

The artwork is a complex, layered composition. It features a central square area with a dark, almost black background, overlaid with vibrant, translucent blue and purple washes. This central square is set against a larger, more chaotic background of similar colors, with splatters and drips of blue, purple, and white. The overall effect is one of depth and movement, with various textures and colors blending together. The text is positioned at the bottom of the image, in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

RICHARD KETLEY
SWAHILI

SWAHILI

A language, a culture, a coral blue coastline, a style, a palette – a world that joins up my world - Arab and African. That stretches from the Gulf of Hormuz to Northern Mozambique. A world in which I live and over which I fly – a little too regularly.

The exhibition in paint and pattern is a response to this world, which combines large works on canvas and smaller works on drafting film and photomontage.

XVA April 2019



Swahili Blue I

Size: 47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Ink on Drafting Film



Swahili Blue II

Size: 47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Ink on Drafting Film



Swahili Blue III

Size: 47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Ink on Drafting Film



Swahili Blue IV

Size: 47 x 41 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Ink on Drafting Film



Runes Of The Year I

Size: 54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Drafting Film



Runes Of The Year II

Size: 54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Drafting Film



Runes Of The Year III

Size: 54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Drafting Film



Runes Of The Year IV

Size: 54 x 51 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Acrylic on Drafting Film



Creeside I

Size: 26 x 20 x 0.2 cm

Medium: Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on Perspex



Creekside II

Size: 26 x 20 x 0.2 cm

Medium: Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on
Perspex



Creekside III

Size: 26 x 20 x 0.2 cm

Medium: Acrylic, Photomontage mounted on
Perspex



Port of Call

Size: 180 x 84 x 0.1 cm
Medium: Oil on drafting film



Not So Many Routes

Size: 72 x 103 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Acrylic on drafting film



Watamu

Size: 110 x 840 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Oil on drafting film



Escarpment

Size: 110 x 90 x 7 cm

Medium: Acrylic, Ink on Canvas



Nights of Qaboos

Size: 90 x 160 x 7 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Canvas



Hajah

Size: 20 x 60 x 7 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Canvas



Misrah

Size: 90 x 160 x 7 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Canvas



Tales of the Uninhabited isles

Size: 134 x 110 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Drafting Film



Sesse blue - Island Life

Size: 189 x 336 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Drafting Film



Island Life II

Size: 110 x 84 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Drafting Film



Island Life II

Size: 110 x 84 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Acrylic On Drafting Film



Kampala Grey

Size: 42 x 29 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Oil and charcoal on tracing paper



Trade Winds III Diptych

Size: 120 x 200 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Oil and charcoal on tracing paper



Fort Jesus

Size: 77 x 60 x 0.1 cm

Medium: Oil On Canvas



Artist Statement

I find meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on a sandy building in Riyadh, the chaos of the shacks of Kampala, the crowded taxi parks of Johannesburg. I travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found my Tahiti - a landscape populated with primary colours, instead I find landscape covered in sandy construction sites, tin roofed shacks, humanity sweating as trucks our loaded with voluminous bundles - struggles for hope in adverse contexts. Hope that I create with the form and structure of my work.

Profile

Born in 1964, Richard Ketley has painted since he was at school and held his first solo exhibition while still a student at Hyde Park High School. During his early career, he exhibited at Artists in the Sun and at the Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, and participated in a joint exhibition at the National Galley in Kampala, Uganda. Some of his most recent work has been shortlisted for the SA Taxi Art Award (2015 and 2016). During 2016 he held a joint exhibitions of his work in Lagos and Johannesburg and featured in the Joburg Fringe. In 2017 his work featured at the Art Africa Fair and he held a solo exhibition at 70 Juta Street. In 2018 his work has featured in Art makes Water, Kampala.