



The Bow and The Lyre

Acrylic, Pastel on Canvas
140cm x 98cm

In “The Bow and the Lyre”, two instruments of ancient resonance — one from African sonic lineage, the other from classical antiquity — merge into a single visual hymn. This piece embodies the dual consciousness of a Namibian artist shaped by multiple knowledge systems yet tethered to neither exclusively.

It is a portrait of tension and harmony: the bow’s tautness, the lyre’s vibration, the Heraclitean belief that the finest harmony is born from strife. Within the paint’s splattered choreography, one can trace both conflict and reconciliation — the push and pull of cultural inheritance and self-invention.

Socially, it becomes a manifesto for decolonisation through synthesis rather than erasure. A call to embrace the paradox of hybrid identity: that one can carry European influences without surrendering African truths, and vice versa. This work argues that creativity emerges not from purity but from entanglement.

Livia Dualis