

ALBERT ADAMS

The Bonds of Memory

09. 04. 16 21. 05. 16

This overview of Albert Adams' (1929-2006) oeuvre, spanning more than 50 years and including works never before exhibited in South Africa, reveals an instinctive expressionism that was charged by a deep social commitment. Reviewing a 1960 exhibition in Cape Town, art critic Neville Dubow compared the quality and intensity of Adams' etchings to that of the great Spanish artist Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828).[i]

Adams was born in Johannesburg and at the age of four moved to Cape Town with his mother and sister. He attended Livingstone High School and qualified as a teacher at Hewat Teachers' Training College in Cape Town. Denied entrance to the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, due to the colour of his skin, he subsequently applied for, and was awarded, a scholarship to study at the Slade School of Art in London (1953-1956). This training, and exposure to some of the great artistic talents and minds of the twentieth century, provided a solid foundation from which Adams could forge his own style. In 1957 he went to the Munich Academy of Arts and during the summer, he attended master classes at Oskar Kokoschka's (1886-1980) School of Vision in Salzburg.

Adams returned to Cape Town where he exhibited widely to critical acclaim and was chosen to represent South Africa in international exhibitions on more than one occasion, but in 1960 he decided to leave South Africa and permanently settle in London. Initially teaching at schools in the East End, he was appointed to the staff of the City University, London in 1979, where he lectured in art history for 18 years.

The time spent with Oscar Kokoschka had an enduring influence on Adams' philosophical and technical approach to his own creative expression. Throughout his life, he remained true to Kokoschka's words, contained in a taped speech, specially recorded for and played at the opening of Adams' first solo exhibition in Cape Town in 1959: never to close his eyes to 'the misery we create on earth'. Adams spoke of the tightrope that an artist walks, between the emotions that direct creativity, and the objectivity required in the development of the work; he managed this walk throughout his creative life in his paintings, drawings and graphic works. Through his training and volition Adams was a modernist and expressionist, but he remained – till the last – spiritually and politically contemporary.

Adams was moved by, and responded to, the horrors of his own time and experiences and captured them in his work – genocide, natural disasters and atrocities perpetrated across the globe – yet he always returned to South Africa for inspiration, depicting or alluding to, amongst others, homeless individuals in Cape Town, the darker side of the Cape Minstrel parades, and the 'baggage' or legacy of apartheid. After 1994 he explored the challenges, dangers and threats that came with political change, compelling the viewer to see and share the disillusionment of the downtrodden and marginalised. He was unforgiving for the wrongs done to people, while, at the same time, searching for the spiritual and metaphysical in and through his art.

Adams is represented in the Iziko South African National Gallery (ISANG) permanent collection (the first of a number of acquisitions was made in 1979), the Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and many private collections locally and abroad. His last major painting, Abu Ghraib (2006), is in the collection of the Imperial War Museum in London and the University of Salford in Manchester, houses a small but significant collection of drawings, prints, books and materials from Adams' studio.[ii] A retrospective of his work at the Salford Museum and Art Gallery was followed by an exhibition in partnership with the Salford Working Class Movement Library in 2012.

Adams was honoured with an exhibition at the University Gallery, Northumbria University, in Newcastle upon Tyne, in 2015. Spanish curator Pep Subirós selected the major painting, South Africa 1959 (1959), from the JAG collection, for a show entitled 'Apartheid: The South African Mirror' at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona in 2007.

In South Africa, small exhibitions at the Irma Stern Museum in 1994 and at the ISANG in 2003 were followed by the retrospective exhibition, Journey on a Tightrope, curated by Martin and Dolby and held at the ISANG in 2008, and a successful recent showing in association with SMAC Gallery at the Cape Town Art Fair 2016. These are significant steps in Albert Adams being re-established and recognised as a major South African artist; this exhibition will further consolidate his reputation.

Albert Adams

Self-Portrait c. 1950 Oil on Canvas 49.5 x 44.5 cm

R 150 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Self-Portrait c. 1959 Oil on Canvas 107 x 77 cm

R 250 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait 1950 Oil on Paper 56.4 x 38.5 cm

R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait 1950 Oil on Paper 51 x 33.3 cm

R 90 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait 1950 Oil on Paper 51 x 33.3 cm

R 90 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Self-Portrait with Goldfish 1960 Oil on Canvas 126 x 86 cm

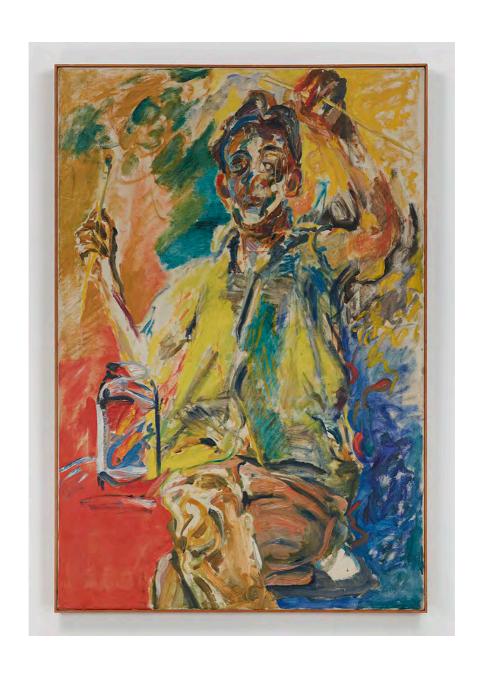
R 280 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Fish Vendor 1948 Watercolour on Paper 38.5 x 56 cm

R 85 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of Siegbert Eick 1957 Watercolour on Paper 93 x 71 cm

R 85 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Mosque 1959 Oil on Canvas 76.2 x 63.5 cm

R 210 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Studio Delancey Street 2000 Oil on Canvas 160 x 155 cm

R 385 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

The Captive 1982 Acrylic on Canvas 127 x 114 cm

R 390 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of John Hatfield 2000 Oil on Canvas 153 x 150 cm

R 250 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Crucifixion c. 1950 Charcoal on Paper 131 x 94 cm

R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Untitled 1979 Charcoal on Paper 102 x 76 cm

R 110 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Two Figures at Rondebosch Fountain 2001 Charcoal on Paper 99.5 x 90 cm

150000.001 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Man and Woman at Rondebosh Fountain 2001-2002 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Sleeping Man at Rondebosh Fountain 2006 Oil on Canvas 152 x 153 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Abu Ghraib Figure 2004 Oil on Canvas 127 x 102 cm

R 310 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Male Figure 1980 Charcoal on Paper 108 x 78 cm

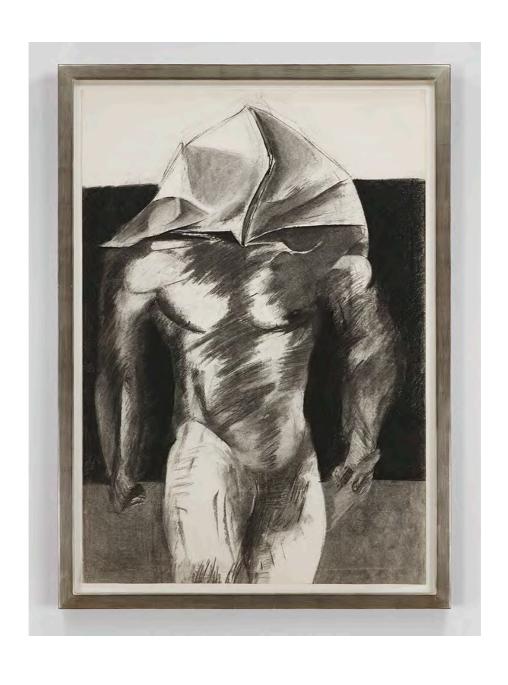
R 95 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of a Man with Parasol (Celebration Series) 2001 Charcoal, Wash on Paper 122 x 93 cm

R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of a Man (Celebration Series) 2001 Charcoal, Wash on Paper 122 x 93 cm

R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of a Man (Celebration Series) 2001 Charcoal on Paper 100 x 75 cm

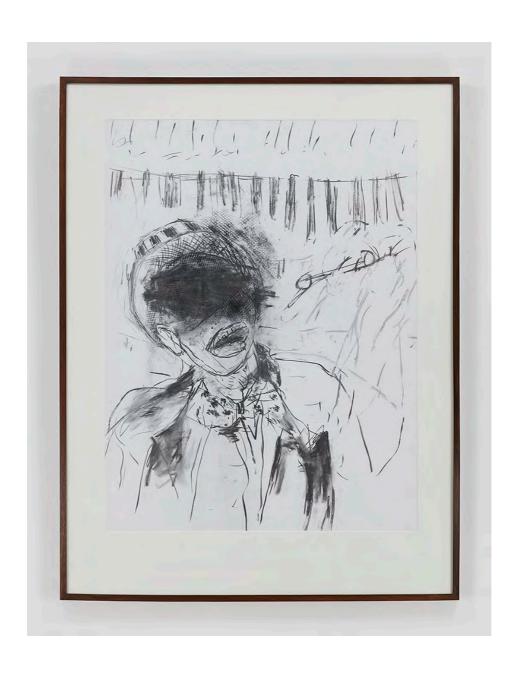
R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Portrait of a Man (Celebration Series) 2001 Charcoal on Paper 122 x 93 cm

R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Head 1999 Charcoal on Paper 148 x 149 cm

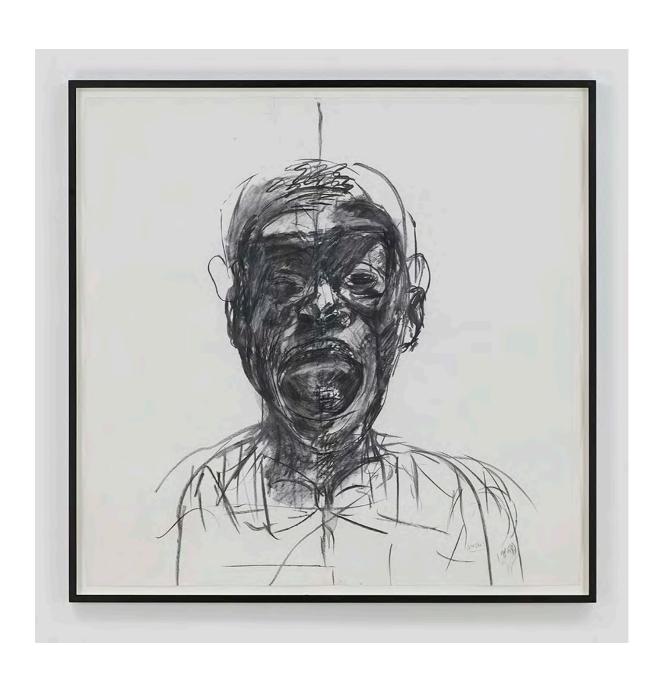
185000.001 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Blue Head c. 1999 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

R 385 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Celebration Head 2002 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

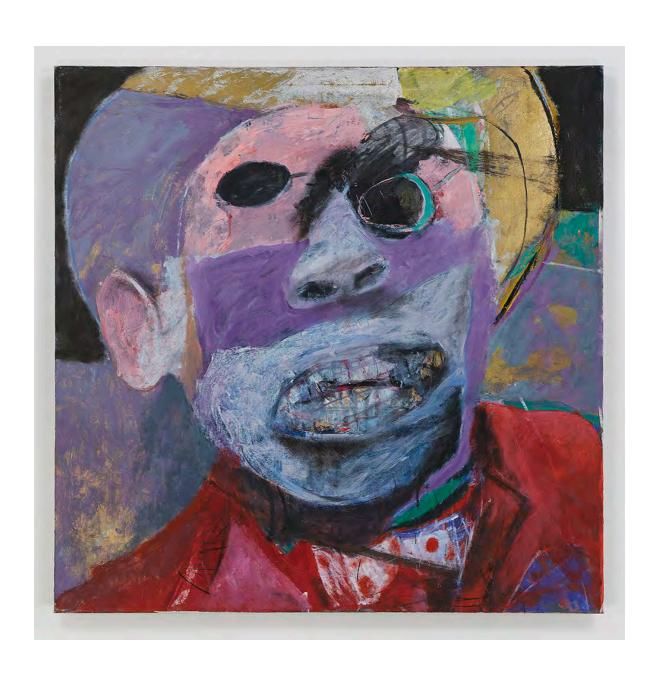
R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Celebration Head 2000 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Celebration Head 2002 Oil on Canvas 153 x 150 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Celebration Head 1996 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Red Figure 1999 Charcoal, Pastel on Paper 164 x 150 cm

R 280 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Prisoner (Incarceration Series) 1999 Charcoal on Paper 153 x 149.5 cm

R 190 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Men and Apes on a Tightrope 2006 Charcoal on Paper 152 x 154 cm

185000.001 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus I 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

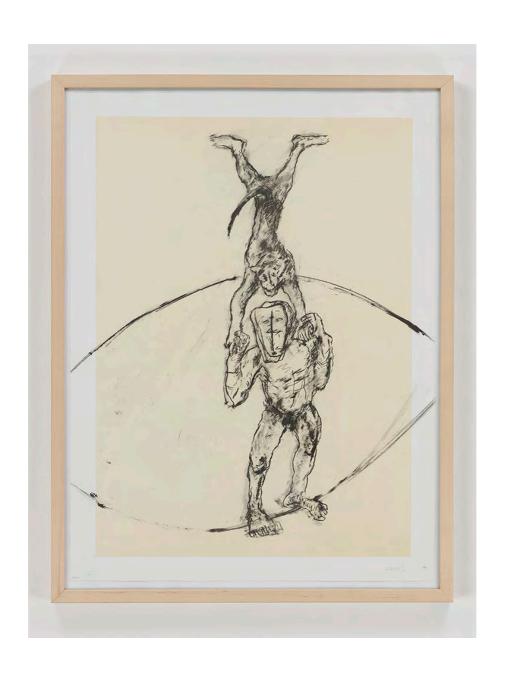
R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus IV 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus II 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus III 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus V 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus VII 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

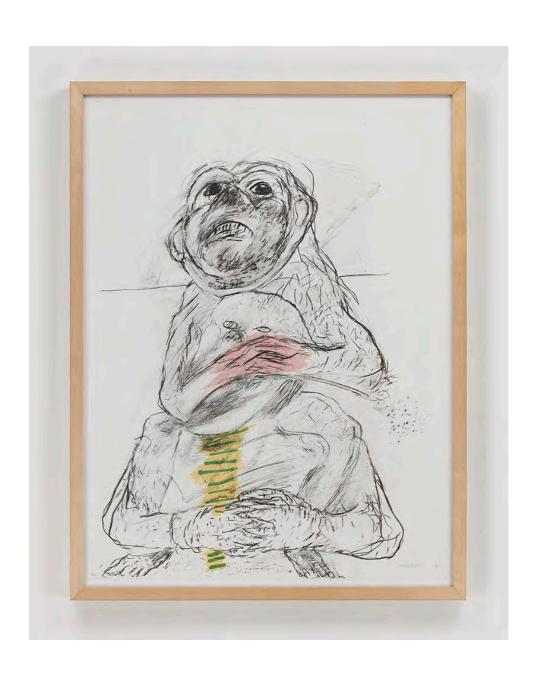
R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Circus VI 2006 Lithograph 83 x 63 cm

R 60 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Ape 1979 Pencil, Graphite on Paper 122 x 93 cm

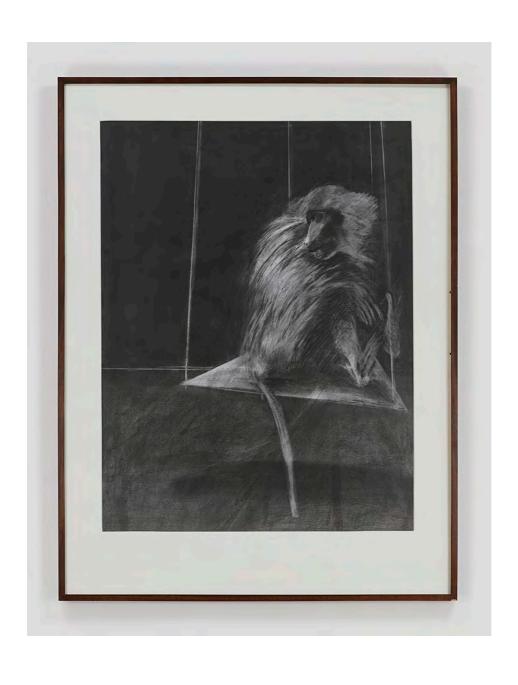
R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Ape 1979 Pencil, Graphite on Paper 122 x 92 cm

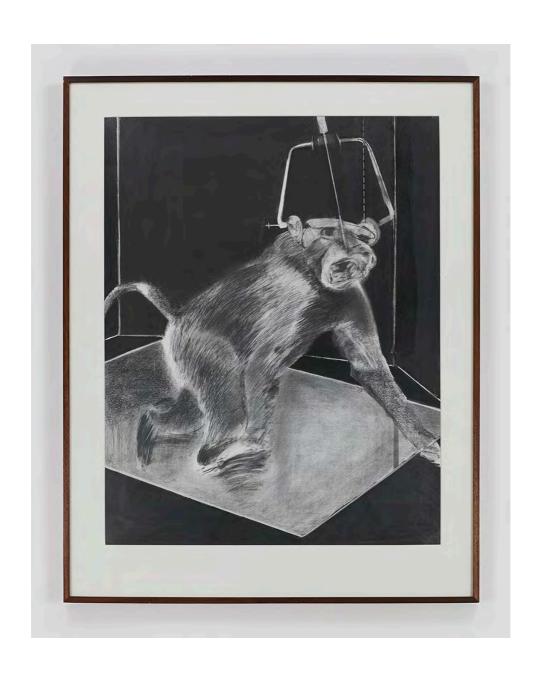
R 120 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Ape on Standing Man 2001 Etching, Aquatint 41.5 x 29 cm

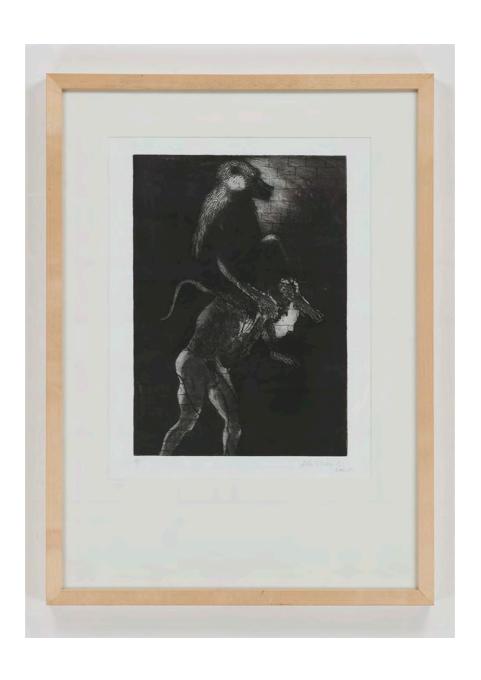
R 45 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Red Monkey Seated 1972 Oil on Canvas 183 x 122 cm

R 350 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Locusts 1996 Charcoal on Paper 135 x 132 cm

R 165 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100



Albert Adams

Strelitzias 1990 Oil on Canvas 153 x 153 cm

R 380 000.00 (Selling price inclusive of VAT)

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre Church Street Stellenbosch, 7600 F +27 (0)21 887 7624 T +27 (0)21 887 3607

CAPE TOWN

The Palms 145 Sir Lowry Rd Cape Town, 7925 T +27 (0)21 422 5100

