2021 Absa L'Atelier Ambassadors, namely Ayobola Kekere-ekun of Nigeria, Michael Jackson Blebo of Ghana, and Adelheid Frackiewicz of South Africa.

Through their art production, these three artists undertook a journey of self-reflection, during which their art-making process gave them an opportunity to reflect on their personal trauma, addressing their fear of what was and what might be, while giving them the strength to face their anxiety of the unknown. Using a combination of found objects and traditional art materials, the production of these artworks has been a delicate yet challenging process, allowing each artist an opportunity of finding refuge and tranquillity in their own personal space.

It is through reimagining their home, which is not only a physical space of materiality, that it becomes a refuge from what was.



## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa

For me, making sculptures, installations and drawings involves processes that allow me to think and work through personal anxieties regarding the trauma of loss and death. These anxieties stem from two main places. Firstly, a fear that something could happen (like a car accident or an illness that results in death) to my two young girls now or in the future, and secondly an intergenerational anxiety passed on from my Polish grandfather who escaped Europe during the Second World War.

I consider my own art making in terms of site, materiality and ritual like processes to function as personally constructive and meaningful in a comparable manner to historical or contemporary mourning practices. Most of the materials I use in my artworks are site-specific, either directly collected from a site of trauma and loss or attempting to reference that site. These site-specific materials include earth from German concentration camps in Poland, cremated animal bones, human teeth, human hair and skin, nail clippings, breastmilk and lint.

**Adelheid**





## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa



### Implants (installation)

White concrete, earth  
2022

R24,000 (R500 per tooth)  
(Unframed)





## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa



Diasc mounted, Prints (edition of 5)

R20,000



Diasc mounted, Prints (edition of 5)

R20,000





## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa



**Cleansing**

Lint, resin, teeth, animal bone ash, Plexiglas  
2022

**R30,000**  
(Unframed)



**Smoke**

Pencil on Archers paper  
2022

**R20,000**  
(Unframed)





## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa



### Soap Memorial (triptych)

Site specific earth from Nazi concentration camps in Poland, animal bone ash, soap, hair, nail clippings, breast milk, chewing gum, ash, resin. 2022

R50,000  
(Unframed)





## Adelheid Frackiewicz – South Africa



### Lining up

Site specific earth from Nazi concentration camps in Poland, animal bone ash, soap, hair, nail clippings, chewing gum, ash, resin.  
2022

R20,000 (R2,000 each)  
(Unframed)





## Ayobola Kekere-Ekun – Nigeria

The pieces for this exhibition are a continuation of my current body of work, *She and I*, in which I reimagine a childhood lost to trauma. I will explore the home as a simultaneous site of refuge and pain. Growing up, my family and I lived in what is popularly known in Nigeria as a family house. It is a living situation in which an extended family occupies one large compound of house and the nuclear families within have specific suites of rooms or even apartments. This ensures a family network where grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunts are a constant in one's life. I plan to explore how this home predicated on strong family ties can also become a source and site of discomfort and in some cases, outright trauma.

### **Ayobola**





## Ayobola Kekere-Ekun – Nigeria



How to keep a secret I

Mixed media (Paper, fabric and acrylic on canvas)  
2022

R70,000  
Framed



How to keep a secret II

Mixed media (Paper, fabric and acrylic on canvas)  
2022

R70,000  
Framed



How to keep a secret III

Mixed media (Paper, fabric and acrylic on canvas)  
2022

R260,2000  
Framed





## Ayobola Kekere-Ekun – Nigeria



**How to keep a secret IV**

Mixed media (Paper, fabric and acrylic on canvas)  
2022

**R140,000**  
Framed



**How to keep a secret V**

Mixed media (Paper, fabric and acrylic on canvas)  
2022

**R140,000**  
Framed





## Ayobola Kekere-Ekun – Nigeria



### Infection I

Mixed media installation (ribbons on household objects)  
2022

R172,000  
Unframed





## Michael Jackson Blebo – Ghana

### Urban Commons

Urban commons opens the tentative title of this project. The project surreally highlights an audience walking in a painting. As you can never walk in a painting, you must imagine yourself walking in the streets. This project explores the ant nest as a naturally occurring geological formation or architecture and their public space. Exploring the biomorphic, the artwork explores organic architecture as well as juxtaposition with urban architecture. The project combines painting and sculpting techniques. The work explores the element of form, space and time, presenting the audience with a shifting perspective on materiality and its fluidity of organic forms and the supreme material of utopia.

**MJ**





## Michael Jackson Blebo – Ghana



### Parallel Realm (Triptych)

Ochre,Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Mirror on Chipboard  
2022

R172,000  
Framed





## Michael Jackson Blebo – Ghana



**Masa ne Koose I**

Ochre,Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Mirror on Chipboard  
2022

**R51,750**  
Framed



**Masa ne Koose II**

Ochre,Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Mirror on Chipboard  
2022

**R51,750**  
Framed



**Solace in silence**

Ochre, Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Anti-glare glass  
on Chipboard  
2022

**R34,500**  
Framed



**Promised illusion**

Ochre, Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Anti-glare glass  
on Chipboard  
2022

**R34,500**  
Framed



**Mirage**

Ochre, Phyto, Charcoal,Beewax, Anti-glare glass  
on Chipboard  
2022

**R34,500**  
Framed







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