

Diani Catalogue

Nomad Beach Resort - Artist in Residence

Artwork by Pie Herring

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Catalogue Overview

Nomad Artist Residency

This collection of paintings by Pie Herring offers an intimate glimpse into the rhythms and traditions of life on Kenya's southern coast.

Inspired by her time as the artist-in-residence at Nomad Beach Resort and Chale Island, Herring spent two months immersing herself in the vibrant culture and natural beauty of Diani and its surrounding community. Her work is a heartfelt celebration of the people, customs, and timeless practices that define this coastal way of life.

With a deep curiosity and respect for local traditions, Herring sought out opportunities to explore the daily lives of the people she met. From fishermen casting their nets at sunrise to women weaving mats with skilful hands, her paintings are imbued with the quiet grace and beauty of these age-old practices.

Herring's work celebrates the harmony of human life and nature, offering viewers a chance to reflect on the beauty of tradition in an ever-changing world.



Pie Herring

Biography

Herring, a celebrated name in contemporary figurative painting, is recognised for her ability to capture the dynamism of human experience and culture through her expressive brushwork and charismatic narratives.

Her work explores themes of identity, community and human connection, as well as being deeply influenced by her travels and residencies across the world.

Herring graduated from The Edinburgh College of Art in 2018. In 2019 her degree show work was awarded the Carnegie Scholarship at the Royal Scottish Academies New Contemporaries Exhibition. Later that year, her work was featured in the group show 'Young London Painters' held at Arthill Gallery.

In 2020, Herring was invited to Kenya with a group of artists to create work highlighting the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on rural communities in the North of the country. Subsequently, her work was exhibited in a group show at The High Line Nine Gallery in New York.

In 2021-2022, the artist moved to the oldest Swahili settlement in East Africa. Later that year, she was invited by a small charity called The Milgis Trust to stay with the Samburu Tribe nestled within the Ndoto Mountains of Northern Kenya. Herring created a collection of paintings which were exhibited alongside photographer Migwa Nthiga at Matbronze Gallery, Nairobi in November 2022.

Herring has undertaken various artist residencies in her career. In 2023 she was invited to Morocco as an artist in residence with Riad Alena, Marrakech. The residency culminated in a solo-exhibition which raised funds for the local Fiers y Fort children's home.

Most recently, Herring spent 5 months with the AATC art residency in Ghana, teaching workshops to children alongside developing her own paintings inspired by the local surroundings. This collection of work will be exhibited in a solo-show in Feb 2025, at CalidArt Gallery, London.



Kuwaka Moto

Oil on Canvas, 143x102cm

Kuwaka Moto—Swahili for “Catching Fire”— captures the essence of a traditional Kenyan boat maintenance ritual. The Ngalawa, with its weathered wood and distinctive shape rests on a bed of makuti. This sun-dried coconut palm leaf serves as a kindling to sustain a fire which will travel from one end of the boat to the other.

The practice, performed once a month, intends to rid the vessel of growing bacteria and help strengthen the bark. This painting is a celebration of craft, heritage, and devotion to tradition.

Handcrafted Driftwood Frame Incl.





MO

Oil on Canvas, 137x100cm

Pie's painting Mo, is a tribute to the vibrancy and serenity of life on the ocean. The piece portrays a seasoned sailor and fisherman, Mo. He is shown aboard a traditional Ngalawa boat characteristic of Diani's coastline. Standing with a steady grip on the mast, his confident posture reflects years of experience navigating the waters. His gaze, focused yet serene, suggests an inherent understanding of the nature before him.

Multiple moments are rendered into one as Mo's distant figure glides around the boat. The fusion of movement between man, sails, ropes and waves reflects a rhythmic and respectful relationship between humanity and nature - a hallmark of traditional life on Kenya's coast.

Handcrafted Driftwood Frame Incl.





Kusuka

Oil on Canvas, 143x100cm

Kusuka—Swahili for “Weave”—portrays a young mother seated on the earth, skilfully weaving a mat with her hands. Her posture is relaxed yet purposeful, her bare feet grounding her in the moment as she patiently handles the delicate strands of fibre.

The serene expression on her face, soft and content, contrasts beautifully with the repetitive and laborious task she performs. There is no sign of weariness—only quiet focus and a deep connection to her craft. Pie’s painting serves to honor the grace, patience, and quiet dignity inherent in traditional handmade practices, showcasing the deep bond between the artisan, her craft, and her culture.

Handcrafted Driftwood Frame Incl.

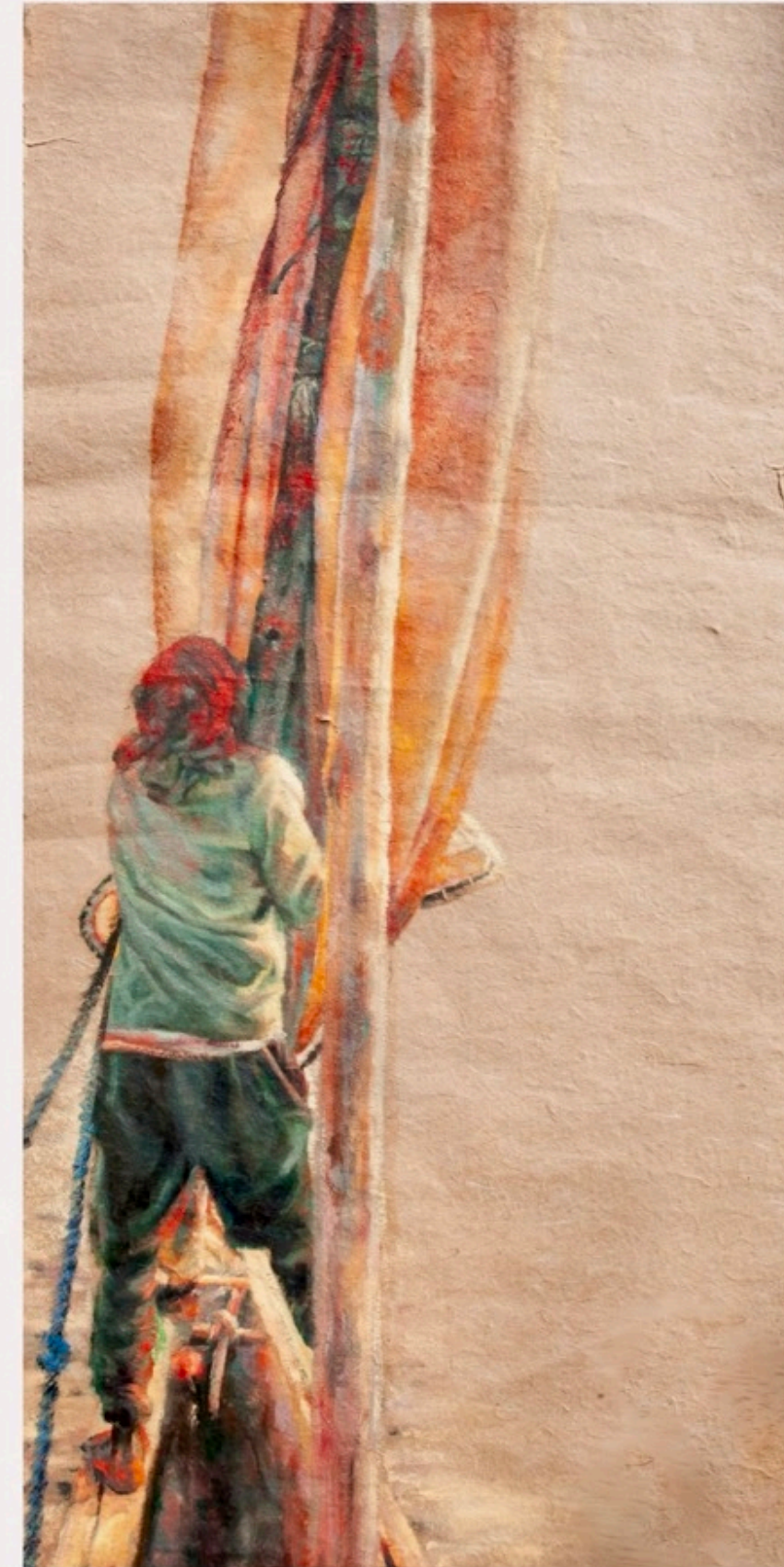


Sunrise on Ngalawa I & II

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 98x49cm

Sunrise on Ngalawa I & II captures a moment of partnership as the captain of a traditional Ngalawa sailing boat works skilfully to manoeuvre the sails on his vessel during a serene sunrise sail. The warm flow of dawn bathes the sails in hues of gold and orange whilst the captain firmly grips and pulls the rigging, embodying an innate understanding of the sea and a mastery of his vessel. These artworks are a tribute to the timeless beauty of maritime life.

Mahogany Frame incl.



Bintisudi

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 98x49cm

This is a special portrait for Pie. She met Bintisudi on the off chance when venturing through a local village in Diani. The artist was immediately struck by her strong gaze, her eyes radiating wisdom, resilience, and a quiet power accumulated over a lifetime. Her lined face and elderly features tell stories of experience yet there is a softness and grace that exudes beauty beyond conventional norms.

The artist created this piece to honour Bintisudi and her unique spirit. The painting invites viewers to redefine beauty, celebrating the dignity and elegance of age.

Mahogany Frame incl.





Mornings on Chale

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 49x66cm

Mornings on Chale captures the graceful rhythm of an elderly fisherman casting his line into the ocean from the shore of Chale Island. The composition merges multiple moments into one, dynamically rendering the fluid motions of the fisherman as he whips his arm back and forth. The layered depiction of his movements creates a poetic interplay of stillness and motion, emphasising the harmony between the man and his craft.

Mahogany Frame incl.



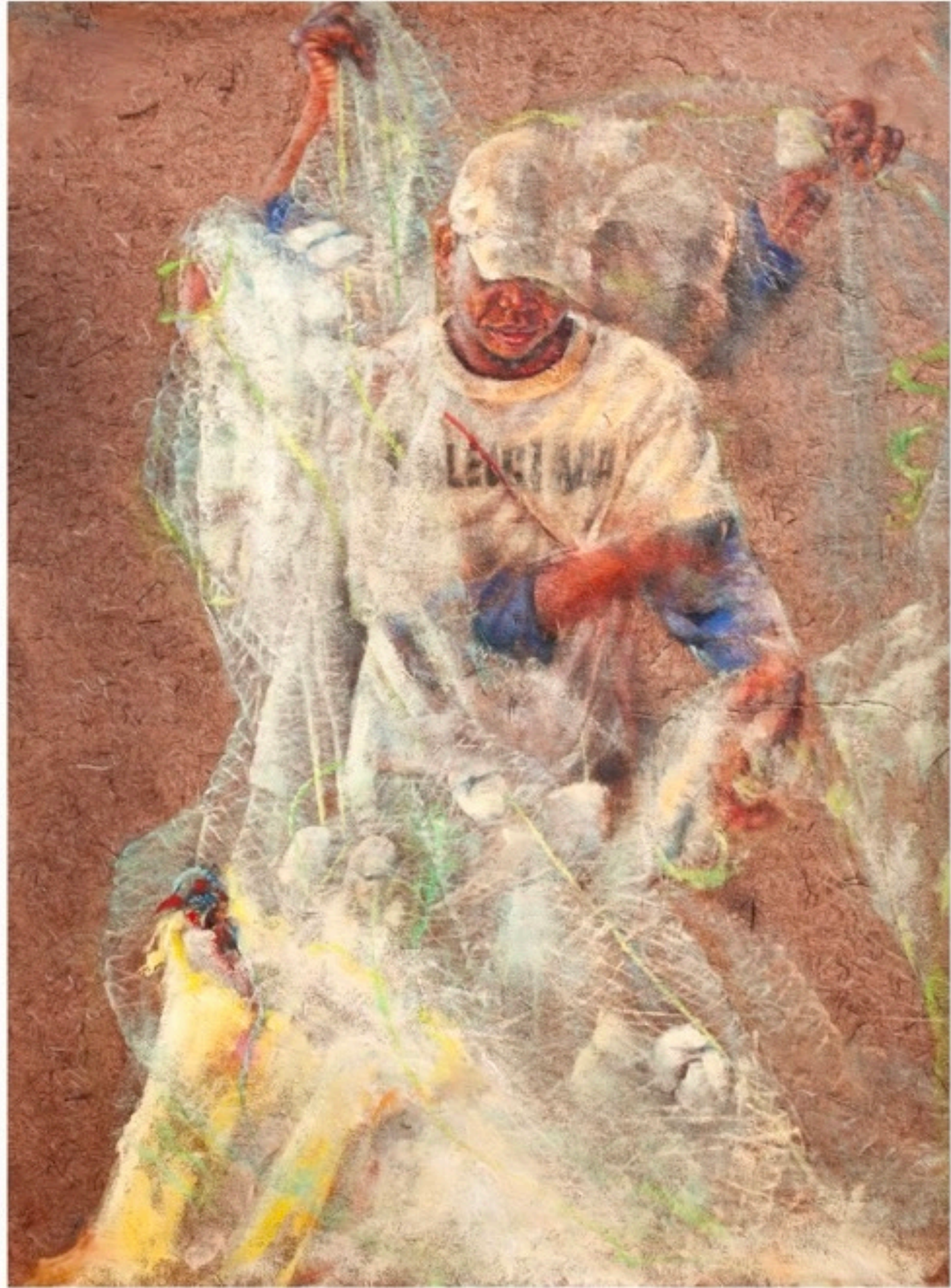
After the Catch

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 49x66cm

After the Catch portrays a fisherman in a serene yet dynamic moment as he untangles his nets after a morning at sea. His relaxed posture and the knowing smile on his face convey the ease and familiarity with which he approaches this laborious task. The artist has merged multiple moments into a single composition, dynamically capturing the subtle movements of his hands and the shifting net as he works.

The painting transforms a quiet, everyday moment into a powerful narrative of skill, patience, and harmony. It invites viewers to feel the rhythm of the task and appreciate the beauty in the seemingly mundane.





Juma

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 53x98cm

Juma is a lively and charismatic figure who Pie met while exploring the shores of Diani Beach. His effortless coolness is unmistakable—his confident stance and stylish sunglasses exude a laid-back charm as he goes about packaging firewood. *Juma* is a tribute to the remarkable characters who bring life and personality to Diani Beach.



Teddy

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 31x49cm

Through her collection of portraits from Diani, Pie looked to celebrate the individuality and spirit of the local people. Pie met Teddy on her first day in Diani. His warmth and humour made her feel instantly welcome.

Scan the QR code to watch Teddy viewing his portrait for the first time.



Lomunyak

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 32x49cm

Pie met Lomunyak and his friends on her first evening in Diani. Part of the Samburu tribe, these young warriors are often seen strolling along the beach. The young man was adorned with eye-catching tribal attire and beads.

Scan the QR code to watch Lomunyak viewing his portrait for the first time.





Hakuna Matata

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 98x98cm

Pie's painting, titled *Hakuna Matata*—Swahili for "No Worries"—captures the playful essence of Chale Island's iconic colobus monkeys. The scene features three colobus monkeys perched on intricately carved bar stools, enjoying Kenya's legendary Tusker beer. The painting is an homage to the relaxed, carefree attitude that defines the animals as well as life on the Chale island.

Mahogany Frame incl.



Colobus I

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper, 39x49cm

Pie's Colobus paintings capture the laid-back nature of the colobus monkeys who characteristically inhabit Chale island. The monkeys, with their striking black-and-white fur and long, flowing tails, are depicted lounging in the shade. The surfaces they rest on are adorned with engraved patterns, reflecting the intricate and traditional architecture found on Chale island. Each carving is unique, a testament to the island's rich artistic heritage, where no two designs are alike. These paintings celebrate the coexistence of wildlife and tradition on Chale Island.



Colobus II

Oil on Cedar Wood Paper ,58x49cm

Pie's Colobus paintings capture the laid-back nature of the colobus monkeys who characteristically inhabit Chale island. The monkeys, with their striking black-and-white fur and long, flowing tails, are depicted lounging in the shade. The surfaces they rest on are adorned with engraved patterns, reflecting the intricate and traditional architecture found on Chale island. Each carving is unique, a testament to the island's rich artistic heritage, where no two designs are alike. These paintings celebrate the coexistence of wildlife and tradition on Chale Island.

Mahogany Frame incl.





Acquisitions

For purchases and more info please contact:

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