

ELISA IANNAZONE

TLOONG RE BAPALENG! COME, LET'S PLAY!



ELISA IANNAZONE, 2022
THE GREAT ESCAPE.
(See citation back cover)

A series of 5 photographic portraits of young patients of the
NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Benefitting the NMCH during it's 5 year anniversary and
Commemorating Mandela Birthday month

TAF Launching at the
TURBINE ART FAIR 2022

21 - 25 July 2022

www.africacontemporary.art

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TLOONG RE BAPALENG! COME, LET'S PLAY!

A collection of 5 photographic portraits of young patients, produced by AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART for NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (NMCH).

Debuting on TURBINE ART FAIR 2022, 21-25 July 2022: Oxford Parks, Rosebank, Johannesburg, during Nelson Mandela Birthday week.

Portions of proceeds of the sales will be allocated to the NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL to commemorate the 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

The series of five fantastical photographic portraits of five young patients of the **NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (NMCH)** by Elisa Iannacone, entitled '*Tloong Re Bapalang - Come, Let's Play!*' was completed to coincide with, and benefit, the fifth anniversary of the hospital.

THE HOSPITAL

A state-of-the-art tertiary paediatric facility, the **NMCH** was a dream project for Tata Nelson Mandela. It serves the children of Southern Africa. Construction of the NMCH was completed in December 2016. First patients were admitted in June 2017. A truly uplifting child- and family-centred organisation - architectonically and clinically - the NMCH is a non-profit and a flagship project of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. The NMCF was established in 1995 by former President Mandela out of his love for children and a desire to end their suffering. The Fund strives to change the way society treats its children and youth in order to improve their conditions and lives. It is within this ethos of care and visionary commitment, that Elisa and the team of **Africa Contemporary Art** proposed the Bapaleng project.

THE PROJECT

Working closely with the professional staff of the NMCH, Elisa met with five young patients of the hospital in May 2022 - four renal dialysis patients, who spend at least four days weekly at the hospital, and one cardiac patient. The children were encouraged to Just Play!... to share their hopes, desires, and best of all, their current dreams. In visually articulating their dreams and fantasies into photographic environments, Iannacone transformed the hospital beds and wards into fantasy-scapes, from which the subjects rise triumphantly - on a balloon flight; at the centre of a carnival; immersed in a world filled with cakes; racing through space and time in a hospital car; or dancing like a Diva in a fashion heaven. Each portrait is uplifting and enchanting, and filled with hope and vision - for both the subject (and family and the committed hospital professionals), and the viewer. Each work is a true testimony to the joy and care that is the NMCH ethos. It is envisaged that the project will expand to encompass more patients.



THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Elisa Iannacone's initial training as a fiction filmmaker and cinematographer, combined with her experience as a documentarist and foreign correspondent, informs her approach to her work. Using the techniques of fiction filmmaking and commercial photography, Elisa weaves a spectacular tale of transcendence and light, crossing the boundaries between everyday reality and magical realism.

Her own experience of rape and the art therapy method that she evolved in healing, led to the development of her celebrated prior body of work, the **SPIRAL OF CONTAINMENT: RAPE'S AFTERMATH**, a multi-media exhibition of 25 hauntingly beautiful portraits of rape survivors from across the world. SPIRAL has been touring South Africa with Africa Contemporary Art, since January 2022, and is currently on view at **CONSTITUTION HILL** where it has been specifically curated for installation in the chilling 26 Isolation Cells of the notorious Number 4 Prison to August 2022. Works from the SPIRAL series are in private collections and in the CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ART COLLECTION.



THE NMCH EXHIBITION WILL DEBUT AT A GROUP SHOW ON THE AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART STAND AT THE TURBINE ART FAIR 2022, *WORLDS OF WHIMSY*, with ceramicist Kevin Collins and sculptor Collen Maswanganyi.

Proceeds of sales of the limited series of works, in two sizes, will be donated by ACA to NMCH through the Fund.

Works are available in two sizes

1200mm x 800mm - Edition of 5 of each image.

600mm x 420mm - Edition of 10 of each image.

Printed on Hahnemühle Rag Baryta.

Mounted on Diasec.



ALL THE CAKES IN THE WORLD
 "I wish I could eat everything I wanted – cakes, donuts, cookies, chocolates...lots of different cakes. All the cakes in the world!"
 Nkuriso

ELISA IANNAcone, 2022.
 From the series for NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:
TLOONG RE BAPALENG! Come, Let's Play!
 Hahnemühle Rag Baryta on Diasec.
 1200mm x 800mm – Edition of 5.
 600mm x 420mm – Edition of 10.



CARNIVAL
 "I wish there was music; people dancing with masks and ribbons around my bed. I could play the trumpet, and roar like a lion!"
 Rorisang

ELISA IANNAcone, 2022.
 From the series for NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:
TLOONG RE BAPALENG! Come, Let's Play!
 Hahnemühle Rag Baryta on Diasec.
 1200mm x 800mm – Edition of 5.
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FORMULA 1
 "It's boring to go through dialysis. I wish I was at home to play. I'd like my bed to be a green car with lights, made up of all the things we have in the hospital."
 Morné

ELISA IANNAcone, 2022.
 From the series for NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:
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DIVA
 "Sometimes I feel like the walls are closing-in, but I picture myself as a model and designer. I am so in love with fashion, I imagine myself in this huge pink dress!"
 Oageng

ELISA IANNAcone, 2022.
 From the series for NELSON MANDELA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL:
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ABOUT ELISA

Elisa Iannacone was born and raised in Mexico, and studied BFA Film Production (York University, Canada, 2010) and MA International Journalism (City University London, 2013). As a photographer, film-maker, and journalist, she has worked on six continents, working for BBC, Newsweek, and National Geographic, among others, covering conflict zones and humanitarian crises such as the Rabaa massacre: domestic violence in Syrian refugee camps in Iraq: and Cyclone Idai in Mozambique.

Elisa was recently nominated as a Canon 2022 ambassador for the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Elisa lives in London and is married to a South African.

SPIRAL first debuted at the OXO TOWERS BARGEHOUSE in London in 2018. ACA/Just Art, committed to relaunching SPIRAL in South Africa after lockdown. Select works were on exhibition at the CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR in February 2022 at the ACA and Nirox Booth. Elisa was artist in residence at Nirox April to May 2022, where she completed the NMCH series. The full SPIRAL exhibition was launched at the CONSTITUTION HILL, in May 2022.

ABOUT AFRICA CONTEMPORARY ART AND JUST ART INTERNATIONAL CURATORIAL APPROACH: CREATIVITY, IDENTITY & JUSTICE

The team from ACA brings over four decades of commitment to discovering and promoting cutting-edge African creative talent in all disciplines.

Africa Contemporary Art works with a select stable of artists, emerging and established, with a strong focus on social commentary and innovation (serious, ironic but also whimsical, comical and innovative). The key curatorial approach focuses on contemporary identities, and geographies (Africa, the global South, and the creative intersection with the global North traditions).

Just Art International, our non-profit entity, focuses exclusively on the intersection of art and impact, social justice, and human rights, and has developed a reputation for implementing large-scale multi-disciplinary art projects - with the expressed intention of leaving behind a legacy of sustainable community interventions.

ACA and JUST ART were founded by Kathryn L. Berman (Kathy), a veteran of the arts, innovation, and impact sectors, with a group exhibition in April 2021 **ART OF EVERYDAY THINGS**, a design/art hybrid exhibition at the Jaffer Modern Gallery in Cape Town - off the back of a series of community art projects, and years of multi-disciplinary art curation and activation. ACA and JAI will continue to serve both a local and global audience with expansive projects and commercial pop-ups - mainly on the global art fair circuit.

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THE GREAT ESCAPE

"Sometimes I get frustrated that I am still on dialysis.
I get very bored, I can't get out or go anywhere.
I dream of flying away to another country:
The nurses would help me escape.
Flying with balloons."
Tshiamo