



Marika Kleynscheldt's *Cygnus*.

Femme fatale(s) exhibit at Art.b

A group exhibition, *Violent Femmes*, featuring a diverse group of women artists, will take place at Art.b Gallery from 5 to 26 June.

Interrogating the femme fatale archetype, the exhibit will feature Anina Deetlefs, Antoinette du Plessis, Carla Botes, Jo Roets, Ilse Nieman, Larissa Mwanyama, Laurette de Jager, Lee-Ann Ormandy-Becker, Lerato Motau, Lizl Bode, Marika Kleynscheldt, Shenaz Mahomed, Talitha Deetlefs and Yvette Hess.

Laurette de Jager, curator, says, "We are the Violent Femmes, not the Folk Punk band from the 1980s Post Punk era, who ironically didn't have any female members, but the collective femme fatale force of the post-truth pandemic era."

According to De Jager, conceivably dangerous times call for dangerous women.

The artists in this group exhibition do not necessarily engage with the femme fatale concept on a thematic level.

De Jager explains: "It would be too literal to expect a group of diverse women to interpret such a topic solely on the content of concept and theme. We, the artists, are the embodiment of what it means to be female in this precarious time where making kin trumps fighting tooth and nail for our place in society. We have emerged from the fight fought by our second and third wave predecessors to a place where we must work together if we are to ensure a future for ourselves and those who will come after us."

De Jager concludes, "As diverse as this group of artists are, varied in media, concept, background and environment, we are informed by the same unifying thread. An ethic of care, which emerges from working alongside each other, to strengthen, encourage and support not only each other, but also the world around us."

• Art.b (Arts Association of Bellville) is a community orientated and innovative or-



Larissa Mwanyama's *Gaia* – a digital illustration.

ganisation, sensitive to new ideas and supportive of established and emerging artists from all cultural backgrounds. It is a non-profit membership-based organisation open to all.

• The exhibition opens Saturday, 5 June at 10:30 for 11:00. Strict Covid-19 protocols will be in place. View the exhibition online here: www.artb.co.za/violent-femmes/.

• Venue: Art.b Gallery, Bellville Library Centre, Carel van Aswegen Road, Bellville.

• For more information, contact the gallery manager at artb@artb.co.za or 021 917 1197, or visit the website at www.artb.co.za.