

THABANG LEHOBYE

PORTALS OF MIGRATION

06.II.21 - 22.OI.22

PORTALS OF MIGRATION

Portals of Migration is part of an ongoing series by Lehobye exploring the inhabitants of Johannesburg and the city itself as subject. The idea of a physical space being passed over different generations of migrants, like the Hillbrow Tower being passed as a baton, speaks of the diversity which makes Johannesburg such a unique place - a constant architectural cityscape frozen in time with an ever-changing migrant population. The artist aims to challenge the viewer to step into the work and to see themselves walk the streets.

Johannesburg lures you in with a sense of magnetism. The city offers refuge for those who hope to better their lives - as did Lehobye himself.

"The city represents possibility and hope. Many migrate into the city to find themselves; a lot lose themselves. The story of the miner did not end when mines were decommissioned and abandoned; many are still digging for gold one way or the other."

Join us for the opening of Portals of Migration and step into the Lehobye's portal into the city, where spaces in these compositions seem devoid of presence and the viewer becomes part of the subject. The artworks can be seen as a physical space — a place of refuge where the viewer becomes a migrant.

Thabang Lehobye is a visual artist, painter in acrylic, illustrator and the head of design at FCB Africa. He completed a three-year printmaking program in 2004 at the Artist Proof Studio (APS), a community-based printmaking centre in Newtown. Lehobye thereafter graduated with a Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Johannesburg and studied Creative Brand Communication at Vega, sponsored by William Kentridge. The same year he was awarded a Loerie Gold Craft for his short animated film *Inside the box*. He received a scholarship funded by Johnson and Johnson to attend The Bauern Youth Leader Camp in Wyoming USA - a youth camp that looks at how the arts can positively address social issues. Lehobye's works explore Johannesburg inner city as a subject. He also experiments with various stop-motion animation techniques using acrylic and charcoal.

Thabang recently has been awarded first prize at the 2021 Thami Mnye Fine Art Awards. He also won gold at this year's Loerie Awards.

PORTALS OF MIGRATION





Crossing the line

2021
190cm x 130cm
Acrylic on canvas

R 57 500-00

PORTALS OF MIGRATION





Quiet walk

2021

200cm x 110cm

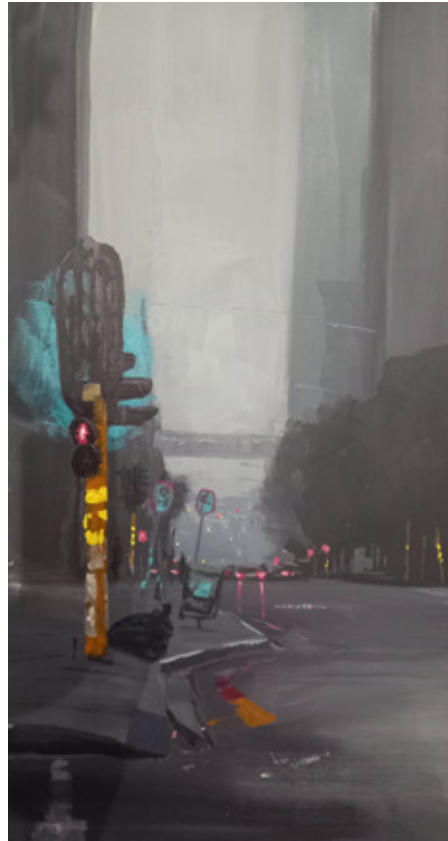
Acrylic on canvas

R 57 500-00

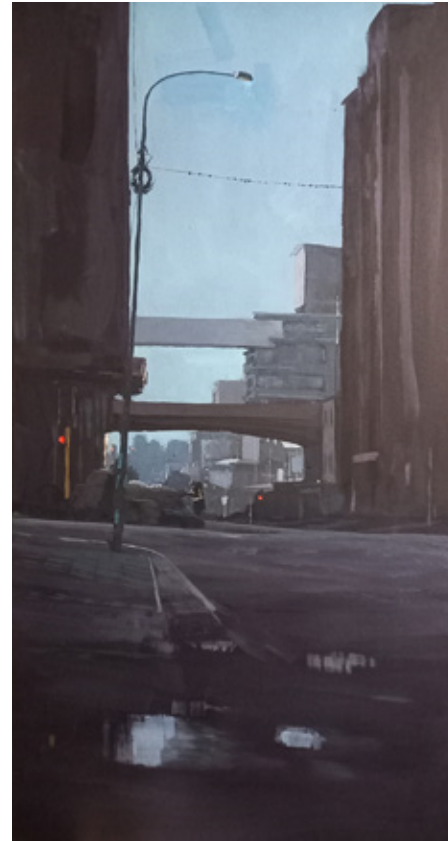
PORTALS OF MIGRATION



I.



II.



III.



IV.

Early bird series I, II, III and IV

2021

100cm x 50cm

Acrylic on canvas

R 9 800-00 each

R 32 000-00 for set

PORTALS OF MIGRATION





Crossing Over II

2021
160cm x 150cm (framed)
Charcoal on paper

R 38 000-00

PORTALS OF MIGRATION

Hustle and bustle

2021

190cm x 110cm

Acrylic on canvas

R 57 500-00



Commissioner street sundowner

2021

200cm x 102cm

Acrylic on canvas

R 57 500-00



PORTALS OF MIGRATION



Small Street pace

2021
200cm x 265cm
Acrylic on canvas

R 85 000-00



Reclaiming the streets II

2021
130cm x 105cm
Acrylic on canvas

R 45 000-00



Crossing Over/Firewalker

2021

130cm x 105cm

Acrylic on canvas

R 45 000-00



PORTALS OF MIGRATION



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