



CIRCA
LONDON

NIGEL MULLINS

21st Century Talismans

An abstract oil painting featuring thick, expressive brushstrokes. The composition is dominated by a large, bright white area on the left side, which transitions into a dark, swirling mass of black and deep blue on the right. Scattered throughout the dark area are vibrant splashes of red, orange, and yellow, creating a sense of dynamic movement and contrast. The texture of the paint is highly visible, with ridges and valleys formed by the brushwork.

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21st Century Talismans

14 October – 11 November 2016



COVER (DETAIL)
*Touch Here for Heroic Prosperity
 & Unlimited Progress*, 2016
 oil on superwood and frame
 67 x 94 cm

TITLE PAGE (DETAIL)
*For Inexplicable & Disturbing
 Unpredictability*, 2016
 oil and wire on superwood and frame
 77 x 62 cm

LEFT (DETAIL)
Your Bright Future, 2016
 oil on superwood and frame
 107 x 136 cm

NIGEL MULLINS

21st Century Talismans

I want to present my paintings as superstitious objects with bogus protective powers to bend reality in our favour. My paintings offer somehow to help you. 'Buy you time. 'Or 'Reduce insignificance.' Or 'Guarantee Afterlife.' The squishy bodily qualities of paint, thick gestures, and sometimes outright messy application, are ideal to evoke a low-tech, talismanic object or fetish and our chaotic, and often absurd, strategies for controlling the vagaries of chance and guaranteeing a bright future.
 – Nigel Mullins

21st Century Talismans continues Mullins' exploration of the futility and profundity of the human experience and endeavour. Poignant, playful and pathetic by turns, the works speak of disintegrating idealism as Mullins serves up heroes and victims, historic moments and iconic objects as contemporary vanitas paintings.

Mullins' paintings are literally framed as historical images, in old and sometimes decrepit frames, and which contain, or occasionally leak, the visceral sumptuousness of the paint. Even when he is referencing the monochromatic palette of archival photos, the paint is intensely animated and seductive. Thick with extreme impasto and with smeared borders between frame and canvas, his paintings become amulets, sacred artefacts – 21st Century Talismans.



For Inexplicable & Disturbing Unpredictability, 2016
 oil and wire on superwood and frame
 77 x 62 cm



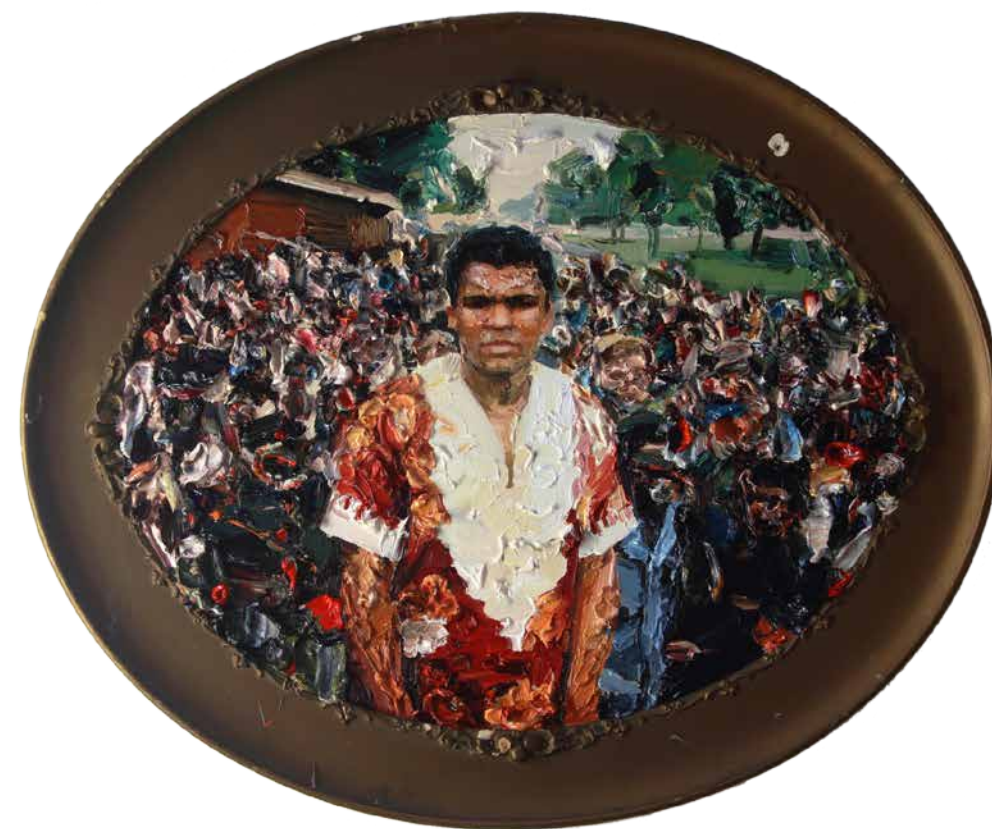
RIGHT AND PAGES 8-9 (DETAIL)

Touch Here to Overcome Anti-Utopian Forces, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
53 x 43 cm





Bring Back Lost Love (London Olympics 1908), 2016
 oil and copper wire on superwood
 40 x 38 cm



ABOVE AND LEFT (DETAIL)
Muhammad Ali in the DRC, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
52 x 62 cm



RIGHT AND PAGES 16–17 (DETAIL)
After Karel Dujardin 1663, 2016
 oil on superwood and frame
 60 x 50 cm





ABOVE & LEFT (DETAIL)

Rapid Progress & Turbulent Times, 2016
oil on superwood, frame and copper wire
68 x 56 cm



RIGHT AND PAGES 22–23 (DETAIL)

This Painting Will Bring Good Fortune, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
43 x 35 cm



This Painting Will Protect You From Irrational Claims About The Universe, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
59 x 52 cm





Earthly Possession, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
63 x 52 cm



ABOVE & RIGHT (DETAIL)
Talisman, 2016
 oil on superwood and frame
 93 x 67 cm





Your Bright Future, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
107 x 136 cm



*Touch Here for Heroic Prosperity
& Unlimited Progress, 2016*
oil on superwood and frame
67 x 94 cm



BIOGRAPHY

NIGEL MULLINS

(b. 1969, Grahamstown, South Africa)

Nigel Mullins completed his Master of Fine Art degree with distinction at Rhodes University, South Africa in 1993. Since graduating, he has had 16 solo exhibitions in South Africa, Scotland, England, and Germany and has taken part in almost 50 group shows. His work has been represented on the Cape Town, Johannesburg, Frankfurt and London art fairs and on the Mumia International Underground Animation Festival.

In 2014 he exhibited a body of work called *Chaotic Region* at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Mullins is the winner of the first prize at the Royal Over Seas League 14th Annual Open Exhibition in London in 1997, he was a nominee for the Daimler Chrysler Award for Contemporary South African Art in 2000 and recipient of a merit prize at the ABSA Atelier in the same year.

Mullins work is included in public, private and corporate collections in South Africa, the UK and Europe.

LEFT (DETAIL)

This Painting Will Protect You From Irrational Claims About The Universe, 2016
oil on superwood and frame
59 x 52 cm

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CIRCA

Modern and contemporary art from Southern Africa

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