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Catalogue of the *Tempo* art exhibition of the Department of
Visual Arts, University of Pretoria

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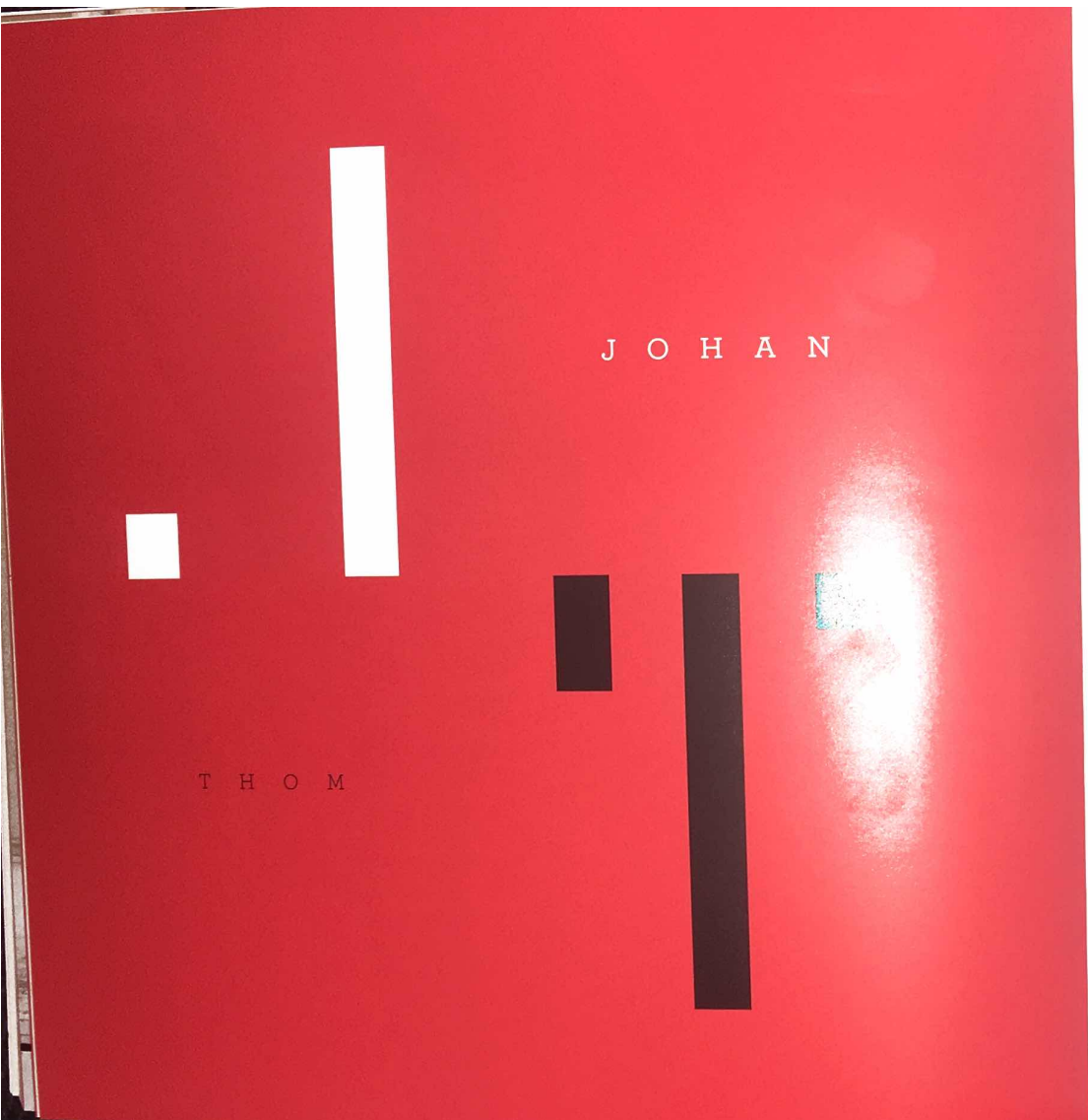
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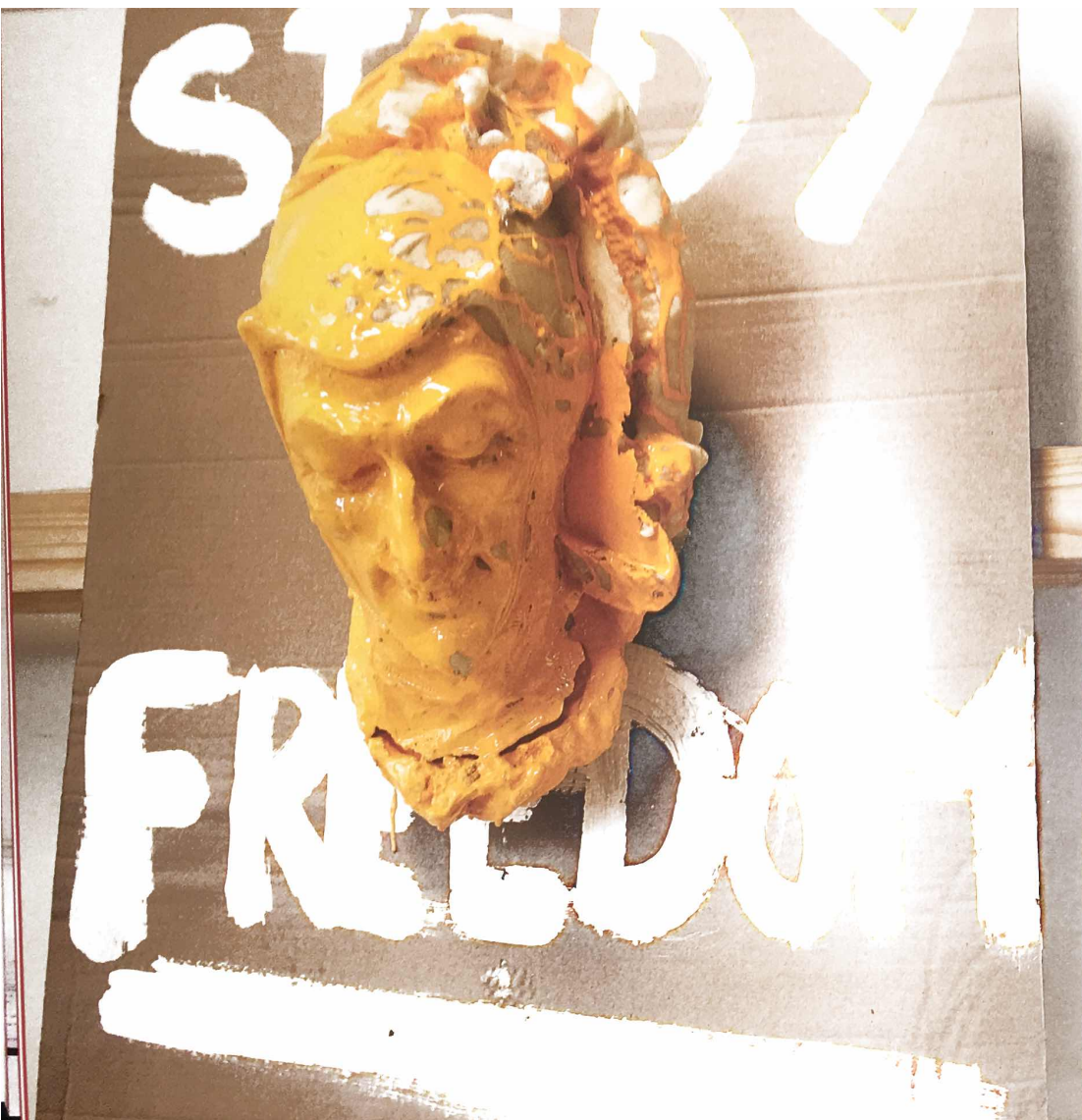




B S I O G R A P H Y

Johan Thom is currently a lecturer in the Department of Visual Arts. He works across a variety of media including sculpture, video, performance, drawing, printmaking and photography. His research focus is on materiality in fine art practice. He has a broad range of theoretical frameworks that inform his experimental approaches to art-making and post-performance. He has also explored conceptual, performative approaches to the body and the image. Thom's works have been included in exhibitions at the Venice Biennale 2003; the Canary Islands Biennale 2003; the Palazzo delle Papesse 2003; the Johannesburg Art Gallery 2001, 2005; and at Iwalewa Haus 2010 in Germany.

Faust crucified. A man who sold his soul to the devil in exchange for knowledge.* Faust's head is mounted on a placard used by the artist in the recent #Feesmustfall protests which is inscribed with the slogan "Study = Freedom". However, in the resultant artwork the text is somewhat obscured by Faust's head thus changing the original meaning - an equation becomes a loaded command. Study freedom but at a price'. Salvation is never free, and nor is knowledge. Just ask Faust.



In the *Artist's Journal*, he published 1893, the memoirs of Henry Ossawa Tanner to make in search of subjects for them, eventually striking a bargain with the devil. Tanner will serve the devil forever in hell if the devil allows him to paint during his time on earth.

**STUDY, PROMISES
(FROM THE AFRICAN SERIES)**

Oil painted, iron nails, cardboard and mixed media on board, birch, pine, and mixed media
1993, 9 1/2 x 11 1/2 x 11 1/2 in.

