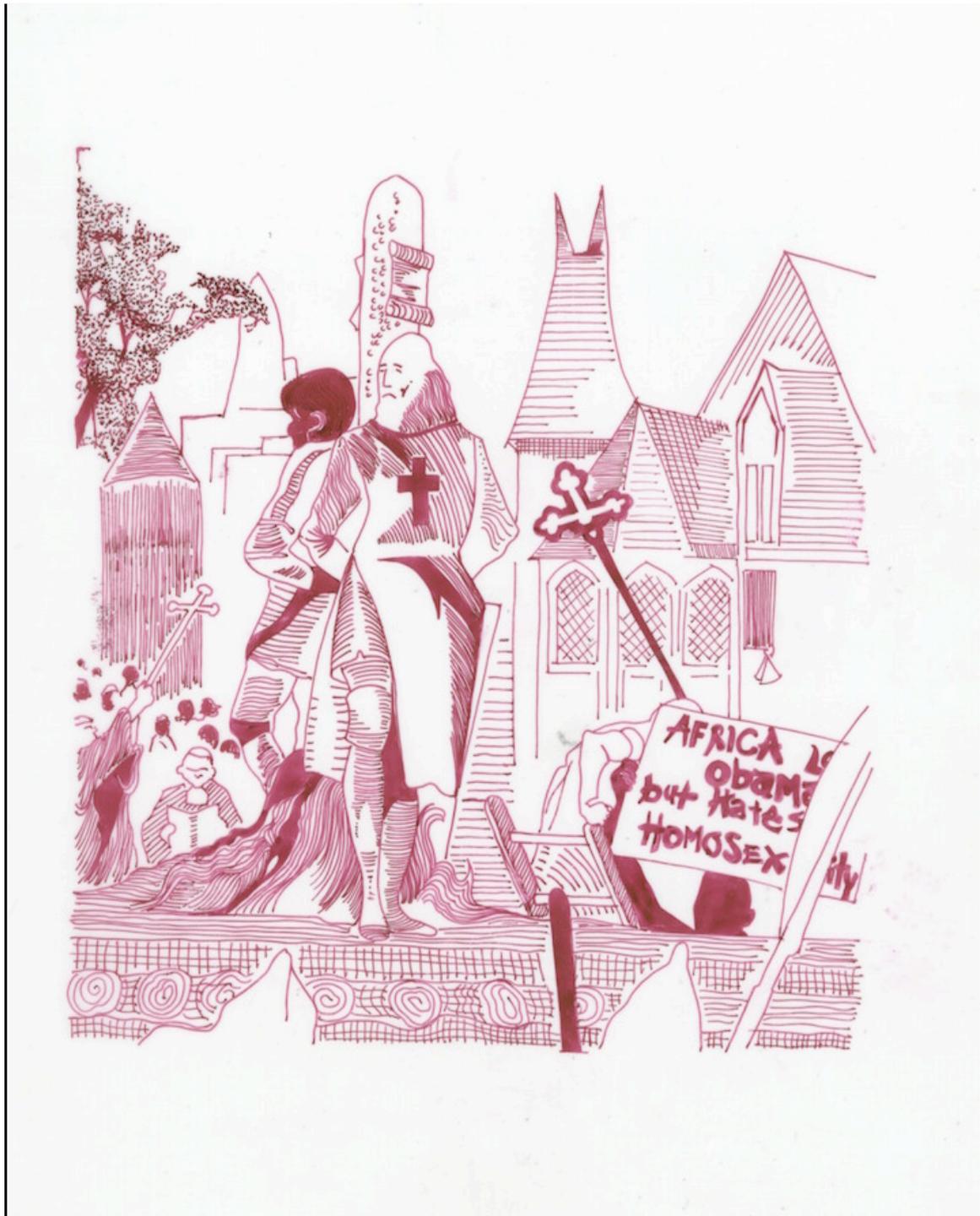


# Women In Art From Africa & The Diaspora: 'Speaking Back' On View At Cape Town's Goodman Gallery





Adejoke Tugbiyele, *Africa Loves Obama, But...* (2014). Archival sepia ink on archival acetate. 43 x 35.5cm.

*Images courtesy of the Goodman Gallery*

*Words by Chaze Matakala*

As Cape Town transitions from autumn to winter, the [Goodman Gallery](#) is housing a new exhibition from South African curator [Natasha Becker](#). Titled *Speaking Back*, the show brings together a multitude of female artists from Africa and the diaspora—including [ruby onyinyechi amanze](#), [Ghada Amer](#), [Candice Breitz](#), [Virginia](#)

**Chihota, Ivy Chemutai Ng'ok, Otobong Nkanga, Nkiru Oparah, Tracey Rose, Adejoke Tugbiyele, Mickalene Thomas, Kara Walker, and Arlene Wandera**— whose work “speaks back” to perceptions, attitudes and beliefs that impact on personal and political circumstances.

According to a press release, “*Speaking Back* seeks to reveal deeply significant dimensions of culture and subjectivity, history and struggle, by bringing women together as diverse artists to find out what each in her artistically signified yet gendered/racial/sexual/cultural singularity is offering to the world, to us all.”

At the May 23rd opening, Nigerian-American artist and LGBT activist Adejoke Tugbiyele performed her *Freedom Dance* for the very first time. A visceral and defiant work of self-expression and bellowing drumming, the conceptual piece saw Adejoke challenge gender roles and contentions within queer Africa through dress, lighting and sheer force.

Though visitors might no longer be able to see Adejoke’s performance, they can still catch South African artist Tracy Rose’s video installation attempt to disrupt the male-dominated revolutionary space, as well as the New York-based Mickalene Thomas’ intimate documentary exploring her mother as her muse.

Covering the gallery’s walls are the **extra-terrestrial, fragmented drawings** of Nigerian artist ruby onyinyechi amanze, who uses paper as a medium to remember, layer, hide and reveal aspects of interpersonal stories.

Kenyan artist Arlene Wandera’s *I’ve Always Wanted a Dollhouse* looks inside the fluid notion of juvenility.

*‘Speaking Back’ is on view through 4 July at the Goodman Gallery in Cape Town.*  
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