



**Sam Nhlengethwa**



THE BOSS • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



TRY ME • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Single colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



WINTER GRASS I • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Three colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



WINTER GRASS II • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Three colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20

## **Sam Nhlengethwa**

By Tamar Mason

Sam Nhlengethwa is one of South Africa's foremost artists. Born in 1955, he studied at Rorke's Drift and the Johannesburg Art Foundation. He was awarded the Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year award in 1994, the year South Africa held its first democratic elections and freedom was won for all its people. He has successfully exhibited all over the world, from Senegal to New York and Cologne. His work is largely figurative and he explores themes that are close to his heart, such as the plight of mineworkers, jazz and the physical space of contemporary Africa. In his prints and paintings, Sam Nhlengethwa uses overlays of techniques such as collage painting, drawing and photography. His fine sense of colour and form lends an abstract quality to his work.

Nhlengethwa has been included in many contemporary South African art publications and his work can be found in leading South African and International collections. He has collaborated with The Artists' Press on many print editions since 1994, where he and Master Printer Mark Attwood have

formed a close relationship that makes the most of their joint understanding of lithography via the combination of Nhlengethwa's artistic skills and Attwood's technical abilities.

Nhlengethwa has worked on a few suites of goat prints, two of which are lithographs that he has done at The Artists' Press. The goats are beautifully drawn, at times reducing them to almost abstract forms. The use of shadows elevates the scale of the goats and creates a sense of them being monumental, as does the monochromatic palette used (a maximum of three colours in this series). To make the lithographs, Nhlengethwa used a combination of materials and media. He drew with litho crayons and charcoal (made at The Artists' Press out of invasive plant species), painted with tusche and worked on some of the backgrounds using a monoprint transfer technique.

There are ten prints in this series. Numbers are significant for Nhlengethwa, his favourite being the number five, whilst both five and ten are ones that he considers the luckiest (he was born in 1955).

Goats provide metaphors for a number of human traits and Nhlengethwa plays with these in the titles that he has chosen and in the different ways in which he depicts the goats. From *Where are we?* to *Try me*, the artist suggests something with the title and then leaves it up to the viewer to personalise it and take the story further.

In South Africa, goats are culturally and economically significant. Goats are hardy and adaptable stock animals, surviving in both rural and urban areas. Goats are cheaper and easier to transport and trade with than cattle are. They also provide people with a way to diversify their financial risk, losing a goat is less devastating than losing a cow. They provide meat and milk as well as being used in a number of traditional ceremonies, from welcoming a bride to communicating with one's ancestors, asking for good luck or for washing away and preventing bad luck.



SUMMER GRASS • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



WHERE ARE WE? I • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



WHERE ARE WE? II • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



NO GRASS I • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



NO GRASS II • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé lithograph • Edition of 20



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LOST • 2017 • 47 x 60.8 cm • Two colour chine collé  
lithograph • Edition of 20





Cullinan - Gauteng



Dullstroom - Mpumalanga



Graskop - Mpumalanga



Pretoria - Gauteng



Richmond - Northern Cape