

## Emma Willemse in collaboration with Heinrich Joemath and Spier Arts Trust

### *House in my head* (2022-2023)

Mosaic with steel frame

The original artwork constituting *House in my head*, was created by Emma Willemse in a hand collage process: pasting together carefully selected cut-out snippets of images found in old National Geographic Magazines.

Willemse describes her intent: “Although fascinating, the content of the National Geographic Magazine has always sat uncomfortable with me. I am asking questions about how knowledge is gained and produced in a post-colonial era, and how the imagery in these magazines reveal the one-sided gaze of the creators. By cutting and tearing the existing imagery used in these publications and re-contextualising it into new settings, I am recycling prevailing ways of viewing our world. It is an attempt to re-imagine an alternative reality, to re-use problematic perspectives and re-create new possibilities.”

The process of collaboration with Heinrich Joemath to transform the collage into a large-scale mosaic artwork entails a continuous back and forth communication to ensure that the intent and integrity of the original artwork is retained.

### **Emma Willemse**

Emma Willemse lives in Riebeeck Kasteel in the Western Cape. Her art-making practice deals with issues of displacement and place-making. Emma holds a Master’s in Visual Arts from UNISA.

### **Heinrich Joemath**

Based in Cape Town, Heinrich Joemath qualified as a professional mosaic artisan from Spier Arts Academy in 2015. Having led the production at Spier Artisan Studios from 2016 to 2020, Heinrich established his own mosaic studio, Hammered Rocks in 2021.

The project was co-sponsored by the **Spier Arts Trust**, invested in uplifting communities.