

# Andréhn-Schiptjenko

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**ISIKHALA**

**NANDIPHA MNTAMBO**

**ANDRÉHN-SCHIPTJENKO PARIS**

**7 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2019**

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It is with great pleasure that Andréhn-Schiptjenko announces its second exhibition in its Paris space - *Isikhala* the first solo-exhibition in France of the major South African artist Nandipha Mntambo. The opening takes place in the presence of the artist on Saturday September 7 at 6-9 pm.

The exhibition will showcase a new body of work comprising two important sculptures in cowhide, Mntambo's signature material, as well as works on paper and painting. Having previously explored concepts such as the doppelganger and the recognition of ones dark double as well as the simultaneous embrace of attraction and repulsion, Mntambo continues the exploration of these concepts that are at the core of her œuvre. This is particularly true of the sculptures wherein the process of cutting, moulding and shaping the hide is clearly visible - creating forms where the void is as dense with meaning as the hide that encompasses it. The exhibition title *Isikhala* is word referring to space - an actual physical expanse or a more ephemeral idea of space. It can be a tangible but also imagined hole but is a place that has the potential to be filled or resolved in some form.

Mntambo's paintings on canvas are in many ways related to the sculptures as layered and translucent colours are used to create organic shapes. They may be understood as a simplification of the human form but are also studies of colour and depth. Likewise, her works on paper using ink and cowhair are distinctive and painterly while referencing the sculptures in their materiality.

Nandipha Mntambo was born 1982 in Swaziland and currently lives and works in Johannesburg. She received her MFA from Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town in 2007 and was awarded the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Art in 2011. Her work is currently on view in *IncarNations - African Art as Philosophy*, curated by Kendell Geers and Sindika Dokolo at Bozar, Brussels. A solo-exhibition of her work inaugurated the Zeitz MoCAA in Cape Town in 2017 and her work has been included in a number of prestigious group-shows and biennales in venues such as The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2019), University of Michigan Museum of Art (2018), *Metropolis Afrique Capitales* at La Villette Paris (2017), Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2017), The Brooklyn Museum (2016), The Dakar Biennale (2008, 2010, 2016), The Seattle Art Museum (2015) and The Pavilion of South Africa at the Venice Biennale (2015).

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