

Mandhla Ndubiwa

Izifundo Zikababa

March 13 – April 12

Izifundo Zikababa is the gallery debut of Berlin-based multimedia performance artist Mandhla Ndubiwa. A sprawling artwork spanning the entire gallery, *Izifundo Zikababa* explores complexities of embodiment, love, and migration through the artist's own transfeminine, gender non-conforming lens.

The title itself—a nuanced homage in Ndebele to family, ancestors, and coming of age—echoes Ndubiwa's own artistic practice and multivalenced approach. Drawing from her background as a digital composer, singer, and dancer, she blends experimental R&B and Soul music with visual projections and performance.

Through four video monitors, Ndubiwa delicately mixes footage of precious people and places in her life: a bittersweet reflection on home as thing in motion. A floral headpiece, which she created for her performance *Queer and Now: From Stonewall to Utopia (WUSS3000)* at Munich's Kammerspiele Theater, presides over the display below.

In the careful dark of the main space's alcove, Ndubiwa invites visitors, one at a time, to sit and reflect. Weaving smell, light, sound, and movement in the smaller gallery, Ndubiwa crafts a journey of associations. The visual fragmentation through the glass panel in the main room mirrors the multiplicity that unites these many pieces of *Izifundo Zikababa*.

In this exhibition, Ndubiwa ruminates on the intersections in her identity and migrational story as a form of release. Fusing movement, gender, desire, love, and witchcraft through various media, she examines the many parallels between her Zimbabwean culture and her own experience as a marked body.

*Mandhla Ndubiwa (b. 1997; Zimbabwe) is a transfeminine, gender non-conforming multimedia performance artist based in Berlin and Cologne. As part of the drag collective House of Living Colors, Mandhla had a residency this year at Sophiensaele in Berlin. As a political and social activist, she is a part of the BI*PoC collective DEMASK, which strives to create safer spaces for QT BI*PoC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous & People of Color) in Cologne and the surrounding areas. Mandhla currently studies Design at the Rhein-Waal Academy in Kleve.*

Curator: C. Grace Chang

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