

Press Release

Big Africa



Heather Gulliver

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Solo exhibition of oil paintings

 **The North Wall**
Arts Centre

South Parade, Summertown
Oxford **OX2 7JN**

Wed 8 Oct - Sun 26 Oct

The North Wall Gallery is open from Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm, and from 12pm - 4pm on Saturdays. Sundays & Bank Holidays: normally closed, except for theatre events.

Big Africa brings the wilds of Africa to Oxford by oil paint on canvas. A continent of potent atmospheres, bright light and heat of the tropics and sub tropics that nurture an exotic and unique flora and fauna. This is a land that has moulded peoples with different methods and mindsets. These paintings are predominantly of Zimbabwe, the land of my birth and upbringing. It is staggeringly beautiful and not a place you just walk away from and forget. Making these paintings has been an examination of the individual's response to the environment of formative years; a very good, if time consuming, 'Africa fix'.

Subjects include the magnificent trees, rocks and their shadows of the highveld kopjes, the Mavuradona and Matusadona wilderness as well as Nyanga in the eastern highlands. New paintings of quiver trees (*Aloe dichotma*) from South Africa near Augrabies and Namibia near Keetmanshoop are being shown for the first time. The trees are so called because the Khoikhoi used them to make their arrows. There is a new work of the striking geology of the Swartberg as well as baobab trees from the Kruger National Park in South Africa.

I hope to convey some of the clear air invigoration and excitement offered by these places. There is so much beauty, often from the unexpected, that it is so rewarding taking time to really look at this world.



Tingwa Rockpool