

COME HELL OR HIGH WATER BY HANNALIE TAUTE

Come Hell or High Water by Hannalie Taute unfolds around an exploration of the ocean as a metaphor for identity. Taute masterfully intertwines the notion of identity construction with other conceptual threads, often resulting in shrewd commentary on society and popular culture. For her 11th solo exhibition, Taute takes her cue from the well-known idiom – "Come Hell or High Water". The title refers to the challenges an artist faces to put an exhibition together, often working with tight deadlines and the accompanying stress to produce enough work for an exhibition space.

This exhibition consists of Taute's well-known work in rubber and thread. She uses recycled inner tubes with embroidery thread with the aim to make the medium of the piece interact with the subject matter in a way that forces the viewer to deeply engage and question the artwork. To enforce this interaction with the viewer, the titles of Tautes works are ambiguous; they all refer to idioms about water (especially the ocean) that initiates a game with the viewer through a play of words, that hints to the social commentary each word interrogates.

As a continuation of Taute's ongoing interrogation of identity, this exhibition features a series of self-portraits that are merged with flowers and aquatic plant life. These self-portraits' titles refer to well-known idioms like *Don't make waves, She does not hold water* and *Fountain of youth* that subtly hints to the construction of female identity as well as the artist intimate investigation of her own identity. Alongside the self-portraits, this exhibition features tapestry-like wall pieces and sculptural work that explore, often in a comical sense, the same conceptual thread. The work A whale of a time as example, features a low-pressure system with the dates of low points in Taute's career as well as whales, having "a whale of a time". For this exhibition, the artist also explored collaging with small rubber works to create bigger works, like In warm water and Catch of the day.

Taute's Come Hell or High Water takes the viewer on a visual journey through the artist thoughts presented as metaphorical narratives about the ocean and water. She refers to the following abstract from the classic book 20 000 Leagues under the sea (1870):

"You are going to travel through a wonderland. I am going to embark on a new underwater tour of the world – and revisit everything I have studied on my many travels; and you will be my study companion..."



Catch Of The Day
Rubber and cotton thread | 112 x 76 cm | R 18 850







Between The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea Rubber, cotton thread and felt | 102 x 65 cm | R17 800





The Ocean Is Not Greener On The Other Side Rubber, cotton thread and felt | 92 x 66 cm | R17 800



A Whale Of A Time Rubber and cotton thread | 63 x 137 cm | R21 600







Still Waters Run Deep Rubber, cotton thread, batting and wool | 220 x 161 cm | R45 600





Hungry Eyes Found objects, fabric, cotton thread, rubber and stainless steel rod $45 \times 23 \times 12$ cm | R8 000



Water Up To The Throat Rubber, cotton thread and felt | 125 x 35 cm | R18 050





Like A Fish Out Of Water Found object, rubber, cotton thread and fabric | 72 x 40 x 30 cm | R19 400





Aquarian Found object, rubber, cotton thread and fabric 40 x 23 x 10 cm | R6 000





The Little Mermaid Found object, rubber, cotton thread and fabric 43 x 17 x 10 cm | R6 000



Don't Make Waves Rubber, cotton thread, batting and wool | 54 x 35 cm | R14 000



She Does Not Hold Water Rubber, cotton thread, batting and wool | 63.5 x 49 cm | R14 000



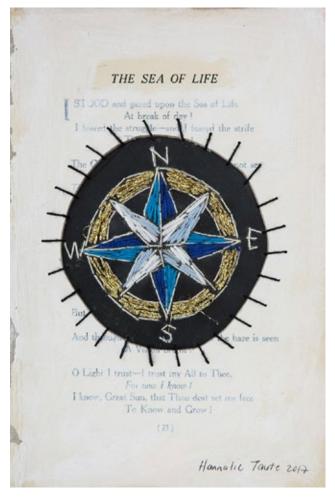
Fountain Of Youth Rubber, cotton thread, batting and wool | 63.5 x 49 cm | R14 000



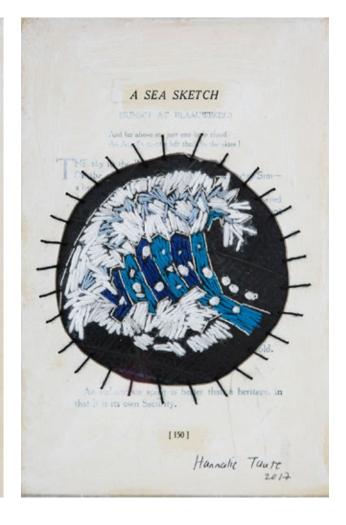




No Sweat Rubber, cotton thread, batting and mild steel \mid 111 x 30 cm x 30 cm \mid R28 500





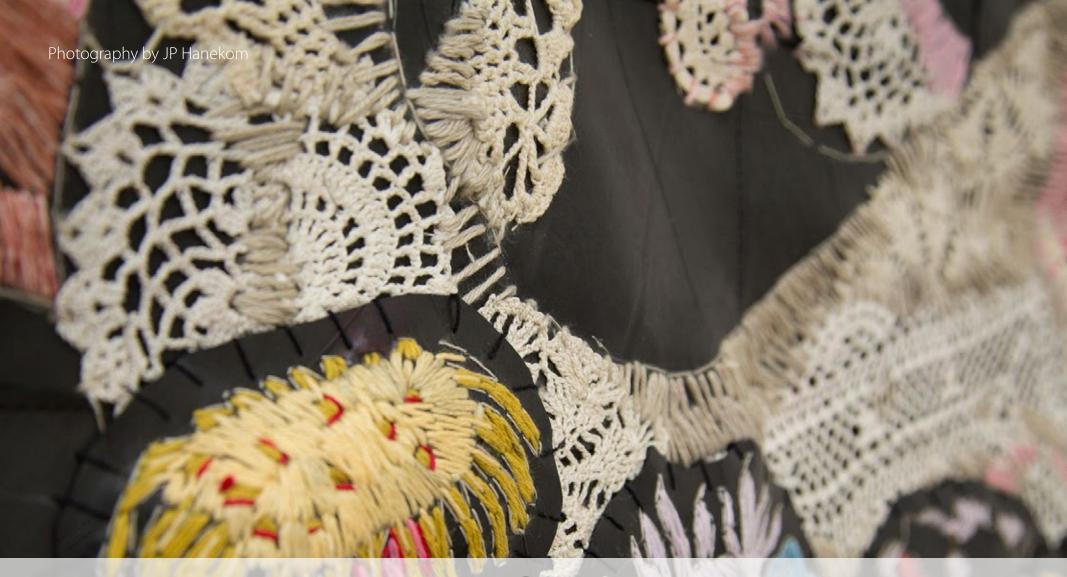


Sea Of Life Rubber, cotton thread, paper and oil paint 36.5 x 25 cm R4 700

On The Sea Shore Rubber, cotton thread, paper and oil paint 36.5 x 25 cm R4 700

Sea Sketch Rubber, cotton thread, paper and oil paint 36.5 x 25 cm R4 700





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