

intermission museum of art

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INTERMISSION MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS:
FLORA PARROTT & LINDIWE MATSHIKIZA
ADAPTATION
01 – 31 MAY 2021

Intermission Museum of Art (IMA) is proud to launch a new collaboration by **Flora Parrott and Lindiwe Matshikiza on the theme of *adaptation***, featured through May 2021 as part of IMA's inaugural Volume I Series.

In 2018 a new species of fish called a Cave Loach was discovered by divers in an underground, labyrinth cave network in Germany. Parrott went over to meet with Dr. Jasminca Behrmann who had been studying the new species at Konstanz University. During the trip she also met with the diver who made the discovery, Joachim Kreiselmaier.

The idea of the 'moment of recognition' has been central to this project but so has learning more about the biology of the fish. The Cave Loach evolved from a surface-dwelling, sighted species to a creature without pigment in its skin and an altered eye structure, affording it little to no vision. Its shape has become elongated, and its metabolism decreased. They slowed and stretched as they moved underground. The project focusses on the way the fish navigate, which is very different to surface loaches. It seems to be aided by sensors in their skin, as they read the space through vibrations; they have adapted to their new, profoundly dark surroundings.

This experimental video is a progression of a collaborative project between writer, performer and director, Lindiwe Matshikiza (South Africa), and visual artist, Flora Parrott (UK). Their exchange has taken place entirely over long distance, via email, skype and whatsapp, and had a first public showing as part of 'I'm in the bath on all fours': a 3-phase visual art exhibition and interspersed series of talks, performances, workshops and screenings curated by Well Projects, Margate, and Parrott. In each phase of 'I'm in the bath on all fours' a pair of artists, artist groups or

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researchers were invited to collaborate and expand upon notions of the sub-aqueous, engaging with the nature of water, embodied experience and the deep dark in relation to community and commonality.

In its current iteration, 'I'm in the bath on all fours' is part of Sonia's Boyce's 'In The Castle Of My Skin', previously exhibited at Eastside Gallery, Birmingham, and due to exhibit at Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA) in June 2021.

For the project on IMA, Parrott and Matshikiza have returned to a piece of their original source material, a YouTube video taken at the Aach Spring in Germany by one of the members of the cave diving club, Stephan Schild. The video shows footage of divers entering the cave system and navigating the dark, sediment rich waters, eventually finding the cave loach. Returning to this video, this time with the audio developed by Matshikiza, has been an opportunity to revisit the core themes of the project and to find new connections and rhythms with which to continue thinking.

We would like to thank Joachim Kreiselmaier and Stephan Schild for their assistance in the development of this video work.

<http://mima.art/>

Flora Parrott is an artist working in sculpture and textiles, she trained in Printmaking at the Glasgow School of Art and The Royal College of Art. A key focus of the practice is interdisciplinary collaboration; working with experts from other disciplines to create rich and experimental programs to accompany visual arts exhibitions 'I'm In The Bath On All Fours', a project made in collaboration with South African writer, Lindiwe Matshikiza has recently been shown at Eastside Projects in Birmingham as part of Sonia Boyce's 'In The Castle Of My Skin', going on to MIMA Middleborough in 2021. Parrott has exhibited nationally and internationally at spaces including: Legion Projects, Kupfer Gallery, Well Projects, Arbyte Gallery, Oi Futuro, Brazil, Projecto Fidalga, Brazil, Museum of GeoScience University of Sao Paulo, Oriel Myrddin, The Bluecoat, Tintype London, Nottingham University Park, Wysing Arts Centre, The Herbert Gallery.
<http://www.floraparrott.com/>

Lindiwe Matshikiza is a multidirectional artist with a background in theatre-making and a special focus on performance, writing and directing. Her projects are largely process-driven, collaborative and often take on

more than one form over time, and she has worked with a wide range of artists across various kinds of practice in Africa and the rest of the world. In recent years, Lindiwe has been a fellow of The Camargo Foundation (France), Vila Sul (Brazil) and Institute for Creative Arts (SA). She is co-founder of Motherbox: Organisation for Cooperation in the Arts together with artists, João Renato Orecchia Zúñiga and Mmakgosi Kgabi.
<https://www.lindiwematshikiza.com/>

Intermission Museum of Art (IMA) was founded in 2020 by Rose Van Mierlo and John Ros, in response to the cultural, social, environmental, economic and political fissures that make themselves evermore present during times of crisis and put stress on accepted systems of operation. IMA provides a space for critical thinkers to respond to these moments of friction by investigating them as meaningful sites of production, instigating dialogues which will culminate in a public archive. responses will be organized around themes. They exist on their own (as editions) and co-exist in larger ideas (as volumes). A physical manifestation will take shape at the end of each completed volume which will present other forms of collaboration with spaces creating co-agency within hospitable forms of engagement.

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Images available on request.