



PRESS RELEASE

MARC STANDING

LAND'S END

May 11, 2021 - June 24, 2023

Montague Contemporary is pleased to announce "Land's End" (11 May – 24 June 2023), the forthcoming solo exhibition by Zimbabwean artist Marc Standing and his debut show in New York.

Wrapped up in his identity and tied to a strong sense of place, Standing's work is a rich tapestry of his Zimbabwean upbringing and his wandering nature as both a global nomad and part of the African diaspora. It is through this new body of mixed media works, that Standing weaves together elements of folklore, materials and the colour palettes inspired by his travels, whilst remaining firmly grounded in his African heritage.

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The resulting collection is an extension and reflection of self, heavily inspired by his return to Africa in early 2021 - where he spent time in both Kenya (where he spent several months living and working out of Wangechi Mutu's studio) and Rwanda - which had a deeply profound impact on both himself as an artist and on his practice as a whole.

"Whenever I have had the opportunity to return to the African continent", Standing says, "there is a synergy there of wonder that makes me feel like I have come home. A familiarity of belonging and a sense of being alive. The umbilical cord is still imbued to the country of my birth and the to continent as a whole."



"Land's End" marks a new era in Standing's oeuvre - building from his experience returning to his homeland and the powerful works created during this time to contrast the delicate with the bold. Whilst elements of the terracotta tones are still present, new colors start to emerge as Standing experiments with blue - a color never before seen within his works which summons the weightlessness and freedom of the sky, and the unknown depths of the ocean.



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"Through the colours within this series I invoke the ochres of the immovable 'Mother Continent', memories of the blues from Kenyan coast, and the warmth of an African sunset", Standing explains. "It is here we have the three planes of Earth, Sea and Sky and all they encompass as the canvasses take on a life of their own. There is a spontaneity and a mysticism present as I become a conduit for the process - with each painted layer morphing and evolving and conjuring recognisable elements such as foliage and body parts alongside creatures of the sea and air."

These creatures appear and dissolve organically as Standing works on multiple canvasses at once, hanging them around the studio to create an immersion of visual stimulus and allowing himself to be moved by instinct before they settle and resolve into their final forms.

For further information, please contact Montague Hermann at info@montaguecontemporary.com +1 (917) 495 3865 or Serena Dunn at serena@serenadunn.com +44(0) 7817 147526.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Dates: 11 May – 24 June 2023

Location: Montague Contemporary, 526 W 26th St 4th Floor, New York, NY 10001

Opening hours: Thursday – Saturday 11am – 6pm, Private Viewings by Appointment

Interviews with the artist: available upon request

Press Breakfast: There will be a press breakfast to meet the artist on Wednesday, May 10th, from 10am - 11am at Montague Contemporary, 526 W 26th St 4th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Please RSVP at +1 917 495 3865 or via email at info@montaguecontemporary.com.



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ABOUT MARC STANDING

Marc Standing has taken part in many solo and group exhibitions internationally, significantly in New York, London, The Netherlands, Hong Kong and South Africa. His work has been shown extensively throughout Australia, with a selection of his works having been acquired by Artbank, Australia. Standing has also been included in prominent Australian art prizes; as well as being a finalist in various other international art prizes over the years, including the Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Marc Standing's work can be found in numerous public and private collections worldwide including the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, the Deborah Glasser Collection, Boston, as well as several commissioned works for The Groucho Club, London, and the Cathay Pacific Collection, Hong Kong.

Marc Standing's sublime and iconic paintings have developed through his complex emotional and life experiences, with his work embodying his personal search for identity as well as the complexities felt by mass consciousness. Organic and anthropological in feel, Standing's work is thematically inspired by the natural world, science and biology. References to microcosms, cell structures, and earthly composites abound and present the viewer with a fresh new perspective.

His work can be categorized as eerie yet peaceful, made up of the layering of textures and imagery designed to evoke a surreal clarity in the viewer. Marc Standing uses a palette and compositional platform mixed with sinister imagery in order to explore the tensions felt between light and dark; comfort and discomfort; a sense of belonging and a sense of void.

In his own words, Marc describes his work as "...using a lot of layering with the intention of barraging the viewer with a plethora of pictorial stimulus ... storytelling and imagination fuse into a visual mirage of wonderment." There are so many ways to interpret Marc Standing's work, unique to every viewer of his pieces, but however it feels, it can't be denied that his art packs a punch, physically and metaphysically.



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ABOUT MONTAGUE CONTEMPORARY

With over a decade of experience living and/or working in over 30 African countries, Montague Contemporary recognizes the importance of changing the narrative of African art and of building a new shared counter-history. By championing unique perspectives and diverse identities in an accessible and engaging way, we aim to foster a new dialogue between audience and artist both locally and abroad. Through innovative shared experiences, international fairs, and dedicated group and solo shows, we hope to continue to challenge the traditional art canons and bring increased exposure to the diverse and nuanced field of emerging contemporary African art.

Many of the gallery's artists have shown as part of biennale's such as the Venice Biennale, Dakar Biennale, the Kampala Art Biennale, the Kochi Biennale, Lagos Photo, and the Sao Paulo Biennale; many have also shown as part of art fairs such as Art Basel, 1-54 Art Fair, EXPO Chicago, Untitled, among others. Gallery artists are also included in the permanent collections of important public collections including the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Smithsonian Museum of African Art, the Studio Museum Harlem, the Museum of Contemporary Art Lyon, the ZEITZ MOCAA, among many others.