

# LINDO ZWANE

INSIZI YE BHODWE



# INSIZI YE BHODWE

In this new series the artist investigates the gaze on informal traders, particularly, the working women of Kwa Mai Mai. The artist chooses to focus his attention on how these women navigate cooking on open fires, defying what is traditionally a man's job, to provide for their families in an urban environment where they are publicly scrutinised and simultaneously the subjects of a desensitized type of slum tourism.

With his heavy use of charcoal the artist aims to create a visual archive of the inner workings of Kwa Mai Mai. His focus is not from the perspective of a visitor's experience, but that of a migrant worker, far from home - toiling away in what was once a horse stable in the 1800's. Smothered by smoke, only to be seen by customers but remain unseen by their distant loved ones, they carry the remorse of not having a regular job in oversized aluminum pots and yet serve their customers with pride. Who are these women who masterfully turn their faces every time someone tries to take a picture for social media vibes and what are their stories?

The exhibition titled, INSTIZI YE BHODWE translates to "The Pain Of The Pot" and refers to the residue left on steel pots after being used over open fires. Lindo Zwane has created a series of charcoal drawings that serve as a visual archive of the women who work at Kwa Mai Mai. Through frequent visits and trust built over year of engagement, the artist pays homage to their way of life, which also holds personal significance to him.

Using charcoal against canvas, Lindo portrays the contrasting realities the women face in their working environment. He protects their identities by depicting scenes where thick smoke covers their faces. By including fire, wood, and steel pots in his drawings, he emphasizes how basic household items are used to generate an income in the market. The exhibition comments on social and economic issues like dark tourism, displacement, informal trading and women-led households. The exhibition is a heartfelt tribute to the women who support their families by selling food in the city. It acknowledges their sacrifices and all that remains unknown about them to their customers. It celebrates their dedication to their trade and their resilience in finding success in Johannesburg, known as the city of gold.







# ARTIST STATEMENT



Insizi is charcoal/wood ash/ residue

Insizi ye bhodwe is the smoke or dirt that remains on the pot, walls etc during or after the the burning flame.

Insizi yebhodwe is a body of work archiving/documenting the hardworking women ba Kwa Mai Mai who wake up everyday tirelessly working hard to provide for themselves and their families back at home, home can be any province in South Africa to neighbouring country but majority of these women come from the province of KwaZulu-Natal. These women constantly show a sense of resilience and more importantly a sense of community and unity where they look out for each other and help one another.

My interest for documenting or archiving kwa Mai Mai apart from the history of the place and the hostel side were you would find residence and small markets selling izinsizi ezahlukahlukene( different traditional medicines) or artefacts, from traditional clothes imiqhele, amabheshu to izimbadada I really appreciate that reach culture you would find kwa Mai Mai.

The meat market has to be one of my favourite part of the place swing women work so hard and taking pride in the work that they do. From the invite at the gate “sanibonani bescela ukunosela inyama” (Hi can we please braai you some meat)

This invitation would leads you to a table where you will place your order. From inyama ebomvu to inyama yenhloko, in the midst of all that you’ll find yourself talking to a complete stranger and learning from each because all of us when you there it doesn’t really much matter who you are Akuna VIP section in that space at that time we all remember how it feels like to be part of a community to strip away all we know and just accept that once more we have found a small corner fill with magic and we can call it home for those few minutes or hours you there everyone one around you feels like family





Lindo Zwane

Awaka shisi lamanzi kade alindile ama customa, 2023

Charcoal on canvas

135 x 103.7 cm

R35 000





Lindo Zwane

Awuthi ngikhiphe leskhokho ngizo pheka olunye uphuthu,  
2023

Charcoal on canvas

136 x 111.9 cm

R35 000

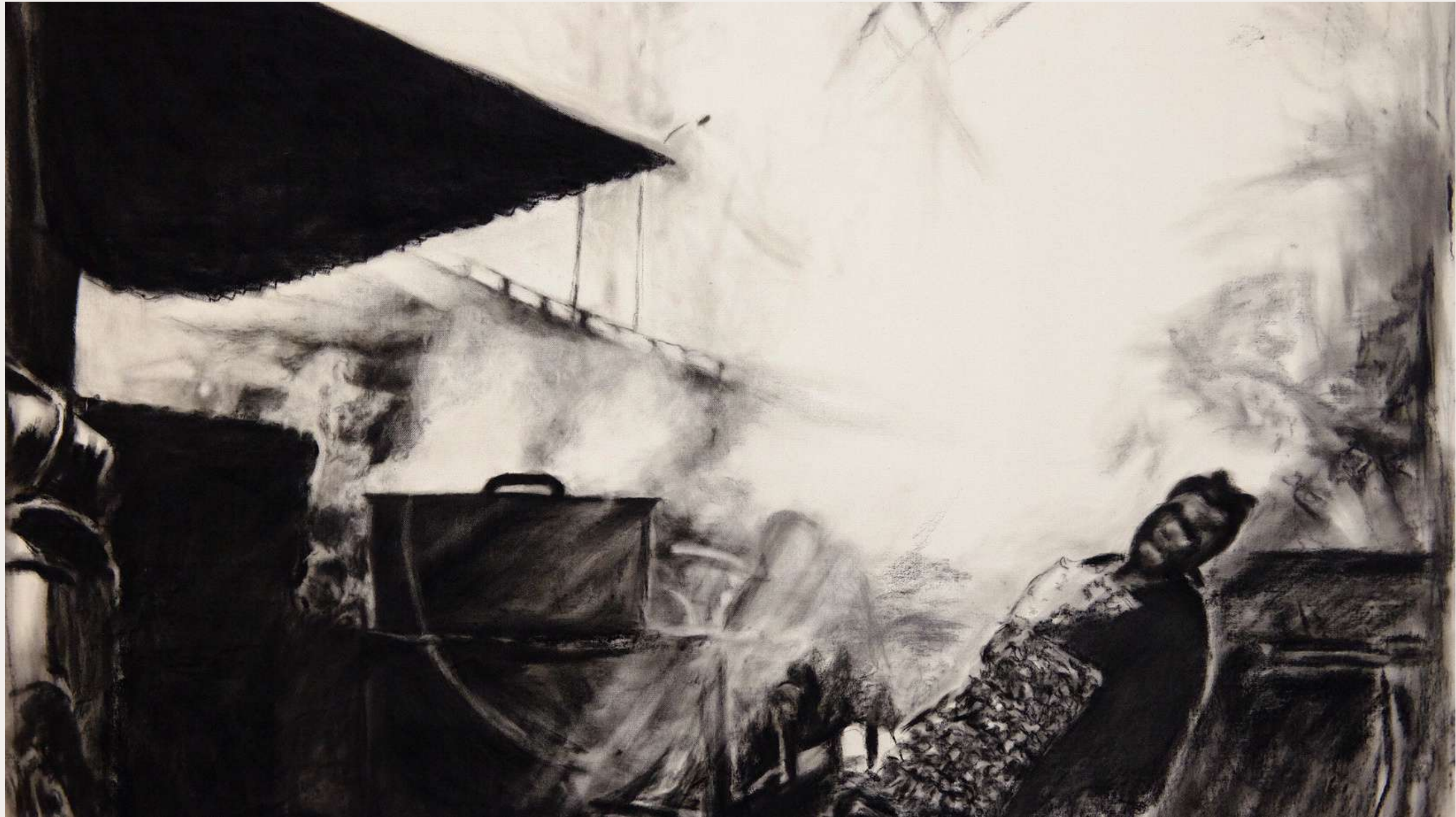




Small text label on the wall, possibly a title or description of the artwork.







Lindo Zwane  
Ngafa yi ntuthu, 2023  
Charcoal on canvas  
90.3 x 140.5 cm  
R27 500





Lindo Zwane  
iBhodwe laziwa umpheki, 2023  
Charcoal on canvas  
113.4 x 143 cm  
R35 000









Lindo Zwane  
Manini kancane sekuyalunga, inkinga  
kuya gcwala ngeweekend, 2023  
Charcoal on canvas  
98,5 x 143 cm  
R35 000





Lindo Zwane

Maye! Impilo yase Goli

Charcoal on canvas

92 x 160 cm

R26 000







Lindo Zwane  
Ngicela isbindi ne hliziyo, konje nani mgani, 2023  
Charcoal on canvas  
117 x 142.5 cm  
R35 000







Lindo Zwane

Nawa amanzi afudumele gezani izandla, 2023

Charcoal on canvas

107.5 x 146.8 cm

R35 000



Lindo Zwane  
Abadlile abadedele abangakadli, 2023  
Charcoal on canvas  
94 x 95 cm  
R26 000











Lindo Zwane



@lindo\_zwane\_artist

For more information, please  
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