



# Phumulani Ntuli: Isidleke sakhiwa ngezinwele. Pi Fernandino Collection

Isidleke sakhiwa ngezinwele (A nest is built with strands of hair)

Phumulani Ntuli.

Organized by: Pi Fernandino Collection

For her first solo exhibition in Spain, Phumulani Ntuli bases her work on the poetry of spiritual icons drawn from African proverbs, particularly the Zulu proverbs of her home country, South Africa. With *Isidleke sakhiwa ngezinwele* - or in its Spanish translation 'a nest is built with strands of hair' - the artist invites viewers to reflect on the invisible forces of cultural infrastructure, both in its physical and metaphysical manifestations. Taking as a starting point the persistent weaving of birds with different found materials, Ntuli establishes a parallel between the systems carried in its structure and our human need to belong. In other words, the bird's freedom to choose its home location (a particular landscape, a tree, and a specific branch) and its agility in overcoming gravity and moving building materials resembles the human experience of searching and build a space of safety where life becomes possible and imagination can flourish.

Following its residency at Atelier Solar, thanks to the support of the Pi Fernandino Collection, Galería Nueva displays several new collages and a recently completed

single-channel video installation composed of a series of animated films. Although Ntuli continues her ongoing inquiry into cultural (re)appropriation through the elaboration of possible futures, the works are also influenced by the Madrid context in which she has been working. His reinterpretation of *The Black Virgin and the Child* is directly related to Spain, a predominantly Catholic context. On the other hand,

An anatomist studying a human specimen responds to the artist's visit to the African Museum, not far from his studio. As is the case with his collages, Ntuli's work is a practice of constant reassembly, of bringing the broken pieces of history into dialogue with contemporary politics. Ntuli already participated in 2019 in the African Residencies organized by Atelier Solar in its spaces with artists from Kenya, DR Congo, Angola and South Africa. On this occasion, and thanks to the collaboration of the Pi Fernandino Collection, Phumulani Ntuli has created new works that he now presents at Galería Nueva.



