



GUNS & RAIN

CHRIS SOAL
Investec Cape Town Art Fair
2019

www.gunsandrain.com
julie@gunsandrain.com
+27 294 5332

About Chris Soal

Chris Soal's (b. 1994) practice is concerned with the materiality of objects that are so common that they have become invisible to us. Utilised daily by millions of people before being discarded, toothpicks and bottle-tops comprise his key materials: they are essentially manufactured to *become* debris. Simultaneously, Soal juxtaposes concrete with these materials to provide structural reflections on urban habitation.

Driven primarily by formal concerns, Soal's sculptural practice seeks to highlight the histories embedded in found and pre-disposable material, including their socio-political, economic and geographic aspects. Often highly textured, the sculptures utilise repetition and scale. Through the repetition of the singular, their form is reimagined, rendering them initially unrecognisable. Toothpicks become warm, soft, expansive topographies of fur; bottle-tops become gilded reptilian armour, and concrete is transformed into pocked, ruptured, dystopian landscapes. Brought into dialogue and into new conjunctions, these different materialities - soft, hard, warm, cold - evoke wholly fresh reactions. Soal's works are meditations not only on human relations - between individual and community - but also on the relationships between humankind and the natural environment which sustain and support our existence.

Soal graduated with a Bachelors in Fine Arts (Hons) in 2018 at the University of Witwatersrand. In the same year, he was awarded the Sculpture category and Overall Award at the PPC Imaginarium. He was also a finalist for the Sasol New Signatures in 2018, the Cassirer Welz Award in 2017, the Wits Young Artist Award in 2016 and 2017, The SA Taxi Art Award in 2016 and the Thami Mnyeje Award in 2015. Soal was awarded a residency in 2018 by the South African Foundation for Contemporary Art. He is a fellow of the RAW Material Company's (Dakar, Senegal) experimental residency, the RAW Academie, under the direction of Otobong Nkanga for Fall 2018.

He has exhibited in multiple group shows including Aeroplastics Contemporary in Brussels (2017), Wits Art Museum (2017), Stellenbosch University Museum (2018-2019), Museum of African Design (2016), Assemblage (2016), No End Contemporary (2017, 2018) and Guns & Rain (2018). He was a featured artist at GONG LAUT: The First Singaraja International Art Forum in Bali, Indonesia in 2018. Soal regularly exhibits at art fairs in Europe with Clifton Boulder Gallery, and has also exhibited at the Turbine Art Fair (2017, 2018) and the FNB Joburg Art Fair (2018). The artist's works are held in numerous public and private collections both locally and internationally.



Chris Soal

Once we were kings and queens (2019)

Used beer bottle-tops, rebar and concrete

Dimensions variable. Approximately: 190 x 55 x 7cm

R 32,000



Detail from *Once we were kings and queens*



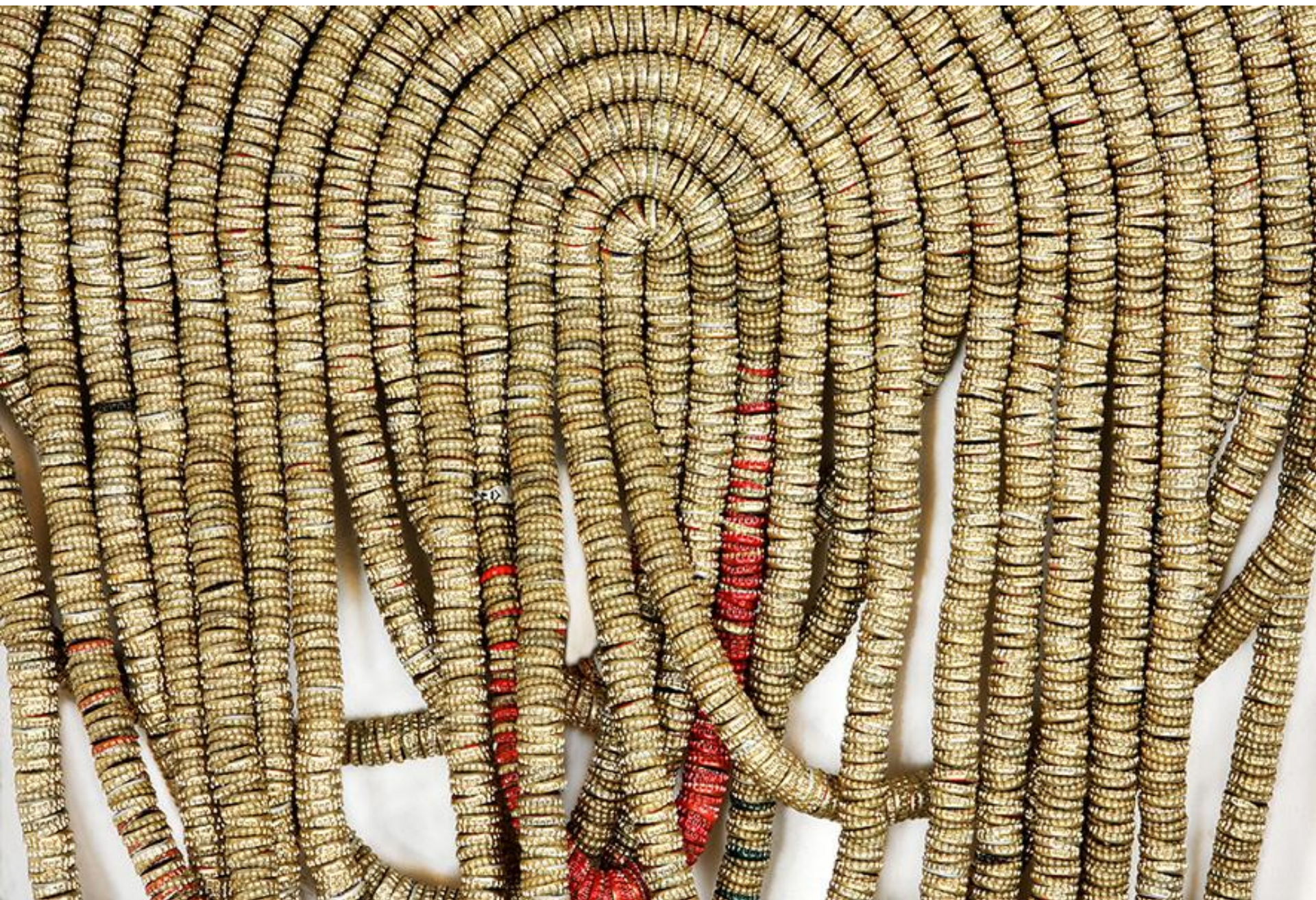
Chris Soal

If wishes were fishes we'd all cast nets (2019)

Used beer bottle-tops, threaded onto woven steel rope,
secured onto a supawood support with polyurethane
sealant

190 x 110 x 10cm

R 60,000





Chris Soal

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for (2019)

Used beer bottle-tops threaded on woven steel rope, with burnt and unburnt toothpicks

Fibreglass structure

When hanging: 90 x 65 x 50cm

R 60,000



Detail from *But I still haven't found what I'm looking for*



Chris Soal

The sharp edge of comfort (2019)

Birch wood toothpicks held with polyurethane adhesive on ribstop fabric

135 x 185 x 10cm

R 55,000





Chris Soal

In the face of overwhelming opposition
(2018)

Concrete and birch wood toothpicks
held with polyurethane adhesive on
ribstop fabric

89 x 85,3 x 7cm

R 30,000



Chris Soal

The search for meaningfulness in the search for meaning (2018)

Concrete, and birch wood toothpicks held with polyurethane adhesive on ribstop fabric

130 x 70 x 7cm

R 18,000



Chris Soal

The haunting of our age (1) (2019)

Concrete resin

72.5 x 53 x 10cm

R 22,000

R60,000 for set of 3



Chris Soal

The haunting of our age (2) (2019)

Concrete resin

72.5 x 53 x 10cm

R 22,000

R60,000 for set of 3



Chris Soal

The haunting of our age (3) (2019)

Concrete resin

72.5 x 53 x 10cm

R 22,000

R60,000 for set of 3



Chris Soal
Detail from The haunting of our age



Chris Soal
Detail from The haunting of our age



Chris Soal

For though clothed we still erode, those who we call our own (2019)

Birch wood toothpicks held with polyurethane adhesive on ribstop fabric
When hanging: 210 x 185 x 75cm
R 80,000



Chris Soal

*Detail from **For though clothed we still erode, those who we call our own***



Chris Soal
The embrace across time (2019)
Birch tree, carved, set in concrete.
200 x 53 x 70 cm
R 40,000



Detail from *The embrace across time*



Detail from *The embrace across time*



Chris Soal

The suffocation of safe isolation (2019)

Birch wood toothpicks wrapped in cellophane plastic, held with polyurethane adhesive in pine wood frame.

87 x 120 x 15cm

R 35,000



Chris Soal

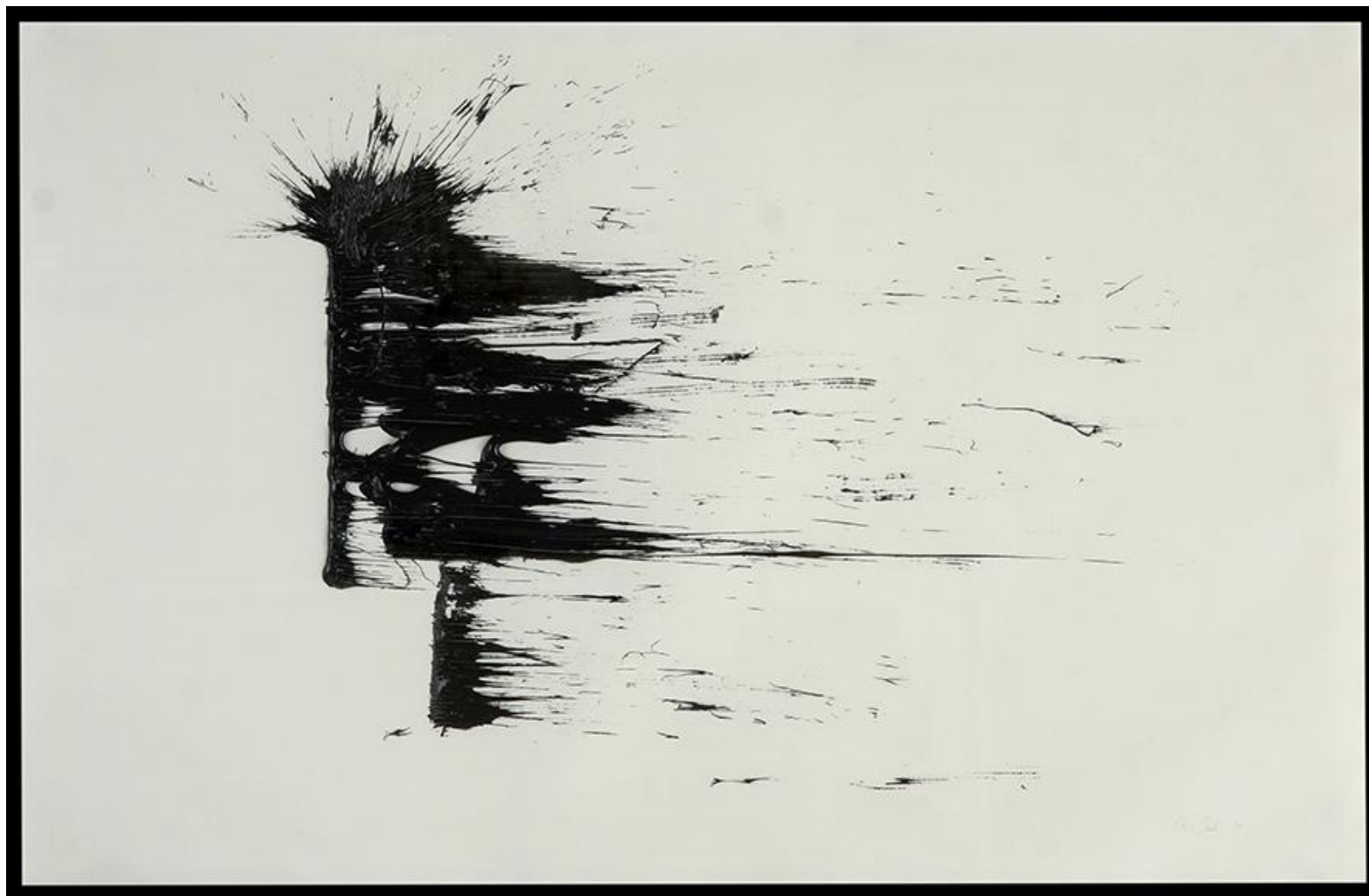
Detail from *The suffocation of safe isolation*



Chris Soal

Spiritual expectations through material means (2019)

Birch wood toothpicks held with polyurethane adhesive on ribstop fabric
160 x 130 x 7cm
R 36,000



Chris Soal

In order to be.. (2018)

Polyurethane glue drawings with toothpicks on light yellow ochre T. Edmonds paper

62,7 x 87 x 4cm (framed)

R 8,000