

JAMES THOMAS

CROME YELLOW and the
DUALITY OF PROGRESS

SOLO EXHIBITION
03.07.22 - 02.08.22



Duality; a defining trait of this city. Marbled floors and skeleton towers. Flawless lawns and red dust.

The Weaver bird is an iconic feature of the highveld region with its nests dotting the millions of trees that Johannesburg hosts. Each Weaver builds multiple nests, building and destroying them like a parody of the Greek myth Sisyphus.

Johannesburg is a city built from the exploits of both the earth and human sacrifice alike. It is seen, by many, as the crown jewel of the modern African metropolis - but at what cost, past and present?

Like the shrubs and grass destroyed to build the nest; Johannesburg, the land it lies on and its inhabitants are the same. Thomas explores the parallels shared by the Weaver and this city in the act of destroying to create.

James Thomas (b.1996) is a visual artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He works in a range of mediums - oil paint, acrylic, pastel and charcoal on canvas and found objects salvaged from the street.

The artist has spent intimate time as a skateboarder on the streets of the inner-city since the age of eleven. This gave him a unique and nuanced view of the visual, socio-political and ambient landscape of the metropolis. An interest in documenting his experiences in the city developed into an obsession as he began to work in various downtown clubs and bars. What began as writing, became drawing and eventually gave way to large-scale paintings.

Through these experiences Thomas has created art with a journalistic approach. He captures, anecdotally and personally, what it means to live in Johannesburg in the 21st century. The work draws from the nature of city: Organised chaos.

Words are scrawled on the canvas as if a store front or bus stop.

The colours are harsh and monochromatic and then colourful and vibrant. The harsh dualities present in the city are emphasised by contrasting elements of abstraction and realism. The compositions are at odds with one another and in a state of harmony simultaneously.

Thomas has been exhibited by David Krut Projects, Kalishnikov Gallery and Gallery Fanon. Thomas was featured as part of TAF21 Unearthed exhibition. This is Thomas' fourth solo exhibition and his first with Lizamore & Associates.

Amidst The Thorns
2022
Mixed media on stretched canvas
102.5cm x 75.5cm

R 18 500-00





Gold, Greed and Glory
2022
Mixed media on stretched canvas
102.5cm x 75.5cm

R 18 500-00



Blue Skies and Sunshine

2022

Mixed media on stretched canvas

91.5cm x 75.5cm

R 16 500-00

The World's Greatest Mine Dump
2022
Mixed media on stretched canvas
91.5cm x 75.5cm

R 16 500-00





Icons
2022
Mixed media on stretched canvas
91cm x 60.5cm

R 14 500-00



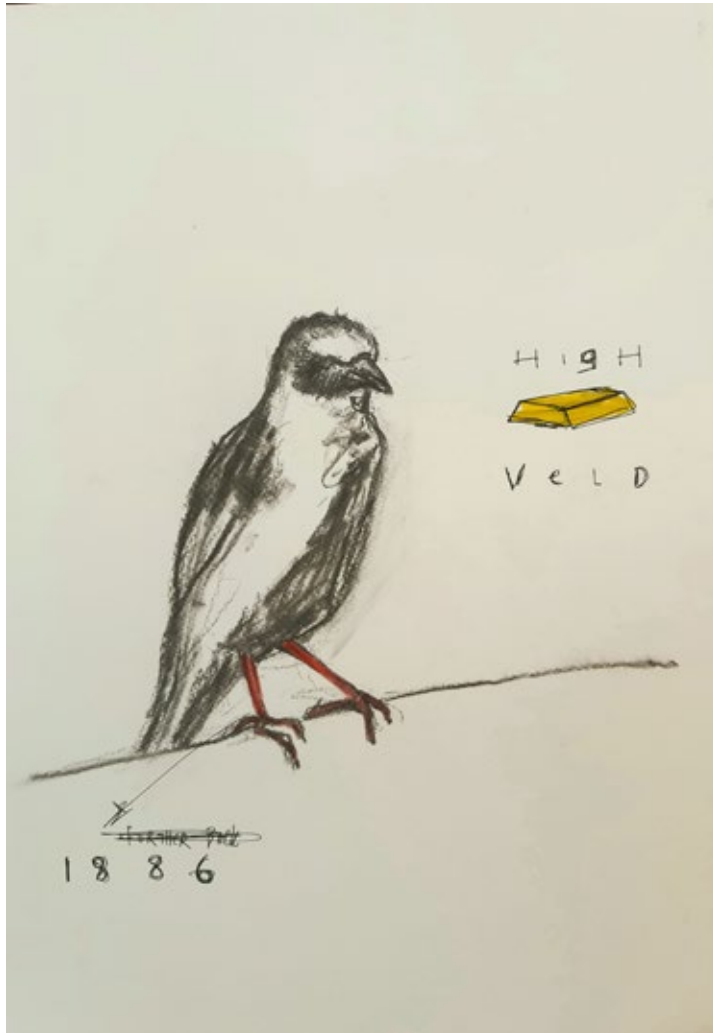
The Great Builder
2022
Mixed media on paper
42cm x 29.6cm (unframed)

R 3 200-00

You Again?
2022
Mixed media on paper
42cm x 29.6cm (unframed)

R 3 200-00





Before It All
2022
Mixed media on paper
42cm x 29.6cm (unframed)

R 3 200-00

Radiant Light
2022
Mixed media on paper
42cm x 29.6cm (unframed)

R 3 200-00



LIZAMORE

& Associates



Lizamore & Assoc. Gallery | @lizamoregallery



Lizamore & Assoc. | @lizamoregallery



Lizamore & Assoc. Gallery | @lizamoregallery