

## **Delroy Tenthani**

South Africa

### Biography

Delroy Tenthani focuses on hyper-realistic portraiture, seeking to capture the essence of black faces on a traditional paper medium.

He uses graphite and charcoal as the main tools for his artwork and draws inspiration from the beauty and diversity of black people to convey their projected emotions, which he captures at specific moments, through photography.

He uses references that are young, old, famous or ordinary as he wants to capture black beauty. With this beauty, he wants to inspire others through his work and connect the range of emotions in his works with the viewer.

### Artworks and aesthetic positions

#### *Untitled 1-3*

Pencil drawing (graphite on paper)

Available as: print on quality paper (True Fibre Matt)

2021

Size: 59,4 x 84,1 cm

Limited edition: 5 prints

Delroy Tenthani: "These works are all part of a series titled "Crowned". Each work is titled "Untitled" because I believe the works explain themselves to the viewer.

"Crowned" is a tribute to black hair and can be seen as motivation for black people on how they should view their crown as regal. I believe that each untitled work celebrates this theme through the eyes of each muse in each drawing. In black culture, hair is a very important aspect and can represent a person's creativity and identity, whether they have a full head of hair or none at all."

#### *The Sound of Mute*

Pencil drawing (graphite on paper)

Available as: print on quality paper (True Fibre Matt)

2021

Size: 59,4 x 84,1 cm

Limited edition: 5 prints

Delroy Tenthani: "As seen in the #ensemble exhibition, this artwork focuses on the theme of being trapped. The artwork is a representation of pure emotional themes of anger, frustration, and despair in light of Covid-19 at the time of the harsh lockdowns when no one could go outside. Even though you can see the muse screaming, ultimately no one can hear her, and as an artist I wanted to capture that feeling of pent-up frustration and anger in the muse's facial expression."

### Work comment by kukutana:

Faces drawn in a hyper-realistic manner with pencil or charcoal. They look at you, sometimes directly, sometimes from the side: proud, own, self-confident but reservedly waiting. What do the viewers want from me? They are expression faces / impression faces - two sides of the supposedly one-sided individual man. Respectively black man in his special beauty. They are ideal-typical portraits of women and men that one encounters in everyday life, staged by concentrating on the face, with bare shoulders. The drawings exaggerate the everyday life, differently than the photography, also the black and white photography, it can penetrate the surface deeper, differently questioning, which it presented first. The work entitled "The Sound of Mute" is a silent cry, to protest the existential restriction that the Corona virus imposes on people. Here the person is seen more individualized; the sitter wears a T-shirt. Anger and despair are more than visible, leaping at the viewer. Frozen in the eternal moment the sound remains stuck in the throat - the drawing shows the human condition at the beginning of the 2020s.