



LIZAMORE
& Associates

HEED

a solo exhibition by

Elizabeth Gunter

02.03.24

heed | here

But we keep them
with such weary care
Holding on not fast
or with any heed.

Our touch so scant and meagre,
it spurns and feigns regard
while we flinch in bitter fear
and keep close to heart
only so cold a distance.

So, they bide no longer
and feel this not their home
They tarry not
No longer here

Live here I will not
For this Earth I know not

2022
Elizabeth Gunter

In Heed I exhibit charcoal drawings of three animal species that soon will no longer inhabit this earth. They are the rhinoceros (evermore), the elusive African sengi (or elephant shrew), and the spurned bat, a familiar that, despite its equanimity, finds itself ensconced in the myths and superstitions that our fears have spawned over ages. All three these species are severely threatened or on the brink of extinction, all three are indigenous to our Africa, and invaluable to the ecological tallying that would perhaps keep some of the continent's chances to last as habitat of value and beauty.

The vulnerability of these animals is of central concern and my intention is as stripped as it is simple. It is also unashamedly at variance with the ever-lurking dogmas and conventions of institutionalised art. Compliance would have won me acceptance into the fold, if only I were able to decode their tenets. With Heed I own that I am not. I know only to use the 'sublime' powers of drawing to imagine the tragic and real demise of these animals against their incredible and unreal beauty, and as metaphor, to imagine humankind's capacity for forethought and care as potent enough to defeat apathy.

I use drawing to persuade of the beauty of animals, even in a pre-birth state of never-to-be-realized life, or in any form death or near-death might render their appearance. Possibly their perceived beauty could compare as the intrinsic worth that these animals keep and drawing them could serve as an avowal to their survival as imperative. And perhaps, if valued in such a way, these animals could be deemed worthy of care and protection, or at least win our heed in proportion to their vulnerability. Even our unworldly aversion to death and bodily rot could intensify awareness of the defenselessness of these animals and stir a desire to care.

Through drawing I can employ and discover the intimacies of touch as both caress and scarification. I can find the infinite resourcefulness of light losing itself in darkness and harness the abstractions of mark making as a meaningful and generative morphology. The scarring searches of mark making come to light as an eerie idiolect of beauty, making it possible for me to find and reveal hitherto unknown beings. Although I do not refuse the viewer context, the existence of the animals is not verifiable in any way other than in an other-worldly, illusionistic beauty that could enchant despite its subject, and quite startlingly, could also repel because of it.

Heed | Here
2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

140 x 100 cm

R 40 000



But we keep them with such weary care II

2023

Charcoal dust on archival paper

(Fabriano Artistico)

140 x 81 cm

R 40 000



Holding on not fast
2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)
100 x 74 cm

R 23 000



Or with any heed

2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

100 x 74 cm

R 23 000



Our touch so scant and meagre
2022
Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)
100 x 74 cm
R 23 000



It spurns and feigns regard
2022
Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)
100 x 74 cm
R 23 000



While we flinch in bitter fear
2022
Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)
100 x 74 cm
R 23 000



And keep close to heart

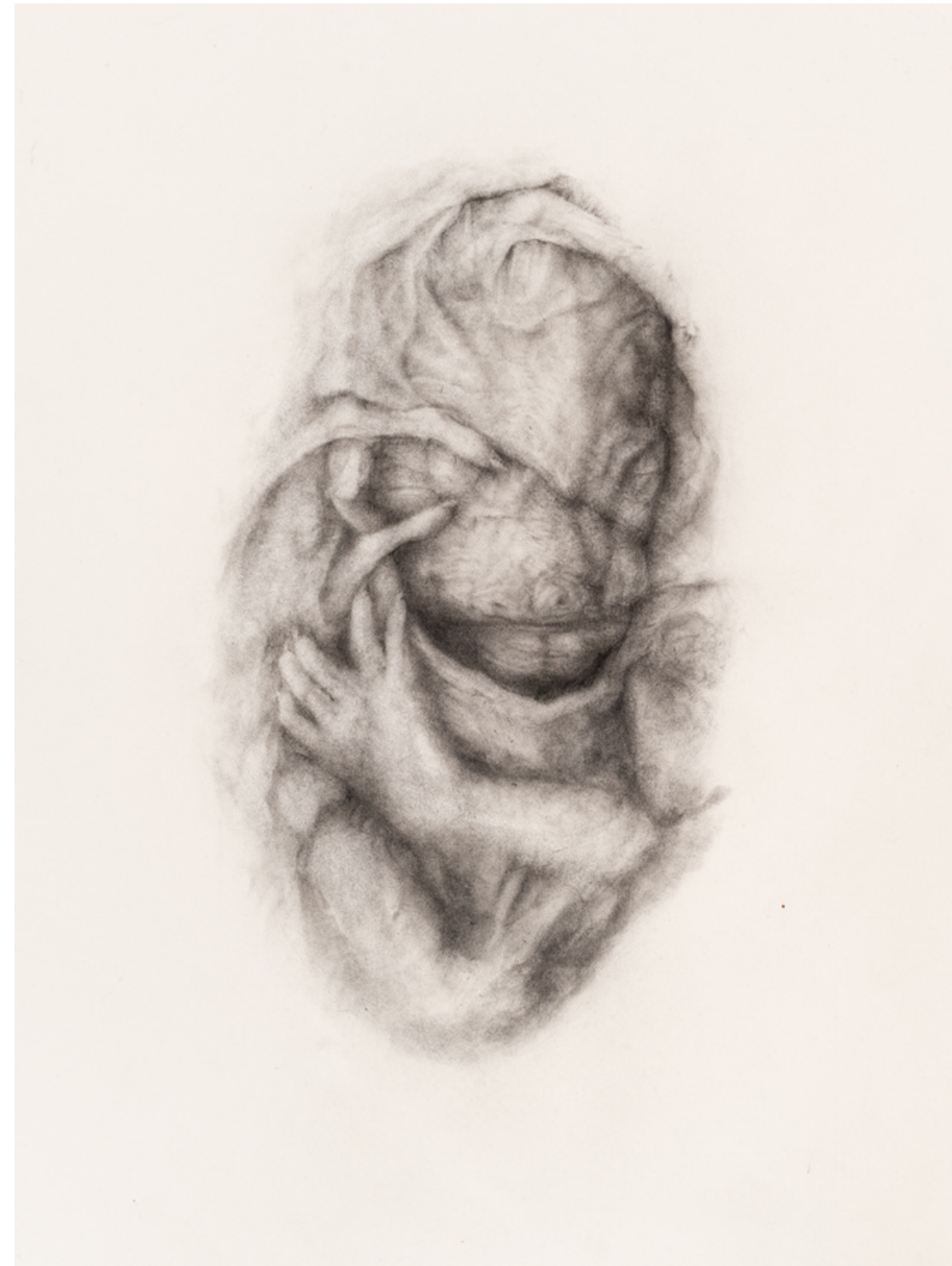
2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper

(Fabriano Artistico)

59 x 56 cm

R 10 900



Only so cold a distance

2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper

(Fabriano Artistico)

59 x 56 cm

R 10 900



So, they bide no longer
2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

59 x 56 cm

R 10 900





*And feel this Earth to be
2022*

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

150 x 57 cm

R 32 600



Not their home

2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

150 x 57 cm

R 32 600



They tarry not

2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

150 x 57 cm

R 32 600



No longer here

2022

Charcoal dust on archival paper
(Fabriano Artistico)

150 x 57 cm

R 32 600



Live here I will not

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Charcoal dust on archival paper
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For this Earth I know not
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LIZAMMORRE
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CONTEMPORARY FINE ART GALLERY & CONSULTANCY