

An abstract painting featuring bold, expressive brushstrokes in a variety of colors including teal, pink, black, white, and yellow. The composition is layered and textured, with some areas appearing more saturated than others. A prominent vertical element in the center is a thick black stroke with a pinkish-red interior. To the right, a white, curved shape suggests a hand or a face, with a red dot in the center. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and complex visual relationships.

NICOLA VASSELL
VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

Kutera mutsara /
Hearing Inner Lines

APRIL 30TH — JUNE 13TH

OPENING APRIL 30TH
6 — 8PM

138 10TH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY

NICOLA VASSELL

VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

Kutera mutsara / Hearing Inner Lines

APRIL 30TH — JUNE 13TH

Nicola Vassell is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Virginia Chihota, the artist's first solo presentation with the gallery. Spanning works on paper and large-scale canvases, the artworks on view synthesize a fluid exchange between media—screen printing, drawing, and painting—that meld into a single, embodied practice that allows the artist to explore profound questions of being, belonging, and the mutability of self.

Chihota's intuitively driven practice is defined by what she describes as a sustained act of listening. For the artist, the studio is not a place of production, but rather, one of attention and mutual exchange. Human forms, color, and line emerge gradually as the artist rejects a single predetermined image. Instead, Chihota approaches the canvas directly, following contours as they surface, layering and listening until the work signals its own completion. By accompanying the line, Chihota defines her own path of self-discovery. This intuitive methodology—which the artist describes as a conversation with the work, conducted both audibly and internally—creates a deep sense of freedom in the conception of each piece that captures Chihota's ever-evolving personhood. The final works represent animated, living interventions that serve as a material manifestation of the artist's process, which is reached only through personal introspection and spiritual attunement.

Central to Chihota's practice is the fluid interplay between printmaking, drawing, and painting. Trained as a printmaker, the artist originally felt constrained by her own medium. Through a process of experimentation, Chihota's printmaking became an entry point to painting. Her brush began to feel lighter and more liberated as she attempted to mirror the immediacy of her drawing practice, slowly building her relationship to canvas. The resulting works offer a sense of continuous unfolding through textured layers of ink and paint that build upon each other, transforming each picture into a semiotic site for accumulated meaning and embodied experience that allows Chihota to further approach her own sense of being. This introspective self-excavation is particularly visualized through the presence of the human figure in varying states of emergence and dissolution, creating a gradation of adaptable selves within each canvas.

Significantly, the artist has led a life defined by relocation, having experienced numerous moves across the world over the years. Within this state of flux, Chihota's work has served as a source of stability through which she can deeply interrogate her own existence. As such, the monumentality of her canvases, which envelop the body of the viewer, transform into expansive sites for contemplation. In fact, the artist describes each painting as a room, a fluid space within which she exercises full authority. With each line, gesture, and brushstroke, Chihota actively creates a room of her own.

Nicola Vassell Gallery extends its sincere thanks to Schwartzman& and Tiwani Contemporary for their support and strategic collaboration in making this exhibition possible.

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm

138 10th Ave. New York, NY 10011

For press inquiries

ask@nicolavassell.com

NICOLA VASSELL

VIRGINIA CHIHOTA

b.1988, Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

Virginia Chihota is a multi-disciplinary artist. She graduated with a certificate in Fine Art from the National Gallery B.A.T Visual Art Studios in 2004, followed by a diploma in Fine Art from Harare Polytechnic in 2006.

Introspective in nature, Chihota's work is deeply influenced by personal experiences—landmark and everyday. In a reflection on intimacy and the human figure, she has addressed themes such as childbearing, childrearing, marriage, kinship, bereavement and faith. At once mundane and transcendental, rife with allusions to everyday life, and religious and folkloric symbolism, her large works on paper display a raw, expressionist verve and a striking grace in the elaborate use of patterns, textures and layers. Having trained as a printmaker, Chihota's use of screen-printing is as confident as it is original. She mixes printing techniques with drawing to produce unique works of striking formal complexity. They often depict the female form blending into near abstraction, and bodies caught in strange embraces evoking a figural union; along with an iconographic repertoire which points towards the domestic whilst emphasizing connectedness and collectivity. Chihota's work highlights the ways in which the female agency disrupts borders and activates concerns around different forms of belonging. Subjectivity emerges as a concept embedded in notions of interrelatedness.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *Kupinduka*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Seville, Spain (2026); *A visit to the other*, Museums Zutphen, Zutphen, Netherlands (solo exhibition at Museum Henriette Polak, 2025); *Virginia Chihota: Kuenda Mberi "Moving On"*, Travesía Cuatro, Mexico City, Mexico (2025) and *Travesía Cuatro*, Madrid, Spain (2024); *Chibereko Chakaramba Kuudzirwa (The Womb Refused To Be Told)*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK (2023); *Whose Am I? I Am Not My Own (Ndiri Waani? Handisi Muridi Wangu)*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK (2021); *Uri Mwana Wani? (Whose Child Are You?)*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare (2019); *Virginia Chihota*, ULUCG Artists' Pavilion, Montenegro (2019); *Mhamha*, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK (2019). Chihota represented Zimbabwe at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013 and was awarded the Prix Canson in the same year.

About Nicola Vassell

Nicola Vassell is a contemporary art gallery committed to discourse that widens the lens of the history and future of art. Its focus is on developing an intergenerational, cross-disciplinary program of international artists and thinkers.

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