

# SMITH

*LOVE?*

a solo show by

Banel Khoza

2018

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a solo show by Banele Khoza

SMITH is delighted to present the first solo exhibition from Pretoria-based artist Banele Khoza, coming after a hugely successful 2017 that included group shows, three art fairs and a prestigious award.

In 2017, Khoza represented SMITH at the Cape Town Art Fair, the FNB Joburg Art Fair and the AKAFA Fair in Paris. LOVE? is the artist's third solo effort following 2017's *Lonely Nights* at Lizamore & Associates in Johannesburg and *Temporary Feelings* at the Pretoria Art Museum in 2016.

Khoza completed an *annus mirabilis* in September 2017 by securing the Gerard Sekoto Award at the ABSA Art Gallery for his series *Note Making* and with it a three-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris along with French lessons at the Alliance Française.

Khoza's concern with gender, masculinity and identity remain strong motivations in his new collection but with LOVE? he introduces a wistful and sardonic take on love in the technological age.

"We are immersed in a curated reality and only exposed to the best part of people's lives, yet we haven't learnt to objectively consume images. So, we create a reality of their lives in our minds based on what has been shared. When we are confronted with these images, they prey on what is lacking in our own lives. If our careers are stagnant we are likely to notice someone who is traveling the world with their business or job. If you have a non-existent love life, you will not miss all the "baecations" or engagements and weddings from your following. It is worse for someone who is in a functioning relationship and starts to compare notes based on this "reality". People are expecting the

world from others and actually we are responsible for our own happiness," says Khoza.

Using wry humour and frank confessions in the form of text interventions in his paintings, Khoza takes aim at the irony of disengagement in our uber-connected contemporary society. Khoza's recent works combine image and text in informal arrangement. Much like journal entries, they have a stream of consciousness presence to them, which extends from the artist's habit of constant note making on his chosen device, a Samsung Galaxy tablet.

"Note Making was a series that was developed in a period of a year and tackled a certain issue that I was struggling with, namely masculinity. The new series is light-hearted, a reflection of where I am and have been mentally of late. It is also developed the same way, just on a smaller device and documents the moments of pause during my travels, waiting for someone, at dinner dates by myself, and so on. The series is more colorful and intense."

Born in Swaziland in 1994, Khoza's first creative foray was as a student at the London International School of Fashion in 2011. Abandoning that discipline for art in 2012, Khoza completed his degree in Fine Art at Tshwane University of Technology, where he now lectures drawing and Art Theory.

LOVE? will run from 25 January until 24 February 2018.

For press enquiries, an Q&A with the artist or to set up an exclusive interview with Banele, contact [jana@smithstudio.co.za](mailto:jana@smithstudio.co.za).

Written by Matthew Freemantle



*I aint no fxxk boy*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
61 x 46cm  
R 9,000  
Unframed



*Perfectly imperfect*  
2017  
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed







*Watching him sleep*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed

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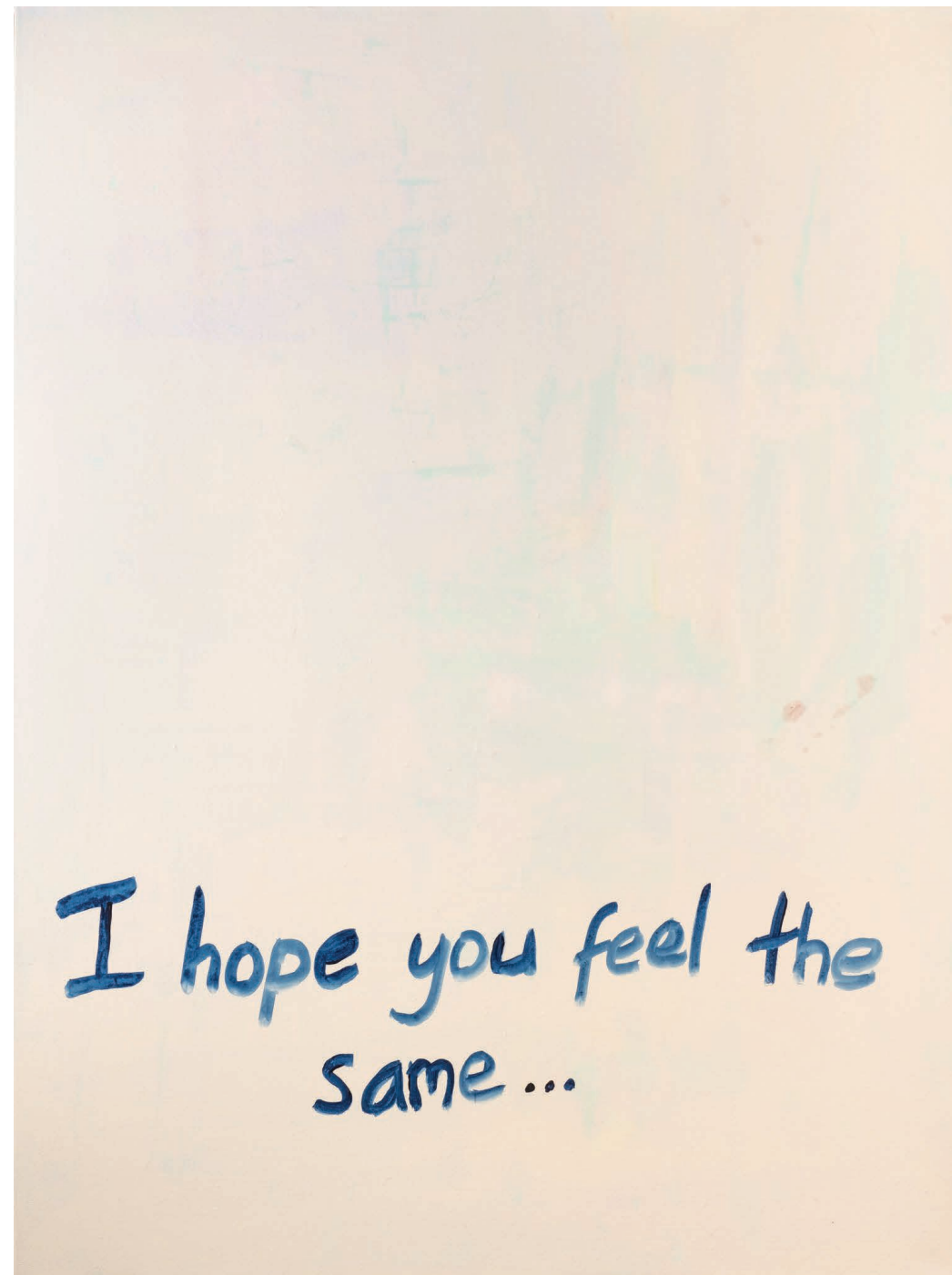
*Looking the other way*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed



I

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*Hope*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed







Blue eyes

2017

Acrylic and charcoal on canvas

122 x 92cm

R 29,000

Framed

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*Morning after*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed





*Over and over again*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed

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*We all want to be seen*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed



*Trying to impress*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
122 x 92cm  
R 29,000  
Framed

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*Meant to be*  
2017  
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas  
150 x 100cm  
R 32,000  
Framed





*I've got you*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100cm  
R 32,000  
Framed



I

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*This is it*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100cm  
R 32,000  
Framed





*Fresh meat*  
2017

Acrylic and charcoal on canvas  
150 x 100cm  
R 32,000  
Framed

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*My heart nearly froze*  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas  
150 x 100cm  
R 32,000  
Framed



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*Insecurities*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
107 x 78cm  
R 24,000  
Framed





Third party

2017

Acrylic and charcoal on canvas

150 x 200cm

R 48,000

Unframed

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*Failing to sleep*  
2017  
Acrylic and charco on canvas  
150 x 200cm  
R 48,000  
Unframed

*Left*

*Manolo*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



*Right*

*Untitled*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed





*Left*

*Too many voices*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



*Right*

*Love begins here*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed





*Left*

*Memories*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



*Right*

*By myself*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



I hope you feel the  
same...

Left

*I hope you feel the same*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed

Right

*On my way*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



Left

*Learning from the past*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



Right

*Date-yourself*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



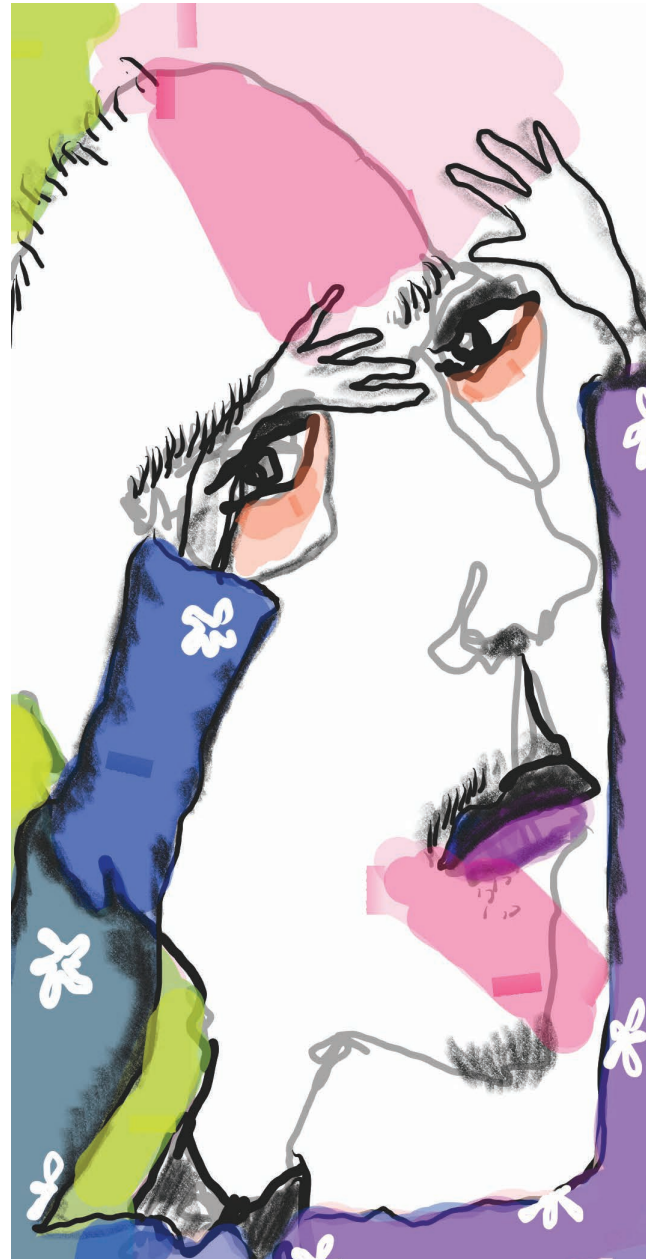


Left

*What's your aspiration?*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed

Right

*I think*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



*Left*

*Blue tops*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed

*Right*

*I was doing just fine...*  
2017

Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



*I was doing just fine  
before I met you.*

Left

*03h45, waiting for my lover*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed

Right

*Love...*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed

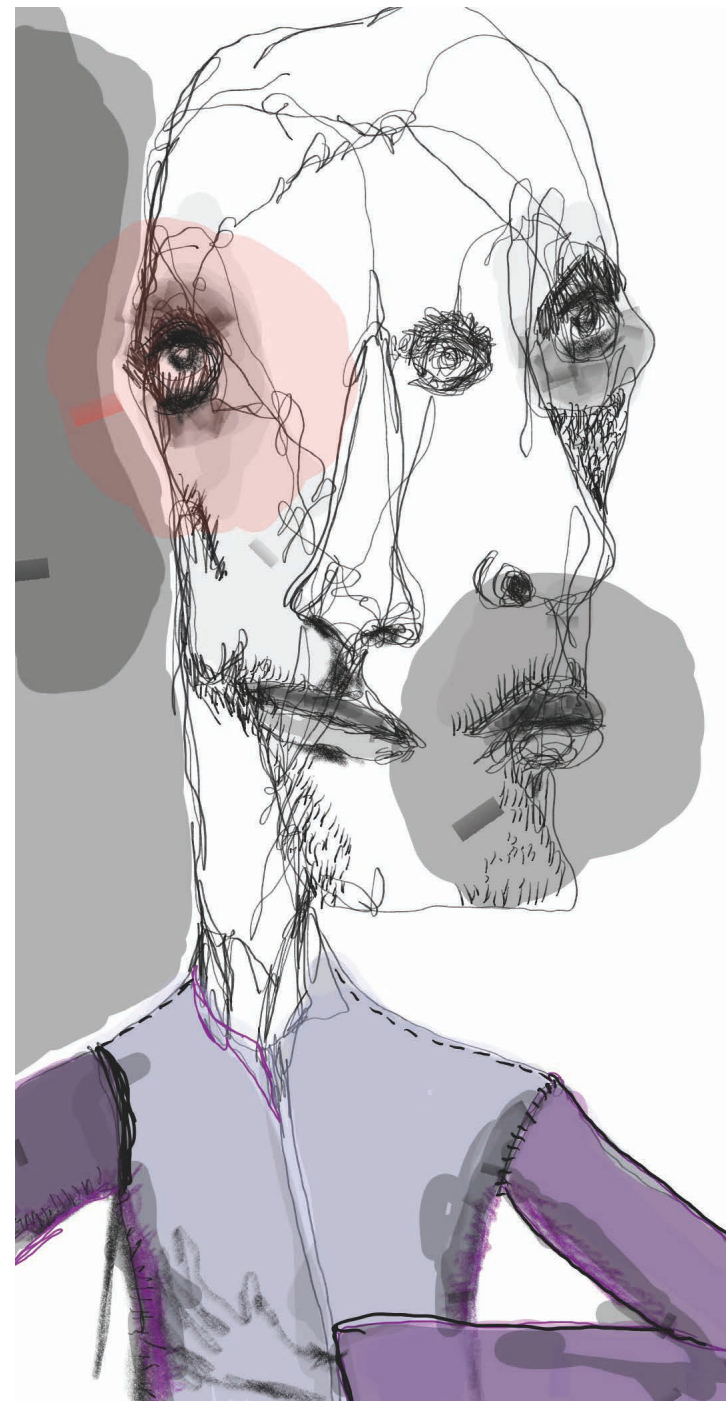




I

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*Loosing my mind*  
2017  
Digital print on Hahnemuhle  
42 x 30cm  
Edition 1/3  
R 5,000 Framed  
R4,500 Unframed



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*He was somebody else's*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
107 x 78cm  
R 24,000  
Framed





*Dr Chaos*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
107 x 78cm  
R 24,000  
Framed





*He wasn't done looking*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
107 x 78cm  
R 24,000  
Framed





*He said find someone who will give you butterflies*

2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle

107 x 78cm

R 24,000

Framed

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*It is what you think it is*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed

SMITH



*On different pages*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed

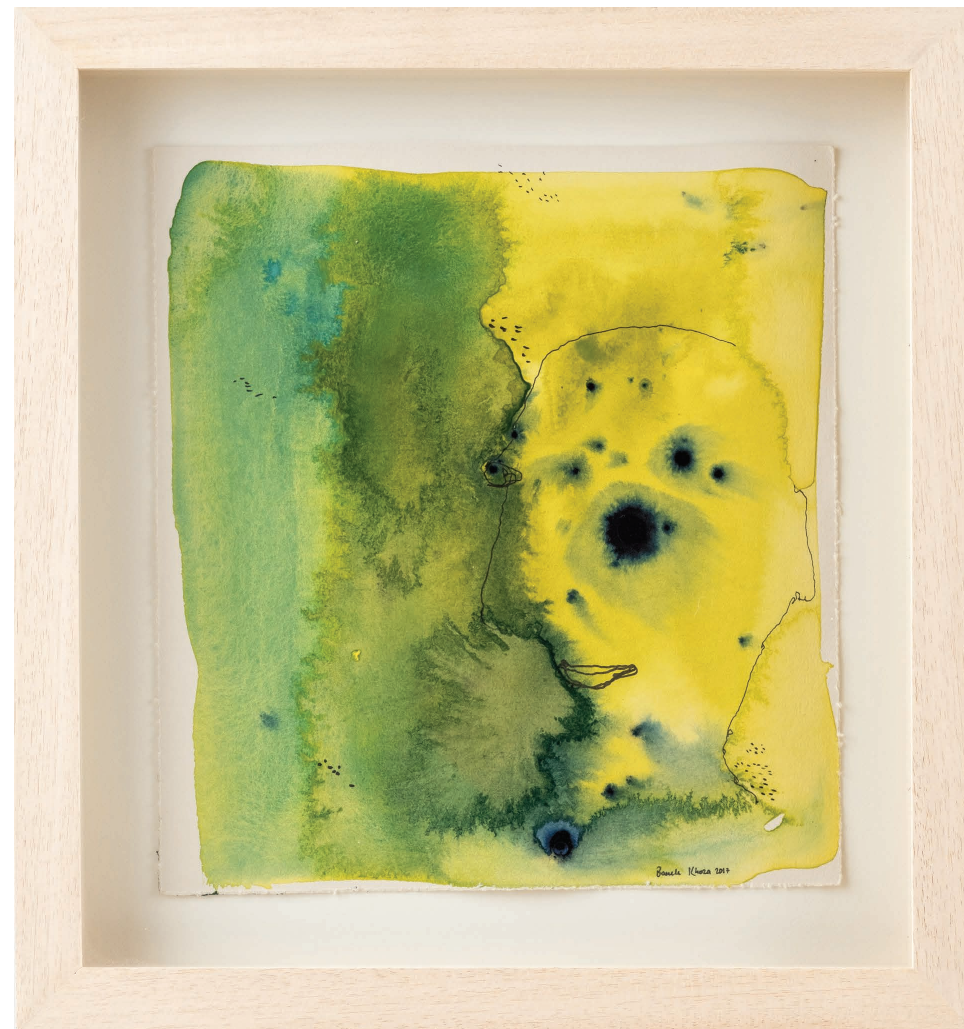




*Inner conflicts*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed

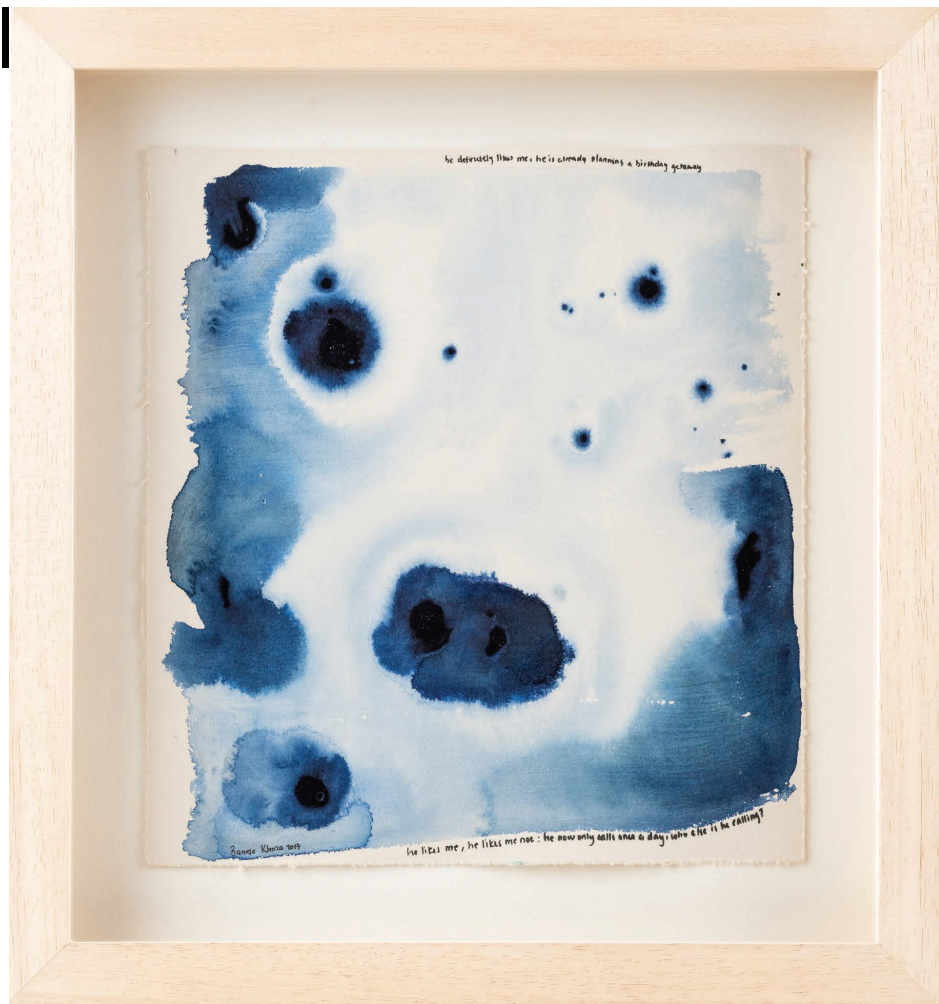
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*Navigating in the unknown*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed





*He likes me, he likes me not*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed

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*Counting seconds*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed





*Moral; take it easy*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed

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*Something missing*  
2017

Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed





SMITH

*Ghosted*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed



*He sees me*  
2017  
Acrylic and ink on Hahnemühle  
25 x 23cm  
R 6,000  
Framed