

GUNS & RAIN

Mário Macilau

*Faith: Rituals, Spirit & Sea*

Solo Exhibition | 16 May - 13 June 2019 | Johannesburg

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## About Mário Macilau

Based in Maputo, Mário Macilau is an award-winning photographer whose long-term projects often focus on socially isolated groups and subcultures - activating subjects and their stories through a psychologically sensitive lens. Taking a critical view on identity, politics, and environmental conditions, Macilau views his artistic practice as a tool for social change. Angolan curator Paula Nascimento has described his work as lying “between documentary precision, anthropologic study and poetic interpretation”.

Macilau's *Faith* series explores indigenous religious practices in contemporary Mozambique - ranging from teaching to healing to rites of passage - founded on the belief that individual spirits and ancestors inhabit natural objects and phenomena. These practices reflect distinctly local yet diverse conceptions of God, the cosmos, and the supernatural – all ultimately seeking coherence, meaning, and connection. *Faith* is a salute to the power of traditions yet also an oblique condemnation of governments failing their people.

Macilau began his journey as a photographer in 2003 on the streets of Maputo, becoming professional when he traded his mother's cell phone for his first camera in 2007. He describes his work as a constant exploration of how humans sustain themselves in changing environments. Among his recent projects includes months documenting waste-pickers and electronic waste at the Hulene landfill outside Maputo, which led to a nomination for the 2016 Greenpeace Photo Award.

Macilau has exhibited in dozens of international exhibitions, fairs and festivals, including the 2015 Venice Biennale. His last solo in South Africa took place at Blank Projects, Cape Town, in 2014. This is his first exhibition in Johannesburg.



**ON AUCTION:** *Net Fishing*, 2015/2019

Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag, 60 x 90cm, Edition 1 of 6 + 2 AP

Framed

**CHARITY AUCTION**

**One lot only**

**Thursday 16th May 7pm**

Estimate:

10,000-15,000 rand

**Facilitated by Aspire Art  
Auctions**

Proceeds to Gift of the  
Givers to support survivors  
of Cyclone Idai in  
Mozambique



*God Bless my Child II*, 2015/2019  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
60 x 90cm, Edition 1 of 6 + 2AP

“Followers of traditional religions in Mozambique practice different forms of ritualistic ceremonies linked to motherhood and to celebrate the beginning of a new life. A few months before the birth of a child, members attend a special ritual to evoke images of God and the spirits of their ancestors or to venerate lost family members. This is done through magic or the usage of traditional medicine and is done to also bless the new born into the specific family.” © Mário Macilau



*God Bless My Child And Send Him Safely Into This World*, 2015/2019

Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag

33 x 50cm

Edition 1 of 3 + 2AP



*A Boy With A Goat*, 2015/2019  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag,  
60 x 90cm, Edition of 6 + 2AP

“Even in modern times, many traditional religions in Mozambique are characterized by animism, where worshipping often involves the glorification of animal blood and animal sacrifices. For many, the goat is regarded as pure and sacred and often sacrificed in the sea as a gift to God, the spirits and the ancestors.” © Mário Macilau



*Francisco André, 16, 2015/2019*  
 Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
 33 x 50cm  
 Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Zacarias and Raul Chibanza, 2015/2019*  
 Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
 33 x 50cm  
 Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP

“Various meanings are given to dolls within traditional religious practices in Mozambique. Dolls could be considered as supernatural vehicles – used to communicate with the spirits of the sea, mountains and the rivers. Here, Francisco André and his family have manipulated a western doll by dressing it with local cloths and religious objects for rituals”. © Mário Macilau





*Bible in the sea sand*, 2015/2019  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Untitled*, 2015/2019  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
60 x 90cm  
Edition 1 of 4 + 2 AP





*Inside a Man*, 2015/2019, Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
60 x 90cm, Edition 1 of 6 + 2 AP



*Prayers*, Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
33 x 50cm, Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP

“The world is trodden by the feet of a man whose veins are full of faith. Water is commonly considered a purifier by most traditional religions in Mozambique. Followers of these religions frequent the sea to communicate with God and to carry on with their rituals.”

© Mário Macilau



*Untitled (Profit Corner series), 2015*  
Archival Print on cotton rag paper  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 2 of 3 + 2 AP



*Lamp On Hands (Profit Corner series), 2015*  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
33 x 50cm  
Edition of 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Untitled (Profit Corner Series), 2016*  
Digital pigment print on fibre-base cotton rag  
33 x 50cm  
Edition of 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Breaking News (Profit Corner series)*, 2015  
Archival Print on cotton rag paper  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Profit In Maps (Profit Corner series)*, 2016  
Archival Print on cotton rag paper  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 3 of 3 + 2 AP  
\*Last edition available - enquire for pricing\*





*Untitled (Profit Corner series), 2015*  
Archival Print on cotton rag paper  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP



*Tyres On Fire (Profit Corner series), 2015*  
Archival Print on cotton rag paper  
33 x 50cm  
Edition 1 of 3 + 2 AP