

PENTATONIC RUBBERNECKING

**JACOB VAN SCHALKWYK
& MICHAEL MACGARRY
GUS GALLERY, 02–16 FEBRUARY 2020**

Pentatonic Rubbernecking is an exhibition by Jacob van Schalkwyk and Michael MacGarry. The title alludes to an artistic practice that combines the ethical dilemma of what Arthur Jaffa calls ‘rubbernecking’¹ with Kofi Agawu’s understanding of pre-colonial African music(s) as isolated from the catastrophic influences of tonal harmony on non-Western (pentatonic) forms of musical expression.²

Van Schalkwyk and MacGarry have previously combined efforts on several of MacGarry’s early short films; *LHR-JNB* (2010), *Will to Power* (2010) and *As Above, So Below*. (2016). *Pentatonic Rubbernecking* is their first exhibition together, the by-product of a decade-long conversation about making art.

1 *All art is just rubbernecking. You drive by, somebody had a bad car crash, you want to stare at it.*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FclBS015EIQ> (Timecode: 25:30)

2 *Tonality as a colonising force in African music.*
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_sFVFsENMg&t=19s

BIOGRAPHIES

Visual artist and writer **Jacob van Schalkwyk**’s practice raises questions about the received wisdoms of (Western) art history and the nature of form. After nine years in New York City – where he obtained a BFA in Drawing from the Pratt Institute (2003) – he exhibited with GALLERY AOP in Johannesburg until 2014 and more recently with David Krut Projects in Johannesburg, Cape Town and New York. His debut novel, *The Alibi Club*, was published by Umuzi/Random House in 2014. He teaches drawing and painting at Stellenbosch University, where he completed his MAVA in Sculpture (2018).

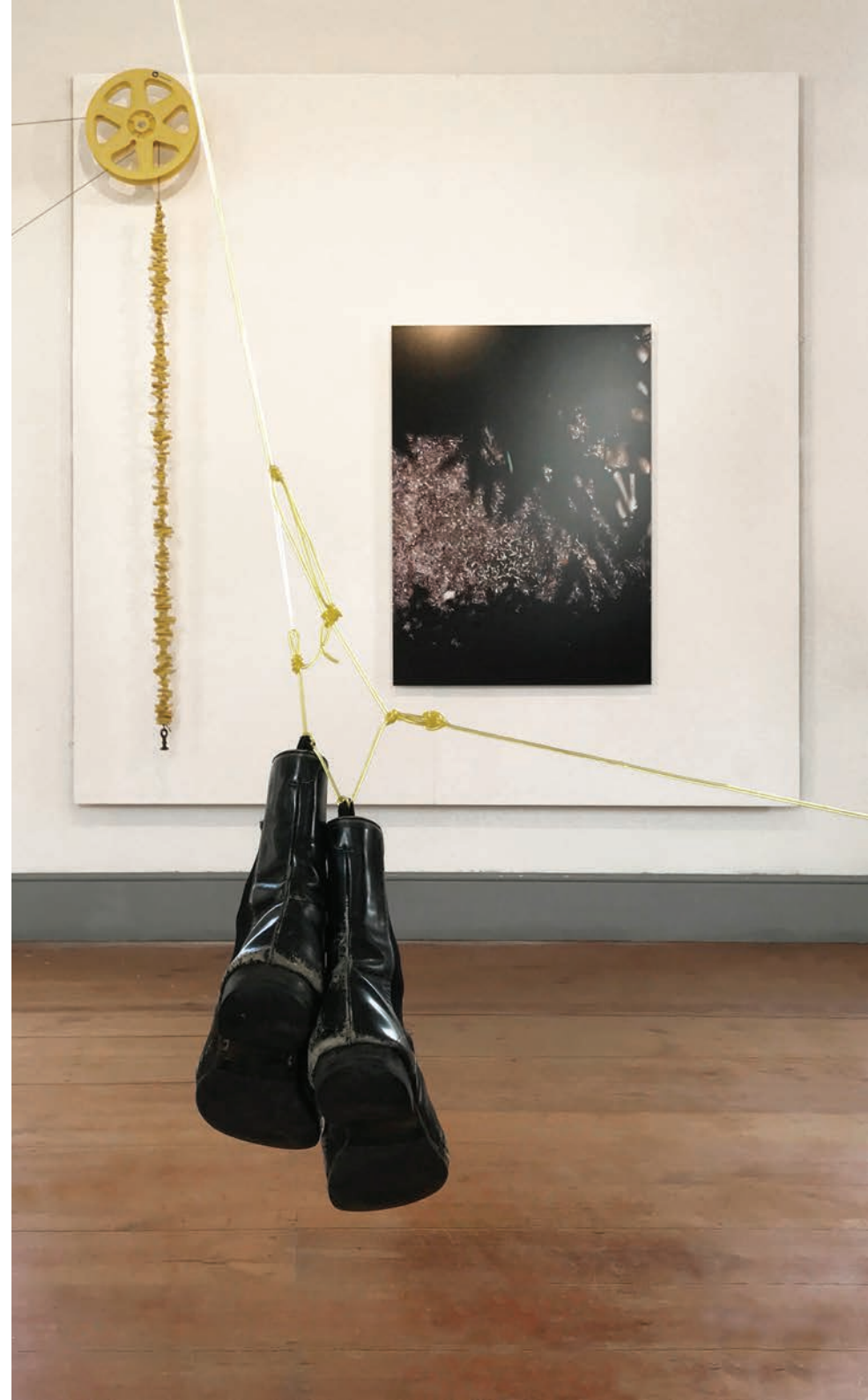
Michael MacGarry is a visual artist from Johannesburg, he holds an MFA (WITS, 2004). Exhibitions include TATE Modern, Guggenheim Bilbao, Zeitz MOCAA and Rencontres de Bamako. Film festivals include Oberhausen (IKO), Rotterdam (IFFR) and Festival de Clermont-Ferrand. MacGarry’s multidisciplinary practice is focused on socio-political narratives drawn through a post-humanist autobiographical mode.

**INSTALLATION
VIEWS**









WORKS



#1 Kikuyu and Shade Master grass seed, 8 Edward Road

2020

Archival inkjet print on Canson Photo Satin

840 x 1180mm

Edition of 5 +1AP

Dibond, Unframed

#2 Kikuyu and Shade Master Lawn seed, 8 Edward Road

2020

Archival inkjet print on Canson Photo Satin

1180 x 840mm

Edition of 5 +1AP

Dibond, Unframed





Lawn, 8 Edward Road

2020

Archival inkjet print on Canson Photo Satin

210 x 148mm

Edition of 10 + 1AP

Dibond, Unframed



He's Hung up his Boots

Contraption

2020

Prada Chelsea boots worn for 15 years, scrap Toyota Avanza rear window wiper motor, washing line, snooker table pocket rail, brass nut, metal clip, 12V battery, pine workbench, metal toolbox, glove.

Dimensions variable

He's Hung up his Boots detail



Pentatonic Resonators

Sculpture

2020

Steel, brass and steel nuts, bolts, silver marker, paint,
surface transducers, speaker wire, amplifiers

1400mm x 800mm





My Dad's SU Blazer

2020

Inherited object (blazer), string, plastic kite spool

700 x 900mm



Inspired by Fruit

Combine

2020

Cardboard box, rollers, scrapers, tape,
cutting knife, lithographic ink

500 x 350mm

Guitar axe

2020

Found objects

1480 x 504 x 140 mm



Axe guitar
2020
Found objects
610 x 140 x 30 mm





Untitled (MEND)

2020

Found objects

1050 x 210 x 40 mm



Click bait

2020

Found objects, nylon, cast polyurethane

Dimensions variable

Daisy chain

2020

Hyphaene coriacea husk, cotton, found objects, enamel, steel

1 750 x 140 x 50 mm





Invictus

2020

Framed certificates, accredited film props: *Invictus* (2009) dir. Clint Eastwood

Dimensions variable (minimum height 2m)

Invictus detail





Corporal

2020

Rattan cane, enamel, steel

1000 x 110 x 8 mm



Untitled (ZG-2)

Zip Gun series

2020

Single barrel 12-gauge shotgun (de-activated)

1030 x 160 x 40 mm



Autochthon

2020

Tailored suit, found objects

1 720 x 510 x 510 mm



Self Portrait (1995)

2020

Guinness beer can widgets, enamel, steel

220 x 30 x 40 mm



Untitled (ZG-1)

Zip Gun series

2020

Single barrel 12-gauge shotgun (de-activated)

1030 x 160 x 80 mm

GUS GALLERY, 05-16 FEBRUARY 2020
& MICHAEL MACGARRY
JACOB VAN SCHALKWYK

RUBBERMECKING

PERMATIONIC