

THATO MAKATU:

These artworks by Thato Makatu have been colouring the corners of my mind lately.

Held by the tattered edges, pieced together by the pieces, taped up with tape and needled by pins- keeping things from falling apart.

I've been enamoured with these works since standing in front of them at the RMB Latitudes Art Fair in Johannesburg earlier this year.

As life has shifted, as life only does, I find myself returning to them. The beauty found in the crumpled, the stained... these, make-the-most-of-it echoes on canvas.

Remnants of what once was, alongside the glow of the newly unearthed. Removed.

The assembling of parts and scenes for the making of a new (tender) yet fortified environment, for possibilities to grow.

My mother would rock my sister when she cried at night from aching, restless legs. "Growing pains, my love", she would soothe... with nothing more to say...

No comforting sentiments. No solutions.

TURMERIC STAINS AND GROWING PAINS

Just truth, found in the inevitable pain of change... the pain of inevitable change?

Either.

These works have acted as a reminder of the composite. The honey and grace in the makeshift, make-do and even make-up rhythms of being in this world.

Waves of creating and enduring.
Growing for growing's sake.

Through an Aperol Spritz haze- I recall one title referring to such growing pains.



Imagery: Thato Makatu, RMB Latitudes Art Fair 2025, Shepstone Gardens, Johannesburg.



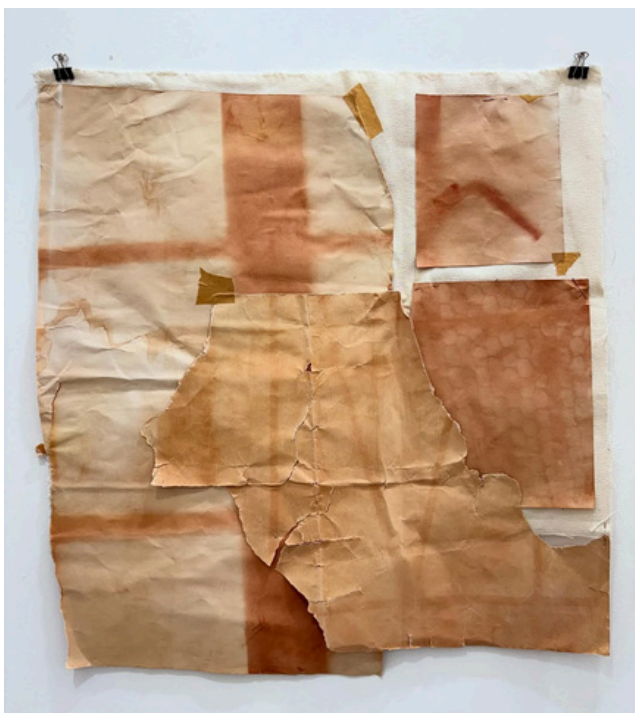
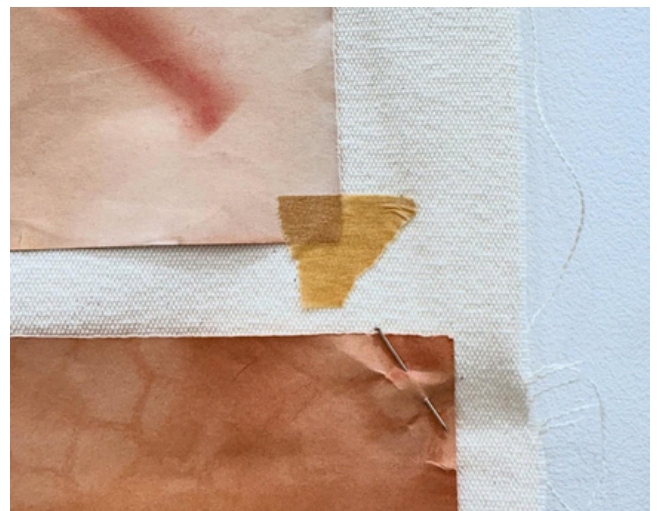
And so, we breathe slow and low into the belly- like all the scroll stoppers, and meditation apps urge us to do amidst a burning world- and I think, how brave we all are... to endure without ever truly knowing the direction we are growing/ changing in.

These turmeric anthotypes bring a certain comfort.

A soft (de) or (re) constructed hope, for the coming together and the printed- both in art and in our broader culture of connecting and meaning-making.

Jade Avigayil Staples, October 2025

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**THE SOFT
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