

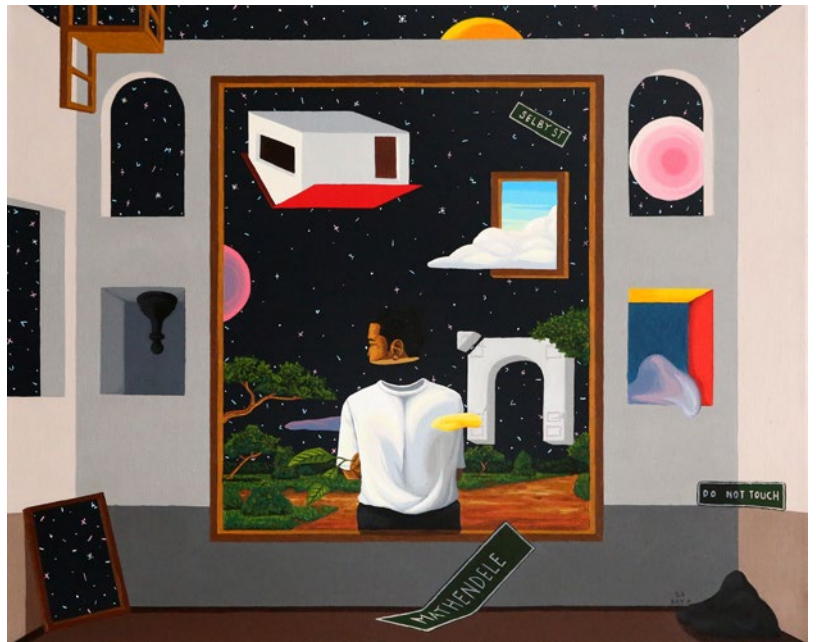
“A new gallery for contemporary and classical African art in Antwerp’s trendy museum quarter.”

“Raymond Fuyana’s first ever solo exhibition in Europe.”

“Fuyana’s beautiful dreamscapes take you on a journey through his personal experience as a deaf artist”

“Last year’s Venice Biennale put surrealism back on the forefront by highlighting both past and contemporary artists.”

“It’s the gallery’s ambition to give more visibility to art from the African continent.”



“At Mathendele”, 2023. Acrylic and oil on canvas. 80 x 100 cm

“A WORLD UNHEARD”

RAYMOND FUYANA

B.1995, ZIMBABWE

April 22 - May 14, 2023
Thu-Sun, 13-18h
And by appointment

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#RaymondFuyana

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"Yellow Love", 2022. Acrylic and oil on canvas. 80 x 99 cm

“A WORLD UNHEARD”

RAYMOND FUYANA



“A World Unheard” is the first ever solo exhibition of Raymond Fuyana (Zimbabwe, b. 1995). Through his paintings, the self-taught artist creates a world where past, present, and future collide. With his unique combination of realism and surrealism, Fuyana’s beautiful dreamscapes take you on a journey through his personal experience as a deaf artist.

“I have a lot of emotions I need to pour out; my thoughts, dreams, what I see, I need to express all that in my art.”

In his extraordinary paintings, Fuyana positions himself as an observer of the alternative reality he shapes in his imagination. The artist invites us to look over his shoulder and step into his surrealistic visions. Both alienating as familiar, Fuyana’s phantasmal spaces draw us into his world. The distinct shapes and colors are speaking loud and clear. The painter ingeniously contrasts interior and exterior spaces, while deconstructing their boundaries. Fuyana combines elements of classical architecture and interiors with dreamy African landscapes. In between realms, the artist maneuvers between village and city life, while he has found his home in art.

Each painting tells a personal story with a vivid color palette and intricate details filled with symbolism. Through his art, Fuyana explores his memories, experiences, and dreams.

“I create a world of different perspectives. As a deaf person, my experience of the world and the hearing community can be seen in the work I make. I create dreamlike landscape to express my feelings and mood.”

With ever-present greenery Fuyana raises awareness of the importance of the fragile ecosystem we inhabit and our pressing need to conserve it. Gravity-defying objects address his optimistic visions of a better future where new technologies will advance our lives.



"Big house", 2023. Acrylic and oil on canvas. 89 x 120 cm

His 21st century idiom recalls the enigmatic compositions of the Belgian artist René Magritte (1898-1967), while the amorphous colorful shapes could populate the molten universe of the French surrealist painter Yves Tanguy (1900-1955), and the architectural elements and vistas remind of the estranged cityscapes of Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978).

Last year's Venice Biennale put surrealism back on the forefront by highlighting both past and contemporary artists whose work address man's connection to the universe, nature, technology, and the world of dreams. With his unique sense of imagination, originating from the complex emotions and experiences of living with a hearing impairment, Fuyana creates a captivating new take on the genre.

Raymond Fuyana was born in 1995 in Zimbabwe. He moved to Johannesburg, South Africa in 2009 where he attended St Vincent School for the Deaf in Rosebank. He then joined the Saturday Portfolio Development at Artist Proof Studio in 2015 and enrolled for the full-time program for 3 years training in printmaking. Fuyana participated in a group exhibition 'Pierneef Interpreted' organized by Strauss and Co. and exhibited at Turbine Art Fair in 2017 and 2018, when he won 1st prize in the printmaking category in the Strauss & Co Irma Stern Still Life Competition. Raymond Fuyana is represented by South-African gallery Guns & Rain and was part of their 2021 annual "Fresh Voices" show. His oil paintings have been shown at Art Joburg (2022) and as part of African Galleries Now (2022) on Artsy. His compelling artworks were selected for a special Artsy campaign at public transport stations in New York, Boston, Washington DC, San Francisco and Miami in April 2022. With "A World Unheard" Duende Art Projects is proud to present Fuyana's debut in Europe.



"Mangwe", 2023. Acrylic and oil on canvas. 80 x 100 cm



ABOUT DUENDE ART PROJECTS

Duende Art Projects' ambition is to inspire people and enrich their lives by sharing our profound passion for the art of the African continent.

Our purpose is to strengthen Africa's visibility and significance within the global and diverse art world through a strong digital presence, curated exhibitions on unique locations and the participation to art fairs such as PAN.

Our mission is to connect people — the curious and interested, aspiring and seasoned collectors, connoisseurs, emerging and renowned artists, art advisors, curators and writers — with art from the African continent.

We facilitate easy access through compelling exhibitions — offline and online, in Antwerp and on location. Our online platform provides insightful educational content and wishes to be a home for ideas, news and stories. We offer a bespoke and discrete art advisory service that covers all aspects of building and managing a collection.

Duende Art Projects was founded in 2021 by Bruno Claessens, a passionate art expert with 15 years of ample experience in the African art market. Previously, he was the European director of the African art department at Christie's for 5 years.

Bruno has published three books on African art (Ere Ibeji (2013), Baule Monkeys (2016) & UNÛ (2021)) and has ran a popular blog on the subject since 2013. Throughout his career, he gained a profound knowledge of art of the African continent, both classical and contemporary, and has developed a great network of collectors, curators and scholars as well as strong institutional ties. The gallery's first year saw two major group exhibitions, "Threads" and "Unsettled" at Zwartzusters Monastery in Antwerp, as well as a first participation to the renowned art fair Parcours des Mondes in Paris and the PAN art fair in Amsterdam. Having relocated in 2023 to a new space in Antwerp's trendy museum quarter, the gallery has been showing an exciting programma of contemporary solo exhibitions juxtaposed with classical African art.



Installation shot scenography.



List of Exhibitions | Raymond Fuyana

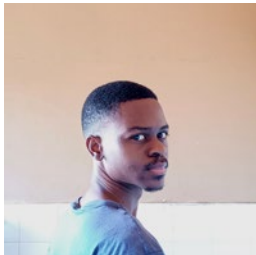
- 2023 A World Unheard, Duende Art Projects, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 Room with a view, Ebony/Curated, Cape Town
- 2022 FNB Art Joburg, Guns & Rain, Johannesburg
- 2022 African Galleries Now, African Art Galleries Association X Artsy
- 2021 Those Summer Night, Guns & Rain, Johannesburg
- 2021 Fresh Voices, Guns & Rain Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2021 Home Coming, RIT/NTID Dyer Arts Center, Online
- 2021 Joburg Fringe @ The Art Room, Johannesburg
- 2019 Rise or Fall (Unknown Tomorrow), Association of Arts Pretoria, Pretoria
- 2019 After a Fair, The Art Room, Johannesburg
- 2019 Latitudes Art Fair, Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg
- 2018 Irma Stern original Still Life Competition, Strauss and Co. Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg.
- 2018 Edition Variable Graduate show, Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg
- 2017 J.H. Pierneef Original Works Strauss and Co., Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg

List of Exhibitions | Duende Art Projects

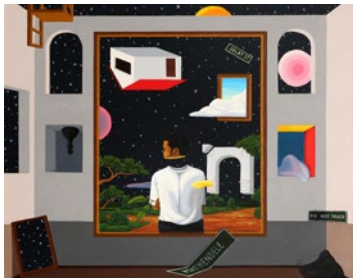
- 2023 [A World Unheard](#) by Raymond Fuyana, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 [The Blind Side](#) by Sibusiso Ngwazi, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 [Manifestations](#), Unravelling five antique African sculptures, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2023 [Pathfinder](#) by Mostaff Muchawaya, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2022 [Living with Art](#), Duende Magazine, online exhibition
- 2022 [Van Strien Collection](#), PAN, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2022 [Sweet Dreams](#), Parcours des Mondes, Paris, France
- 2022 [Unsettled](#), Zwartzusters Monastery, Antwerp, Belgium
- 2021 [Threads](#), Zwartzusters Monastery, Antwerp, Belgium

PRESS IMAGES

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RAYMOND FUYANA
Portrait



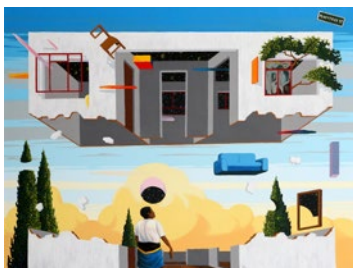
RAYMOND FUYANA
"At Mathendele", 2023
Acrylic and oil on canvas
80 x 100 cm

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RAYMOND FUYANA
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