

# NEGOTIATING BOUNDARIES

UPDATES ON THE ACTIVITIES IN THE TANKWA AND PORTERVILLE



## Our Journey

Dear partners and friends,

We are pleased to inform you of the milestones reached by the Negotiating Boundaries project. With the generous support of our partners AiRSA and Purple Mountain Arts Residency along with funding from The Kemmler Foundation, we were able to extend the reach of our work in the Western Cape and Northern Cape, South Africa.

## Gina Steps. 'Matlali Steps.

### 1.7 KM FENCE TAKE DOWN

How do you measure distance in the wilderness? How do we measure our work in the Tankwa? In human strides. At the heart of our mission is a deep sensitivity to land stewardship, a reading into history, and the artistic expression thereof. The fence take down began in the third week of April after our facilitation of the Tankwa Artscape Residency and concluded in the third week of May.

We used our strides to measure out each distance to be tackled with the help of our wire-winding machine; *The Winderer - a wonderer as we were in the desert wind.*

For weeks our days consisted of waking up at 5.30 and working from 6.30 to 12.00, Cutting wires, winding wires, unlooping weathered poles, bundling bundling bundling, recording and videoing. In the afternoons, we wrote, jammed, composed, weaved, chatted, ate, read, and rested. The rhythm was good! We hope to take down the remaining 300m of fencing as our project advances.



We would like to extend our heart-felt thank you to The Kemmler Foundation via their Investigation Grant for supporting our work, AiRSA through the Tankwa Tented Camp, and the Tankwa Artscape residency for allowing us to facilitate and collectively deliberate on land, connection, and work as art.

A special mention to Thomas Barry, who spent time with us; shooting our beautiful drone footage, composing with us, and sharing many conversations and meals at The Portal at Climax in the Tankwa.



# Elandsvlei Primary School Workshops

WEAVING AND SOUND - 16 MAY 2025

With the help of our friends at AiRSA, we were able to connect with a remote primary school in Elandsvlei. We drove out on May 16 to Elandsvlei Primary School to conduct two workshops; a weaving and sound exploration session.

Thank you to the wonderful teachers and supporting staff who welcomed and facilitated our stay. A special thank you to the principal, Mnr Waterboer for organising for us to join the 24 learners aged between 5 and 15 years.

Our first session was a card weaving session where learners were taught to create small projects. Other items such as beads and sticks were introduced to explore playful ways to use wool and mohair.





## Elandsvlei Primary School Workshops

The second session of the workshop focused on sharing and demonstrating some indigenous and digital instruments. And then we introduced and taught the “lekolulo” pipe flute; a simple wind instrument made from a pvc pipe. The learners concluded the session by sharing some songs with us.





## Behind the scenes

### A SHORT FILM

We took a week of our time in the desert to script and shoot footage for our short film. We hope to premiere this at Purple Mountain Art Residency's Heritage Festival in late September. We are currently in the editing phase.

'Matlali and Gina collaboratively conceptualised this short film to capture the movement of bodies, machinery, and beasts in the Tankwa. Our point of departure is nurture; rooted in the care of land as praxis. The removal of the fence opened many possibilities for imagining and creativity while acknowledging the historical sensitivities and current restoration practices of the area.



Gina sits in her beautiful red throw, sentimental to her as a gift from her father which she has kept since her childhood. She weaved a complementary neck piece from her collection of wool and mohair from Cape Town and beyond. We dream collectively, connecting with past presence and current practice.

*"In the place where dust floods the wind, our figure awaits. She borrows some of the wind's dust, keeping it in the corners of her eyes and bowls of her ears. To many the stone fields are unintelligible..."*

## PORTERVILLE

### YOUTH DAY FESTIVAL 15 JUNE 2025

Youth Day commemorates a significant student uprising in Soweto on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1976. We are passionate about bringing wholistic education to the youth, amplifying intuition, spirit and human connection in the learning environment.

We remain deeply committed to extending our artistry to the negotiation of human rights and were pleased to

honour an invite from Carl Collison and Aldo Brincat to their community centred work in Porterville.

We installed our fence and wire in the garden of the town's library; and we were embraced by a small crowd. We were also able to join other activities of the festival. 'Matlali presented a soundscape as part of the installation, a mixture of indigenous instruments, sung poetry, and ambient sounds we recorded while removing the fence. This sonic experience guided us to think beyond our bodies to where we meet animal, object, and land.





## WORD OF THANKS

*REA LEBOHA*

*BAIE DANKIE*

We would like to thank each and every hand that contributed to our vision. We are very inspired by this community and your support in championing deep repair, the expansion of creative work, and for creating a platform for Gina and 'Matlali to extend their own practice.

We were able to find moments of rest and joy between the hard work of taking down the fence. We remain committed to expanding the work into other spaces through collaborations, exhibitions, and critical dialogue.

We are currently in Cape Town, South Africa with our fence hoping to engage the community here and beyond through creative iterations of performance and dialogue.



**THANK YOU.**