

WHITE CUBE

Press Release

Cinga Samson

Nzulu yemfihlakalo

7 July – 26 August 2023

White Cube Mason's Yard

White Cube Mason's Yard is pleased to present South African artist Cinga Samson's first solo exhibition in the UK, featuring a group of new oil paintings situated against the backdrop of an urban environment and surrounding natural landscape.

The title of the exhibition, 'Nzulu yemfihlakalo', is borrowed from an isiXhosa phrase (one of the official languages of South Africa), which loosely translates to 'the depth of mystery' and is used to express devotion while also serving as a description of God.

Shrouded in darkness, Samson's dreamlike large-scale tableaux and portraits comprise figures appearing with memento mori and other objects, as well as carrying lifeless human forms wrapped in translucent sheets, to create an atmosphere of ceremony and offering. Adopting graceful, funereal movements – as though engaged in ritual procession – the blank white eyes of the figures seem to resist the viewer's gaze.

Hyperreal, and possessing a hallucinatory quality, Samson's paintings give form to the intangible and provoke an encounter with the vast unknown.

For additional press information and interview requests contact:

Irene Del Principe, Press Officer, Communications

E: iredelprincipe@whitecube.com

T: +44 (0)7734 995 878

Notes to Editors:

- Cinga Samson was born in 1986 in Cape Town, South Africa, where he lives and works. Solo exhibitions include FLAG Art Foundation, New York (2021); Perrotin Gallery, New York (2020); and blank projects, (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019). Group exhibitions include 'Mapping Black Identities', Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis (2020); 'Kubatana', Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Øvre Eiker (2019); and 'Hacer Noche', Centro Cultural Santo Domingo, Oaxaca de Juarez, Mexico (2018).
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul, West Palm Beach and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.