BRIDGING THE DISCONNECT

3 - 30 NOVEMBER 2026

GRADY T ZEEMAN



EXHIBIT CATALOGUE

women united
ART MOVEMENT

Women United ART MOVEMENT
is proud to present

BRIDGING THE DISCONNECT

a solo virtual exhibition by

GRADY T ZEEMAN

EXHIBITION SYNOPSIS

Bridging the Disconnect, a solo exhibition examining communication and connection in the digital age. Through layered acrylic and oil paintings, the work explores the paradox of a hyper-connected world - where technology promises closeness yet often deepens isolation, distorts identity, and displaces genuine dialogue.

Each canvas builds surface and depth gradually, mirroring the complexity of authentic human relationships that so often gets lost in digital exchange. The exhibition addresses themes of online cruelty, family disconnection in a screen-saturated world, and the pull toward curated personas over genuine selfhood.

Bridging the Disconnect invites viewers to reflect on the space between being connected and being understood - and to consider what it might take to close that gap.

ARTIST BIO

Grady T Zeeman is a South African contemporary painter whose practice is rooted in a distinctive blend of formal training and decades of dedicated practice. A 1988 graduate of Cape Technicon in Fashion Design, she built an early career as a designer in Cape Town before redirecting her focus entirely to painting, a move that set the course for an international career.

Committed to growing as an artist, Zeeman refined her oil painting technique while expanding her understanding through courses in art history, exhibition curation, and the professional landscape of the art world.

Her international presence began in 2008 with a group exhibition in India, followed by her debut solo exhibition in Rome in October 2020. Since then, she has exhibited extensively both in group and solo shows across South Africa, the USA, UK, Europe, and Asia, including participation in events such as the Florence Biennale (2011), Siel de Paris (2012), London Biennale (2019), and Amsterdam Art Fair (2019).

Zeeman's work has been featured in a range of international art magazines, among them NY Arts Magazine, South African Art Times, and Arttour International Magazine, which named her a Top Artist to Watch in both 2018 and 2024. She was also included in Florence Contemporary's 50 Artists to Watch (2023), and in 2025 was named a VAA Art100 International Winner. Her award history includes multiple prizes and finalist placements in international competitions, among them the Global Art Awards in Dubai (2017).

From 2011 to 2017, Zeeman owned and directed Kunstehuijs Art Gallery, championing both her own work and that of fellow South African artists. She remains an active voice in the broader art community, engaging with South African and international arts organisations and serving as a board member of the Association for Visual Arts (AVA) in Cape Town.

ARTIST STATEMENT

In our modern era of technology and digital connection, true human communication and meaningful interaction have often become elusive. As Bob Moorehead so aptly observed: "The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less. We buy more, but enjoy less…..we build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication."

Despite being more "connected" than ever before through smartphones, social media, and endless messaging platforms, many people feel increasingly isolated, misunderstood, and starved for genuine interaction. The digital realm has introduced new forms of cruelty through online bullying, where the anonymity and distance of screens allow individuals to inflict psychological harm with incredible ease and reach. These virtual attacks often wound more deeply than face-to-face confrontations, as they can pursue victims into their most private spaces and persist indefinitely in digital memory.

This digital displacement extends into family life, where parents often become so impressed by their children's apparent technological fluency that they mistake device engagement for development. In their admiration for these digital natives, many parents inadvertently withdraw from active participation in their children's lives, failing to provide the guidance and monitoring necessary to navigate an increasingly complex online landscape. Children are left to encounter content and experiences far beyond their emotional and psychological readiness, without the protective filter of parental oversight or the security of meaningful family connection.

And more, our hyper-connected world has shifted our focus outward, creating a preoccupation with external validation and perception. We have become increasingly consumed with how others see us rather than cultivating an authentic understanding of who we truly are. Our obsession with “likes, shares, comments” have become the currency of self-worth, leading us to create false personas and chase hollow recognition while our genuine selves remain unexplored and unacknowledged.

Effective communication is the foundation of strong and healthy connections, yet too many individuals struggle to express their thoughts, feelings, and needs. Addressing the issue of poor communication requires fostering self-awareness, improving active listening skills, and creating safe spaces for open and honest dialogue, which unfortunately is rarely mastered.

My artistic practice explores this disconnect, delving into the psychology of communication in our contemporary world. Through the layering of acrylic and oil paint, as well as the interplay of colours, I aim to create depth and complexity that symbolises the intricacy of human emotions and connectivity.

Ultimately, this body of work serves as a thoughtful reflection on the bittersweet paradoxes that pervade contemporary communication. It invites the viewer to consider how we might reclaim genuine, meaningful dialogue and a sense of community in an age that often appears to work against our most fundamental human needs for connection and understanding.

www.gradyzart.co.za



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Dialogue Disrupted, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Digital Divide, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Scars Unseen, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Digital Dreaming, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Hidden Currents, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Behind the Filter, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Endless Scroll of Sorrow, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Scrolling Through Truth, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Viral Whispers, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Disconnected Dialogues, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Generation Gap, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Hopeless Interchange, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Scattered Reflections, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Unspoken Divide, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
Saving for Later, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



GRADY T ZEEMAN
For the Feed, 2025
Oil on canvas
60 x 60 cm (h x w)
$ 2,750



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