



Quiet Grounds: Tyburn Foundation Residencies 2025
17–22 October 2025
PIASA, Paris

Tyburn Foundation presents *Quiet Grounds*, a group exhibition held at PIASA during Art Basel Paris week, celebrating work from residencies across Italy and Zimbabwe in spring and summer 2025. The show features new works by Primrose Panashe Chingandu, Driaan Claassen, Michele Mathison and Mbali Tshabalala. Founded at the start of 2025 by collector and former gallerist Emma Menell, Tyburn Foundation champions early and mid-career African artists globally, continuing the legacy of Tyburn Gallery.

At Tyburn's residency space La Foce in the Niccone Valley, Umbria, Italy, Michele Mathison continued his engagement with symbolism and the layered legacies of place. In *Perch*, cast in bronze, he reimagines the African fish eagle – an iconic raptor of Southern Africa found on the national emblems of Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Sudan, symbolising identity, endurance and ecological balance. In African cosmologies, the bird is seen as a spiritual medium, a messenger between worlds. *Perch* reflects Mathison's broader practice, where everyday forms are transformed into objects of reflection and fragments of ancient cultural history meet contemporary symbols, quietly disrupting Western narratives. As part of his residency, Mathison is creating *Verso il Cielo*, a large-scale public installation responding to the tranquility of the space and its sense of connection to the sky.

Driaan Claassen's residency was based at Civitella Ranieri, a 15th-century castle in Umbria, as part of the Tyburn Foundation Affiliated Fellowship. At Civitella, Claassen expanded his exploration of consciousness and the human psyche, venturing beyond sculpture into painting for the first time. In new works, expanses of layered colours are punctuated with sketch-like lines and dripping pigment, creating tension between fluid movement and sharp, abstracted forms, recalling the shapes seen in Claassen's sculpture. These paintings build on his engagement with materiality, form and emotional resonance.

In Zimbabwe, Primrose Panashe Chingandu and Mbali Tshabalala were hosted in Chitungwiza by artist Admire Kamudzengerere in a collaboration between Tyburn Foundation and Animal Farm Artist Residency. Both artists deepened their practices through intensive training in printmaking, while also experimenting across disciplines.

For Chingandu, the residency was a period of spiritual and creative renewal. Immersed in Zimbabwe's vibrant artistic community, she reconnected with the core of her practice, gaining fresh insights through daily exchange with fellow artists and mentors. Rooted in her ongoing exploration of identity, purpose and presence, expressed through layered compositions

weaving cultural and autobiographical narratives, her new works explore the interplay between personal experience and the spiritual weight of the present moment.

While printmaking formed the foundation of Tshabalala's residency, her practice quickly expanded to encompass clay pigment painting, woodblock, collage, hand-printing, photography and ink. Influenced by Zimbabwe's landscapes, markets and sunsets, her palette shifted towards earthier tones, while engaging with local sensibilities surrounding taboo, ritual and collective resilience. The resulting body of work addresses spiritual migration, ancestral invocation and urban resilience, continuing her inquiry into how African womanhood and memory occupy space in cities shaped by postcolonial rupture.

Tyburn Foundation is delighted its inaugural exhibition takes place at PIASA, located in an 18th-century building on the prestigious rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in the heart of Paris. PIASA is recognised internationally for cutting edge presentations of modern contemporary art and design from the 20 and 21st centuries.

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17 – 22 October 2025

PIASA, 118 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris

Monday 20th October 18:00-21:00 Late night opening for Art Basel Paris week

Opening hours:

Friday 10:00-18:00

Saturday 11:00-18:00

Monday 10:00-21:00

Tuesday 10:00-18:00

Wednesday 10:00-18:00

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Primrose Panashe Chingandu (b. 1998, Harare, Zimbabwe; based in Harare)

Primrose Panashe Chingandu attended the National Gallery of Zimbabwe School of Visual Arts (2023–24), where she studied under the mentorship of several renowned Zimbabwean artists. Chingandu's work has been exhibited at the U.S. Embassy in Zimbabwe and the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, where she was awarded first place in the 2024 Printmaking Competition for Emerging Artists.

Driaan Claassen (b. 1991, Johannesburg, South Africa; based in Cape Town)

Driaan Claassen honed his craft through an apprenticeship at Bronze Age Foundry in Cape Town. His solo exhibitions include *Complex Systems* at THK Gallery (2023), *Forms of Silence* at AIYA Bureau (2022), and *Order and Chaos* at EBONY/CURATED (2021). Claassen has undertaken residencies at the Villa-Legodi Centre for Sculpture at NIROX Sculpture Park in the Cradle of Humankind, South Africa, and at Quartier am Hafen in Cologne, Germany.

Michele Mathison (b. 1977, South Africa; raised in Zimbabwe; based in Cape Town)

Michele Mathison completed his BFA at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town in 2000. Over the past decade, he exhibited at Frieze Sculpture (2018) and held solo exhibitions at WHATIFTHEWORLD in Cape Town (2023, 2021, 2017) and Tyburn Gallery in London (2018, 2016). In 2013, Mathison represented Zimbabwe at the 55th Venice Biennale with his body of work *Harvest*, which was later installed at Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, for the museum's opening in 2017. Public sculptures on view in South Africa include *Angular Mass* (2017) at the V&A Waterfront / Zeitz MOCAA. His work is held in collections including the Norval Foundation's Homestead Collection, Zeitz MOCAA, the Leridon Collection, Spier Arts Trust, and the Standard Bank Art Collection.

Mbali Tshabalala (b. 1988, East London, South Africa; based in Johannesburg)

Mbali Tshabalala holds a BFA from Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria and worked as a curator and arts administrator, including as assistant curator at Zeitz MOCAA. She has led initiatives such as The Joburg Fringe under the Young Capital banner and is the founder of Collective UNTITLD and Anecdotes Gallery, both of which contributed to South Africa's art ecosystem. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Everard Read, Gallery MOMO, and David Krut Projects and is held in collections including JPMorgan Chase, the National Art Bank, the Spier Art Trust, and the Nando's Collection.

Tyburn Foundation is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, working internationally to contribute to a vibrant and diverse art ecosystem. By offering artists from Africa opportunities for residencies and exhibitions, the Foundation supports artistic growth and visibility on a global scale. Tyburn Foundation works towards a more dedicated, tailored and slow-paced engagement with artists than is possible in a commercial context. Central to our mission is a commitment to the long-term support of artists to enable them to continue their work and make a vital contribution to society. The Foundation works to create a nurturing global community of mutual support and collaboration. Tyburn Foundation partners with Civitella Ranieri and Animal Farm Artist Residency.

Civitella Ranieri is an international, multi-disciplinary residency programme, located in a 15th-century castle in the upper Tiber valley of Umbria, Italy which brings together cohorts of visual artists, composers, and writers for six-week sessions at the castle. Since 1995, Civitella has hosted more than 1,000 artists from around the world, including El Anatsui, William Kentridge and Zanele Muholi.



Animal Farm Artist Residency was established in 2013 in Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe by artist Admire Kamudzengerere as a pioneering initiative fostering creative development and community engagement. The residency plays a crucial role in fostering artistic talent and advancing contemporary art dialogue in Zimbabwe, by offering professional development opportunities for young, talented, and underprivileged artists through creative exchange programs, studio practice, and community-oriented projects.