

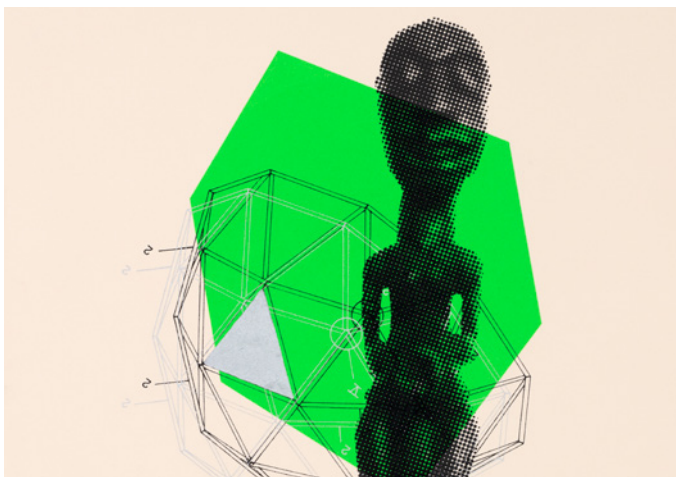
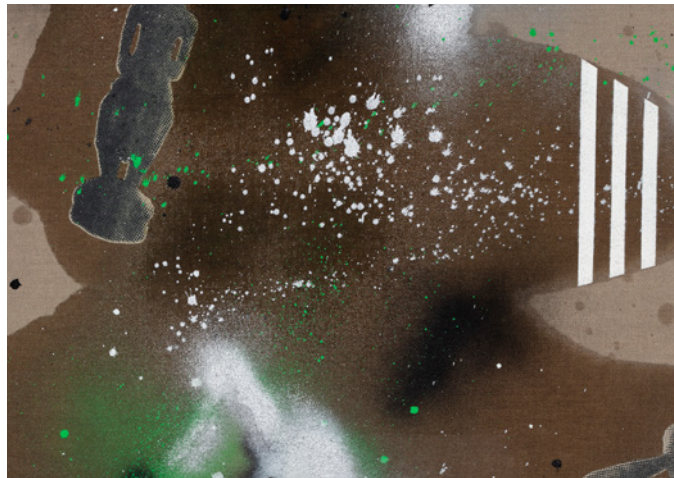
'ALL EMPIRES FALL'

MJ Turpin

Long Gallery / 06.10.22 - 17.11.22

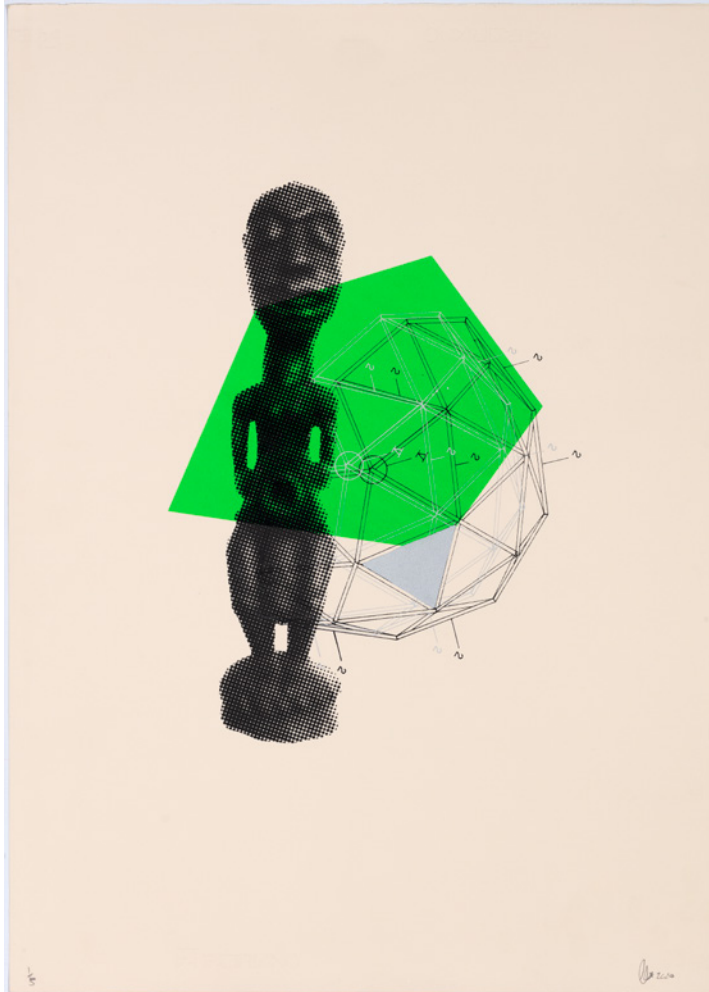


Catalogue



Detail of (Clockwise)

- MJ Turpin - 'At the onset of any meaningful revolution heads must roll'
- MJ Turpin - 'All empires fall'
- MJ Turpin - 'Bloated 1'
- MJ Turpin - 'All empires fall(prototype study) 1'
- MJ Turpin - 'Decapitated legacy'



All Empires Fall

*When the lights go out, a new history shines through.
Death leading to the decomposition of what we call 'legacy'.
Bloated idealisations causing us to cling to putrid indoctrination
Or the industrializing (cleaning) of the commodified body.
Colonial legacy smelt rotten before we severed its head from its body*

Following on his previous solo exhibition, take me apart (No End Contemporary Art Space), MJ Turpin's extended body of work tries to re-animate itself and re-articulate what it has become since it was first shown in 2019. What does it mean to decapitate a legacy? How does one deconstruct privilege? Or rather what is left after legacy and privilege have been taken apart?

What previously was understood as a decontextualised ancient Greek objects (Decapitated Legacy) now from a different angle (Rotten I and II) reveals the decapitated head already bloated, already rotting. All Empires fall continues his previous work's discourses surrounding deconstruction, the history and commodification of artifacts stolen from Africa, and the violence of the Western gaze.

The R5 coin on the eyes in At the onset of any meaningful revolution, heads must roll alludes to the bygone practice of placing coins on the eyes of the dead to assist with the travel of the deceased to the afterlife. The coins thus point towards inevitable change/transition of death and passing on. It was also, on a practical level, a way to stop the eyes of the dead from prying open during rigor mortis, in the case of this work what seems to initially point to denial of history is rather a refusal for the eyes (Western gaze) to continue opening/looking.

The process of taking apart history, the self and attempting to interrogate old narratives by visually and physically writing new ones, lies within the transitional quality of decomposition where new ways of being can grow.



MJ Turpin

MJ Turpin (b. 1982. Johannesburg, South Africa.) He received his BA Fine Art (Honours) Degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and has since participated in numerous local exhibitions at spaces such as the Goodman Gallery, Everard Read / Circa, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Wits Art Museum, Tmrw Gallery and Gus Gallery Stellenbosch. He has also participated in several international exhibitions in France, Germany, Holland, and Morocco.

Turpin currently Directs a Studio complex and Residency Program called Studio Grey, co-directs P72 Projects and Kalashnikovv Gallery, which are all based in Johannesburg. His most recent solos include “Channelling the Material” in 2017 with Hazard Gallery (Johannesburg) followed by “Take Me Apart” with No End Contemporary (Johannesburg) in 2019. His most recent group shows include Floating Reverie “ 5 year: Special Edition” at Tomorrow Gallery, Johannesburg 2021. “Mass” curated by Louis De Viliers at Kalashnikovv Gallery, Johannesburg 2021 and “A cloud” curated by Studio Nxumalo at Gallery 2, Johannesburg. 2021

Turpin has taken part in residencies including BijlmAir, Amsterdam in 2012, Queens Collective, Marrakech in 2019 and Floating Reverie Online “Special Edition” 2020. His work has been exhibited at art fairs including Investec Cape Town Art Fair, FNB Joburg 2019 and RMB Turbine Art Fair. His work is to be found on numerous private and public collections, examples being the Ellerman House Collection in Cape Town, Linda Givon Collection, Play Braamfontein Collection, Life Collection all to be found in Johannesburg, Le Musée du RETARD / the DELAY MUSEUM in Copenhagen, and the Wits Art Museum Collection in Johannesburg.





Detail of - "At the onset of any meaningful revolution heads must roll" 2019

MJ Turpin

'At the onset of any meaningful revolution heads must roll' 2019

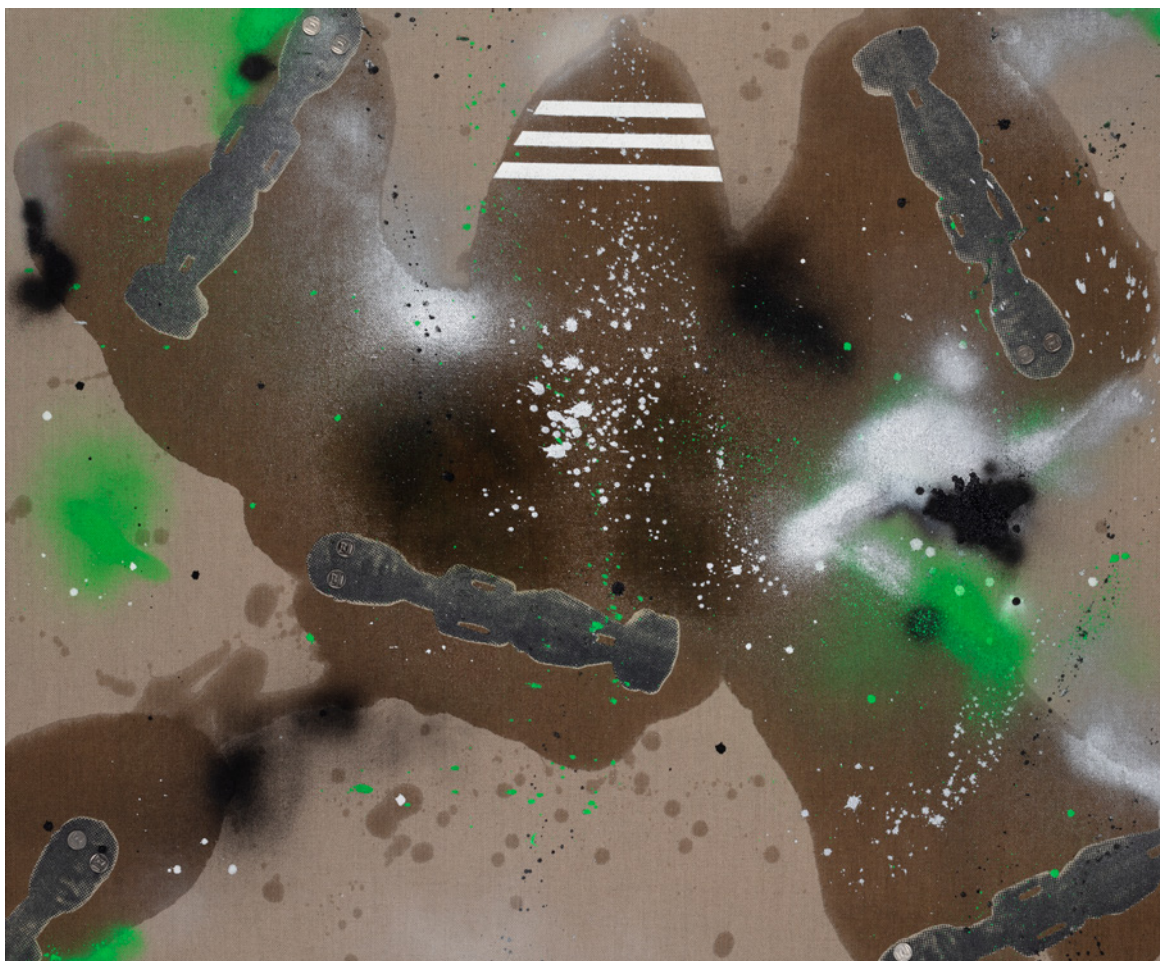
Mixed media on belgian linen

145 x 200cm

R85000 (incl. VAT)

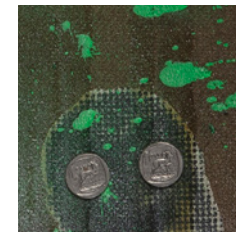
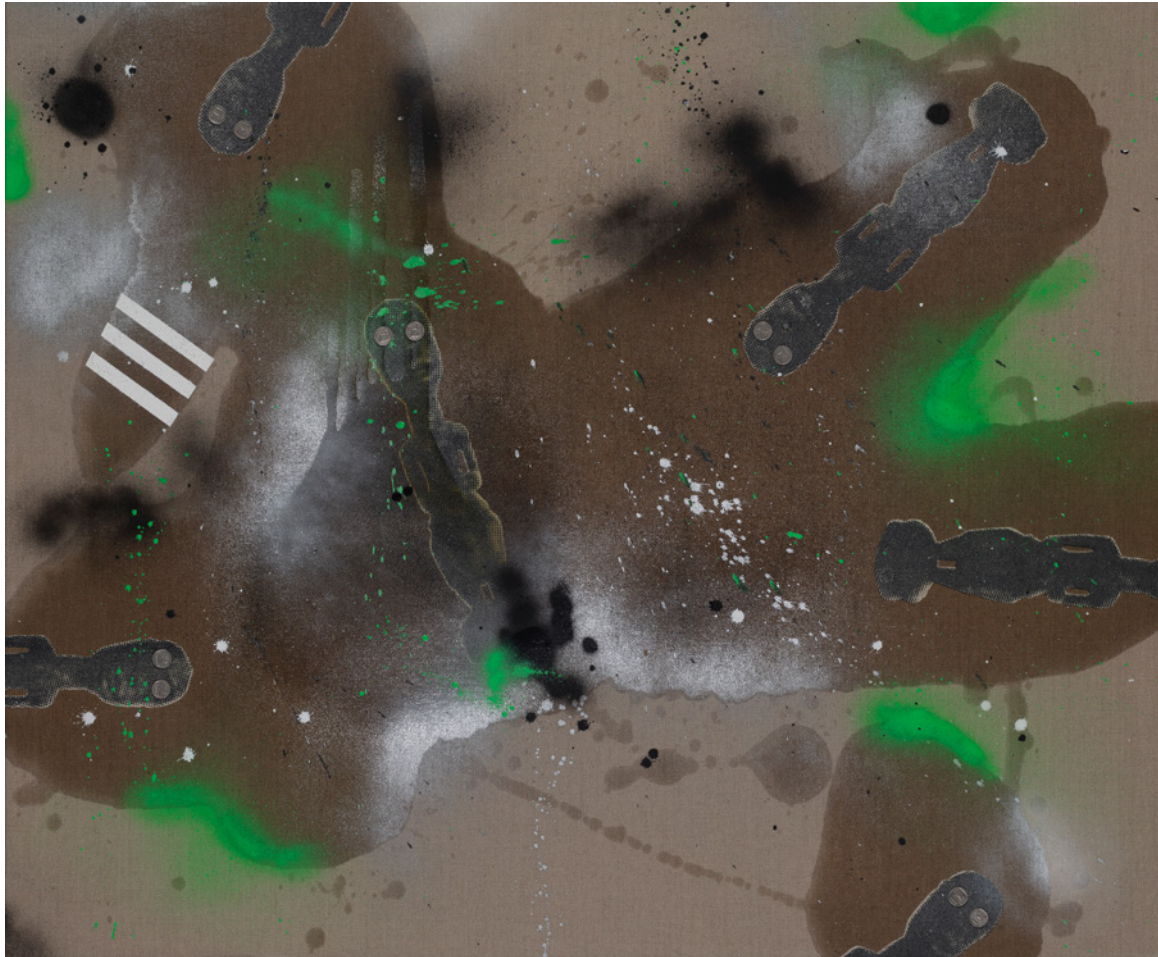


MJ Turpin
'Decapitated legacy' 2019
Serigraph
100.5 x 70.8 cm
R18000 (incl. VAT)



Detail of - "All empires fall"
2021

MJ Turpin
'All empires fall' 2021
Mixed media on belgian linen
124.5 x 102.5 cm
R35000 (incl. VAT)



Detail of - "All empires fall"
2021

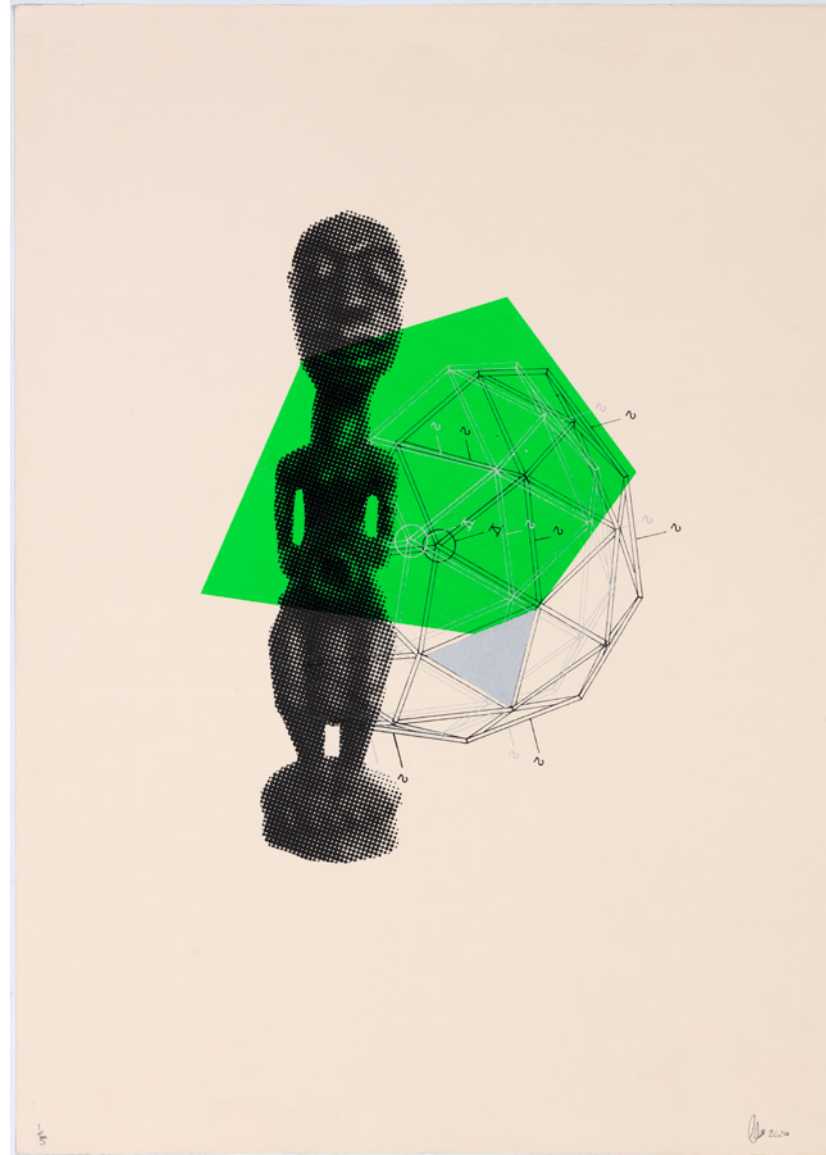
MJ Turpin
'All empires fall' 2021
Mixed media on belgian linen
124.5 x 102.5 cm
R35000 (incl. VAT)



MJ Turpin
'Bloated 1' 2020
Mixed media and serigraph
100.5 x 70.8 cm
R24000 (incl. VAT)



MJ Turpin
'Bloated 2' 2020
Mixed media and serigraph
100.5 x 70.8 cm
R24000 (incl. VAT)



MJ Turpin
'All empires fall (prototype study) 1' 2021
Serigraph Edition of 5, 3 available for both prints
70 x 50 cm
R9000 (incl. VAT)



MJ Turpin
'All empires fall (prototype study) 2' 2021
Serigraph Edition of 5, 3 available for both prints
70 x 50 cm
R9000 (incl. VAT)



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