



Maurice Mogashoa





The Animal Planet

Mary Wafer talk to Maurice Mogashoa

MW: Maurice, these images of people with animal heads seem to have a very particular message? What is your motivation for making these images?

MM: I had this thing of fighting crime through art, because... where I come from a lot of people are influenced by crime – like its something positive. There are very few people in the rural area who succeed and then become inspirational. People's role models are criminals ... people feel that they want to be like the bad guys ...



MM: ... so ... I wanted to depict images like this, like these guys, and maybe they would see themselves as jokes – if you really want to do the dog thing! – Why do people want to be animals? Why do they want to be like dogs?



MW: In quite a few of your images you use a dog's face. Is that related to the fact that people call themselves dog?

MM: I'm a dog, I'm a dog, my dog, something like that, Ja, that's why I use dogs. But I wanted to do it in a funny way, so that people could see a different version of this.



MW: How do you come to these specific images? Are these real people and places that you have been to and are familiar with?

MM: Mostly I like taking real scenes, of real people I know for sure "this guy is a criminal or he's into crime... into some illegal stuff". ... But you know it's not easy to take pictures of such people. [They say to me] "You will get me arrested ..."



MW: What about the bird's head?

MM: ... when a person can't play soccer ... in Sepedi you use a word like 'chicken' to describe them. So you are like a chicken. I used the national bird though instead of the chicken.



MW: Why do you use animal heads on the human bodies? Does it have anything to do with wanting to compare people's personalities with the characteristics of certain animals?

MM: ... even people I get close to, I believe that I depict them as some kind of animal. In the city, people believe that the dog is man's best friend, but in the townships and rural areas, a dog is a bad thing, it's a dangerous animal. In town, the dog is in the house, sitting on the couch, but in the rural area, the dog is tied up at the back somewhere. When you untie it, it's when it's supposed to bite or attack. That's the perception that rural people have: a dog is viewed as a bad animal that is vicious and bites.

So the images are about the person who has let the bad animal into themselves... a bad dog or something else that makes them into a hard-core criminal.



Image: (page 3) THE DOG "ENJA", 2007
Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 609 x 455mm

Image: (page 4) THE ANIMAL PLANET, 2006
Medium: Woodcut
Dimensions: 650 x 850mm

Image: (page 6) "O SEKE WA RASA WA SENYA", 2006
Don't make noise you messing up the bit
Medium: Arylic, charcoal and pastel on paper
Dimensions: 690 x 942mm

Image: (page 8) HUSTLERS "MASOKOLARA", 2007
Medium: Oil on canvas
Dimensions: 609 x 455mm

Image: (page 10) THE ANIMAL PLANET, 2006
Medium: Woodcut
Dimensions: 650 x 850mm

Image: (page 12) MAN MAKES A PLAN, 2006
Medium: Arylic, charcoal and pastel on paper
Dimensions: 690 x 942mm

Images: (page 14) THE ANIMAL PLANET #2, 2006
Medium: Oil on board
Dimensions: 471 x 370mm

Images: (page 16) THE ANIMAL PLANET #1, 2006
Medium: Oil on board
Dimensions: 471 x 370mm

Images: (page 17) THE ANIMAL PLANET #3, 2006
Medium: Oil on board
Dimensions: 471 x 370mm

Image: (next page, detail) INTIMIDATION, 2006
Medium: Arylic, charcoal and
pastel on paper
Dimensions: 690 x 942mm

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Interview: Mary Wafer



- ⊕ - Graskop
- ⊕ - Dullstroom
- ⊕ - Pretoria - Tshwane
- ⊕ - Irene - Tshwane
- ⊕ - Richmond
- ⊕ - Cape Town