

An exciting new force in painting, Michael Armitage draws from Titian, Goya, Manet and Gauguin to explore East African culture and folklore.

# Michael Armitage

**Paradise Edict Exhibition**

**Royal Academy, London**

**22 May - 19 September 2021**



Made using Lubugo bark cloth, a culturally important material made of tree bark by the Baganda people in Uganda, many of his large-scale works draw on contemporary events, combining these with Western painting motifs.

This spring – just over 10 years since Armitage graduated from the Royal Academy Schools – we bring together 15 of his large-scale paintings from the past six years, exploring East African landscapes, politics and society.

Alongside will be a selection of 31 works by six East African contemporary artists: Meek Gichugu, Jak Katarikawe, Theresa Musoke, Asaph Ng'ethe Macua, Elimo Njau and Sane Wadu. Chosen by Armitage for their important role in shaping figurative painting in Kenya, these seminal artists have also had a profound impact on his own artistic development. A version of this part of the exhibition will be shown at the Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, a non-profit visual arts space founded by Armitage.

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/michael-armitage>





Michael Armitage, Baboon, 2016

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paradise-edict-1](https://hausderkunst.de/en/explore/audio/hdkfromhome-audiotour-auf-englisch-durch-die-ausstellung-michael-armitage-paradise-edict-1)





**Michael Armitage,**  
*The Chicken Thief*, 2019.

Oil on lubugo bark cloth. 200 x 150 cm.





Francisco Goya, *Disparate ridiculo* (Ridiculous Folly), created around 1820

Michael Armitage, *The Fourth Estate*, 2017. Oil on lubugo bark cloth. 330 x200 cm.





**Michael Armitage,**  
*Leopard Print Seducer, 2016.*

Oil on lubugo bark cloth. 220 x 170 cm.





**Michael Armitage,**  
*The Paradise Edict*, 2019.

Oil on lubugo bark cloth. 220 x 420 cm.





**Michael Armitage,**  
*The Conservationists*, 2015.  
Oil on lubugo bark cloth. 170.2 by 149.5 cm. Courtesy Sotheby's..



**CURATION:** the action or process of selecting, organising, and looking after the items in a collection or exhibition.

Armitage has also **selected works** by three Kenyan artists – Wangechi Mutu, Magdalene Odundo and Chelenge van Rampelberg – that will be displayed in The Dame Jillian Sackler Sculpture Gallery, just outside the exhibition galleries. This display invites conversations between the three artists' works and sculptures from the RA's collection, which were **curated by Richard Deacon RA**. (Please note: this display is only accessible to Michael Armitage ticket holders).

Exhibition organised by Haus der Kunst, Munich, in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

“Artists Sane Wadu, Elimo Njau and Asaph Ng'ethe Macua have played an important role in shaping figurative painting in Kenya – they have also had a profound impact on Armitage's own artistic development.”

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/armitage-meet-the-artists>

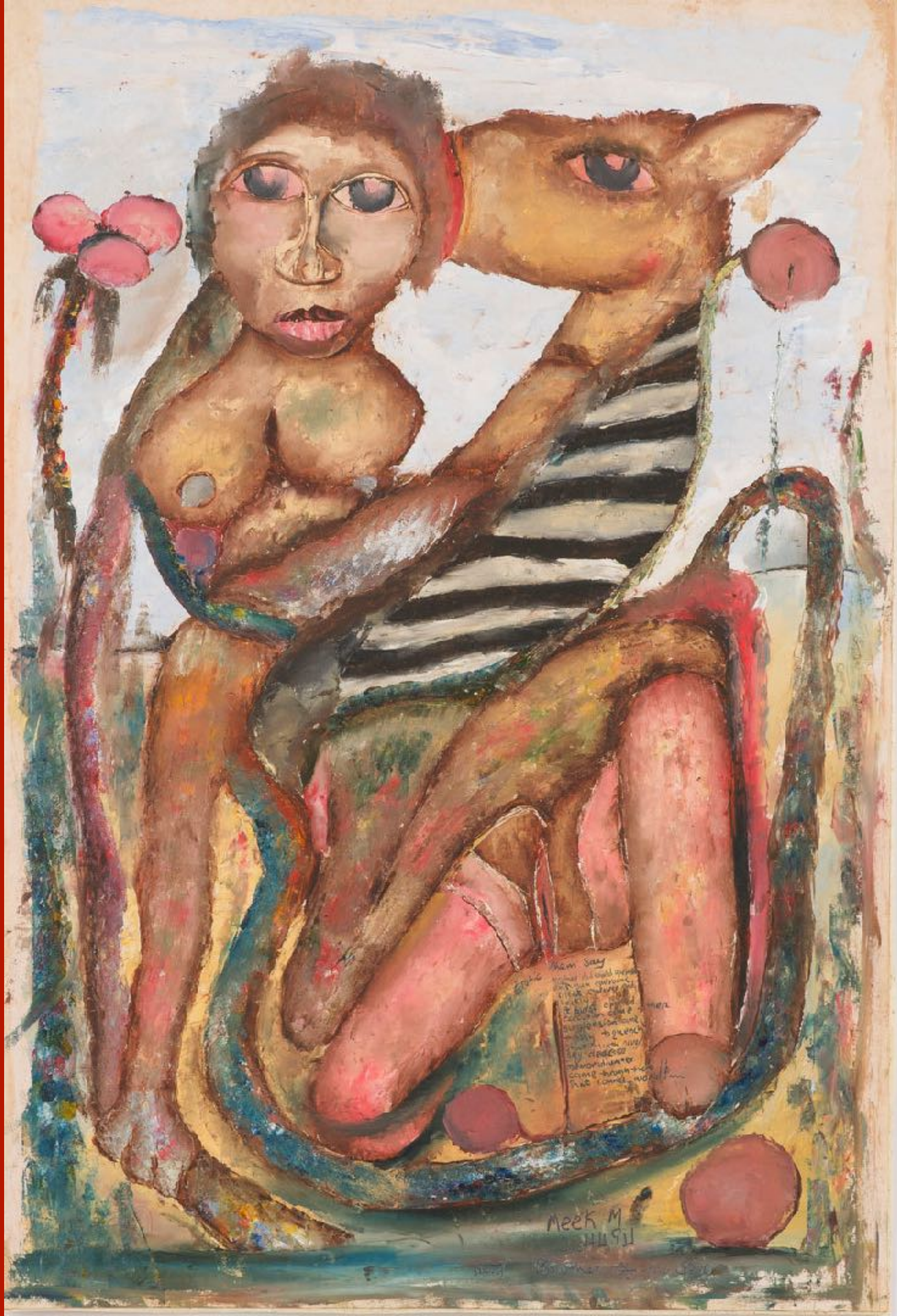


**Jak Katarikawe,**  
*(Our Princess, Princess Bagaya)*, before 1998.

Oil on cardboard. 63.5 x 51 cm.







**Meek Gichugu,**  
*No Erotic Them Say.*

Oil on canvas. 75.9 x 50.9 cm.

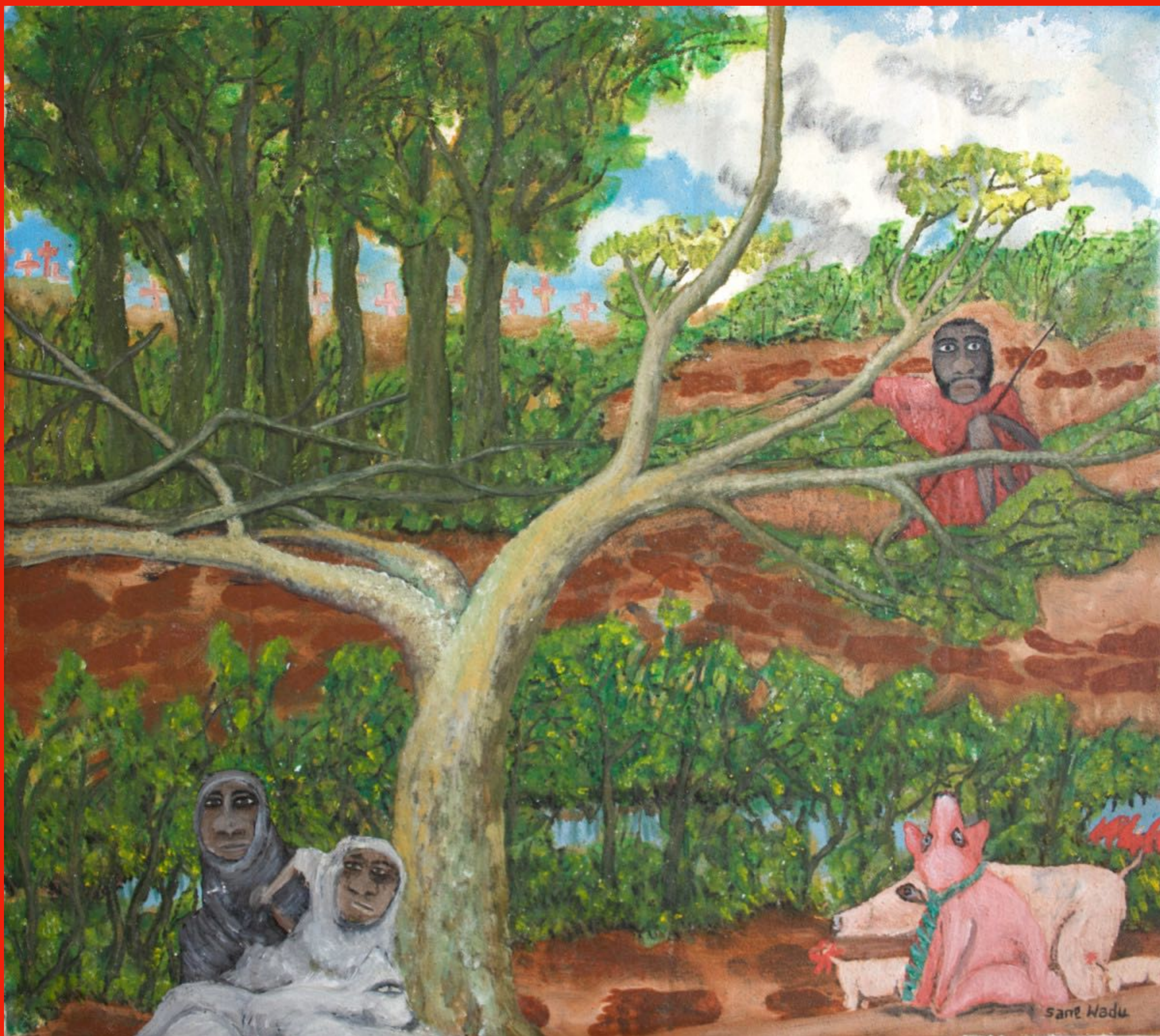




**Asaph Ng'ethe Macua,**  
*Split Personalities.*

Gouache on paper.. 30.3 x 40.5 cm.





**Sane Wadu,**  
*My life, 1980–1990.*

Oil on canvas. 75 x 86 cm.



## Image gallery



**Michael Armitage,**  
*The Chicken Thief*, 2019.



**Michael Armitage,**  
*The Fourth Estate*, 2017.



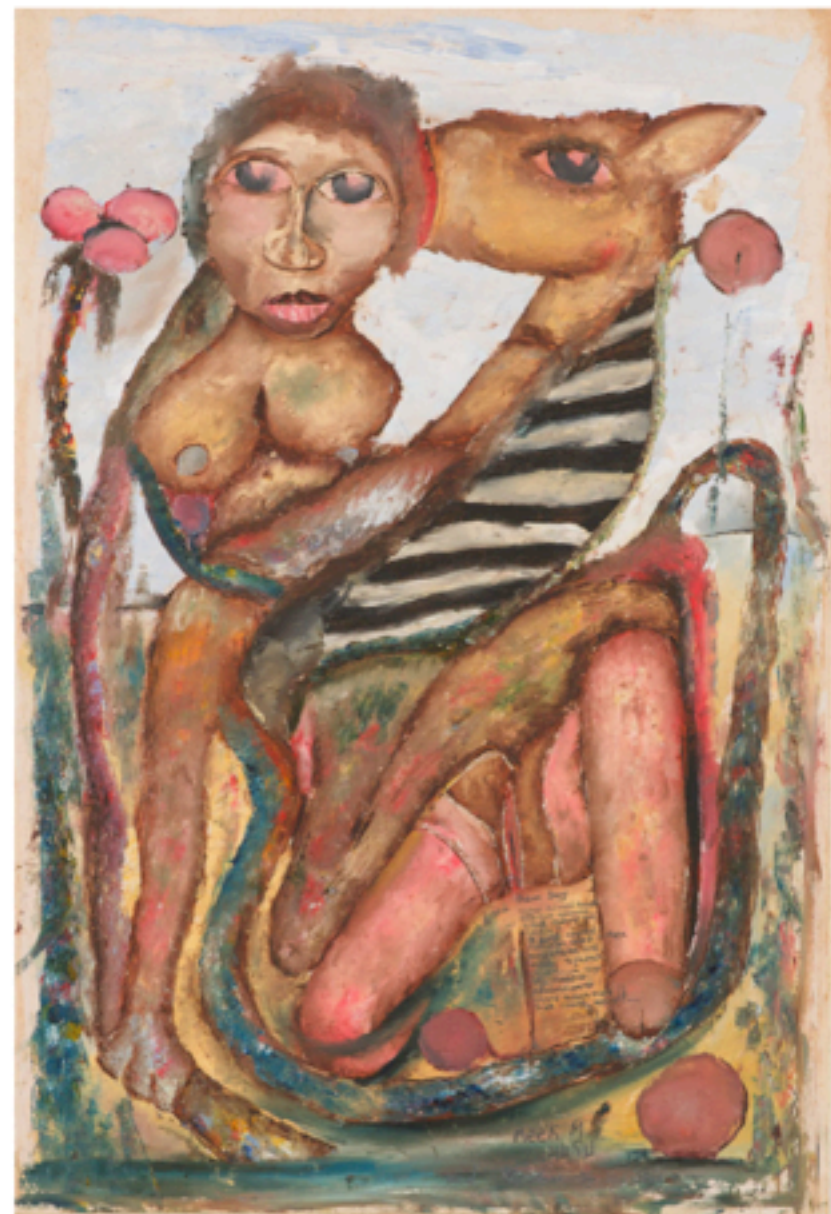
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Michael Armitage. Paradise Edict,  
Installation view Haus der Kunst, 2020,  
Photo: Markus Tretter