



## FROHAWK TWO FEATHERS

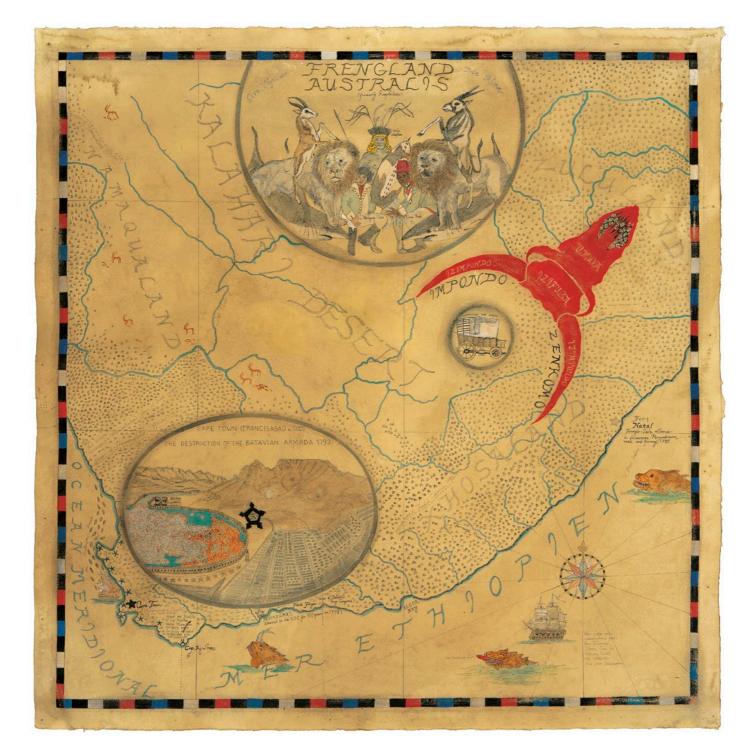
The Edge of the Earth isn't Far from Here

## THE EDGE OF THE EARTH ISN'T FAR FROM HERE

is the story of a lone Frenglish garrison in Frengland Australis (Cape Colony) (1792) which managed to thwart a Batavian attempt to recapture the colony.

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n 1792 the 'Wolf and Hawk War' between the Frenglish Empire and the Batavian Republic ended with the dissolution of the empire due to Prussian and Vatican pressure, and overall calamity in its colonies throughout the world. Although Frengland became a republic, it was never defeated decisively in combat and acquiesced due to war weariness at home and abroad as well as a disruption in its 'sugarbased' economy. So the many colonies and string of fortifications that were supported by the empire were left 'alone' and were no longer under the authority of the crown. News traveled very slowly and the most remote outposts were unaware that any capitulation had taken place. And in that autumn, Emperor Francis III and his wife, Empress Magda, were put to death.



The Batavian Republic, still reeling from the 'rampjaar' (disaster year) and over 40 years of war and occupation in its lands, was looking for revenge. The son of the murdered King Wilhelm (who was assassinated for collaborating with the Frenglish) was crowned Wilhelm II of the House of Orange-Nassau, and immediately ordered the reconquest of lands that had been taken by the Frenglish (New Amsterdam, the Dutch East Indies, the port of Nagasaki, Formosa, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Tasmania and the Cape Colony). The Batavian merchant class (who many years earlier had been given free reign to conduct trade throughout their former colonies) provided money for the expedition and logistical support for the soon-to-be invaders as they were unrestricted in their movements (due to a treaty signed in 1742 between the merchants of the Principality of Holland and Zeeland and the Empire of Frengland and Eire that stated that agents of the Dutch East India Company (V.O.C.) would be allowed to trade unmolested in exchange for a small percentage of their trade revenues). However, they were looked upon with scorn for their duplicitous role during the long occupation.

In order to provide an effective base of operations to fight across two great oceans, it was decided that the Cape Colony (Frengland Australis) be taken first. And with a loan of aid from the Prussian navy, and the battle-hardened veterans of the bloody Wolf and Hawk War, Wilhelm ordered **Admiral Antoon DeVries** [Plate II] of the (short-lived) Duchy of Friesland to head up the task.

Admiral Antoon DeVries was not exactly the ideal candidate for this undertaking. He, like the merchants of the V.O.C., was viewed as a collaborator and an opportunist. His father, Johann, was appointed Duke of Friesland in 1742 as a pro-Frenglish puppet. He served his role

PLATE I
Map of Frengland Australis (Kaapkolonie)

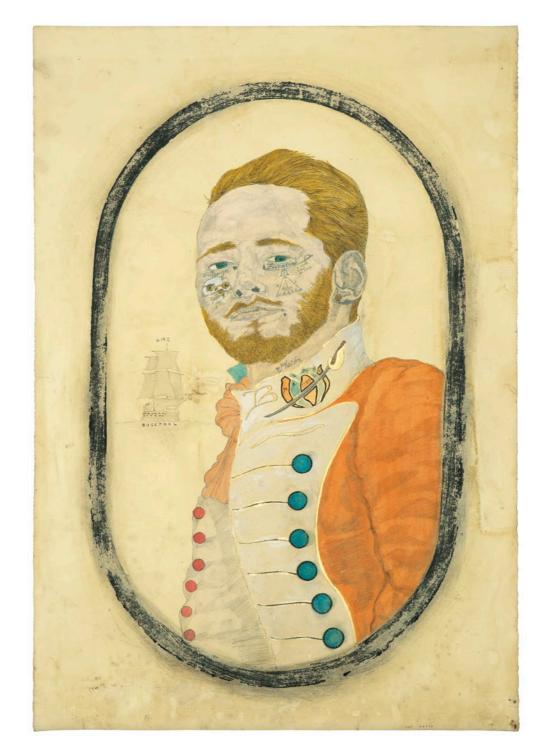
well. He notified the Frenglish authority on rebel troop movements and provided locations of rebel safehouses and weapons caches. When Antoon was born in 1760, Johann continued to support the Frenglish authority. It wasn't until Lord Darlington united the provinces under the Batavian banner that Johann ceased his collaborative efforts. He gave up his title and retired to his ancestral home by the sea. He was truly a despised man. Antoon, however, was an ardent patriot (possibly to lessen the shame on his house) and joined the navy of Prussia. He quickly rose through the ranks and earned many battlefield promotions. After the Wolf and Hawk War had come to a close, he earned the rank of Admiral and volunteered for the task of retaking the Cape (also known as the Kaapkolonie). The soldiers didn't trust him, but King Wilhelm knew that he was the best man for the job due to his stunning victories in the North Sea campaigns. Also, because of his relationship with the Prussians, a number of Prussian sailors came to his aid and offered to accompany him on his mission and serve with him on the majestic frigate, The Bucefaal (named after Alexander the Great's warhorse). The Kingdom of Prussia also supplied 20 ships of the line to his cause. However, the men still did not trust him and this factor would ultimately be his undoing.

Meanwhile, back at the Cape Colony, all was business as usual. The lowborn military governor of the colony, **Captain Didier Lamontagne** [*Plate III*], was biding his time there hoping for someone to come and relieve him so that he could 'go to the front' where he felt his administrative acumen and tactical genius would be better served.

Didier was sent to the Cape for supporting the Gongasriikan

PLATE II Antoon DeVries

The son of the former Duke of Frenglish Friesland, fought in the end of the Wolf and Hawk War. Became an Admiral but was criticized for his region's complicity with Frenglish occupation so he decided to lead the disastrous mission to retake the Kaapkolonie to quiet his detractors in the Batavian government. It is unknown whether or not he survived.



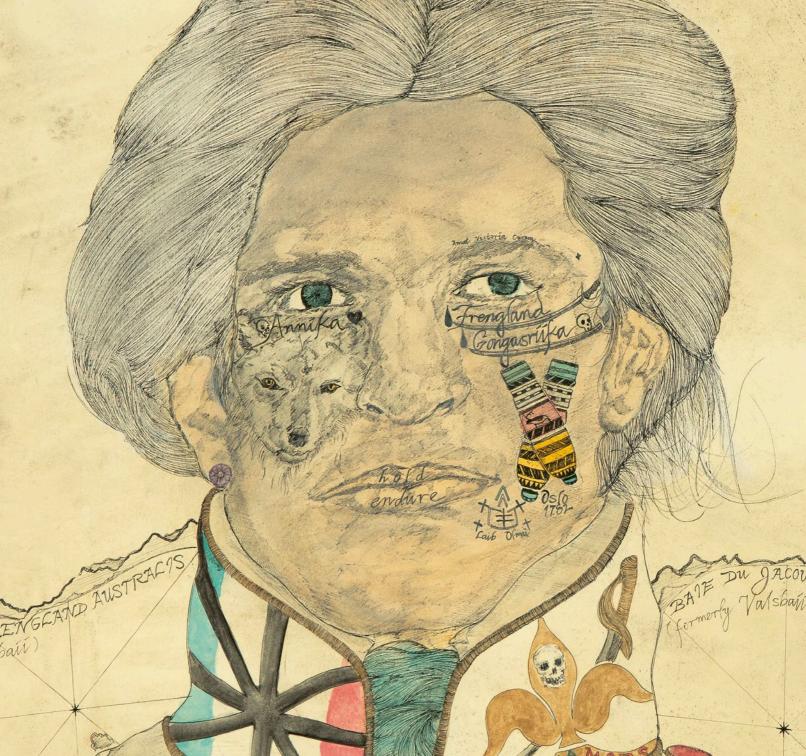




PLATE III Didier Lamontagne

Captain Didier Lamontagne was sent to (Cape Town) Francisabad du Sud to govern the colony near the end of the 50 years war. He was being punished for siding with Anika of Gongasriika near the close of the war. He kidnapped Nokwazi of the Zulu near Fort Natal and tried to mold her into another Anika (with whom he was infatuated). He did however develop a most formidable artillery corps and it was his knowledge of artillery that saved Frengland Australis from invasion.

(Norwegian) rebel Queen Annika in the Scandinavian theatre of the Wolf and Hawk War. He fell in love with her and when the main bulk of the Frenglish army was recalled to the Belgian front, he and his artillery corps refused and remained in Gongasriika. In the end, Queen Annika was murdered after a two-pronged invasion by the New Hanseatic League operating out of Iceland. Devastated and heartbroken by the loss of his (unrequited) love, he and his men returned to the Belgian front. Once there, he was immediately ordered to defend Haarlem. It was in this battle that Didier showed his genius with artillery. At Haarlem, his massed artillery tactics destroyed half the Batavo-Prussian force and claimed the life of Lord Darlington. A crack regiment of free men of colour, The Force Fantastique [Plate XIX], trained under him and won a great battle at Groenlo near the border of Greater Prussia. The Force Fantastique would repeat their successes at the Battle of Cape Agulhas [Plate XII].

Although Captain Lamontange was considered a hero of Frengland, he was also disobedient and disloyal, and for that he was shipped as far away as he could be. It was decided that he be put in charge of Frengland Australis. Once there, his behaviour grew more erratic. He would disappear for days at a time, going on long hunting trips and returning from the veld with strange fetishes. One day he returned with a girl. She was from beyond the Drakensburg mountains in the land of the Zulu. Her name was Nokwazi [Plate V], and Didier kept her locked up like a bird and never let her out of his sight. It is said that she reminded him of Annika and he lusted for her with a burning passion. He was her lover. She was his prisoner. Hafsa, a Colubran (the Colubrid Empire was an ally of Frengland, composed of modern-day Tanzania) noblewoman, and her son Idris had arrived at the colony to enjoy the hot springs north of the city [Plate VI]. They were concerned

PLATE IV
King Gorgeous, Daluxolo of the Mfengu Xhosa

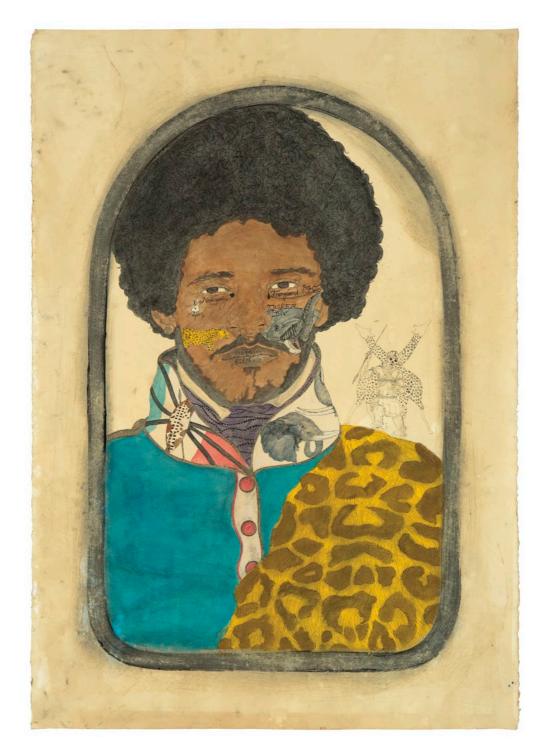
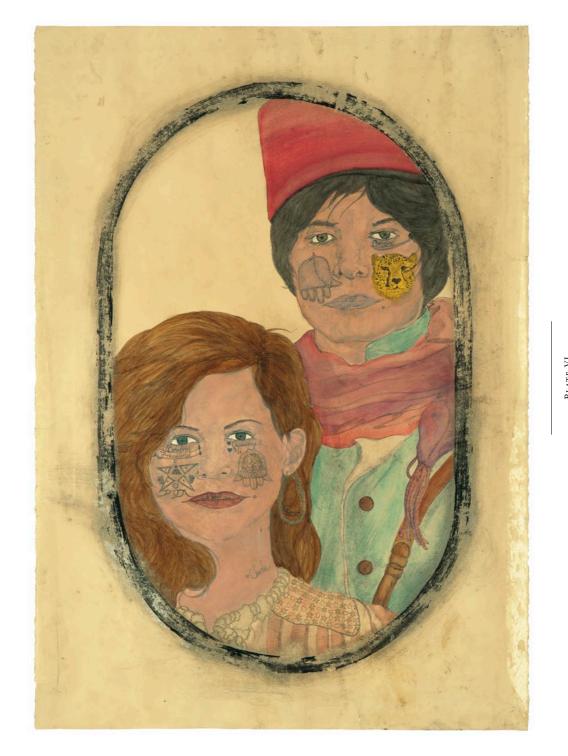




Plate V Though my eyes are haunted, though my memories have been implanted ... Nokwazi of the Zulu. Kidnapped at 13 by a fanatical Didier.



 $\label{eq:plane} \textbf{PLATE VI} \\ \textit{Hafsa and Idris on holiday during the most dangerous time of the year.}$ 

about Didier's treatment of Nokwazi but had incorrectly assumed that she was merely a prisoner of war.

Aside from his sordid relations with Nokwazi, Didier was by no means hostile to the natives and was quite diplomatic with the neighbouring pastoral Khoi and the various Xhosa tribes to the east. He conducted trade with the Zulu and was even kind to the Boers who had lived in the colony before Frenglish occupation. However seemingly kind, he also dealt in slaves and turned a blind eye to 'less sympathetic' settlers who sought to exploit the land and its people for personal gains. This aspect of Didier was well noticed by the commander of his native auxiliary corps, Daluxolo, or 'King Gorgeous' [Plate IV] as he was affectionately referred to. Daluxolo was a member of the Mfengu tribe who wished to learn Frenglish military drill and tactics so that he could protect his tribe from rogue settlers, other Xhosa, and the encroaching Zulus from the north. But Daluxolo also had other plans. He too wished to rule Frenglish Australis and saw Didier and the Frenglish only as a means to an end. He fell in love with Nokwazi after catching a glimpse of her chained up at the fort. He would send her letters and various items via her attendants. He even made arrangements to see her from time to time, knowing that if he were ever to be caught, he would be killed.

Daluxolo's unit, The Force Fantastique Australis (Tusker Division), was often ridiculed by the white soldiers of the Frenglish, but he continued to train and led his men well in battle. His brother **Dumile**, on the other hand, was a traitor and fled to Namaqualand with the Baaster woman **Johanna** [Plate VIII]. Daluxolo was greatly offended by his brother's lack of focus (to the desired end of total rule)

PLATE VII 'Bedouin Charlie'

Charles Enfield, slaver, adventurer, and ivory trader. As a mercenary in the Imperial Frenglish Army, he raided coastal African forts but after the death of his wife Ribqah, became a slaver. He enjoyed a favored status throughout the empire. Fought, reluctantly with distinction at Agulhas. Friend of Jacoulet.

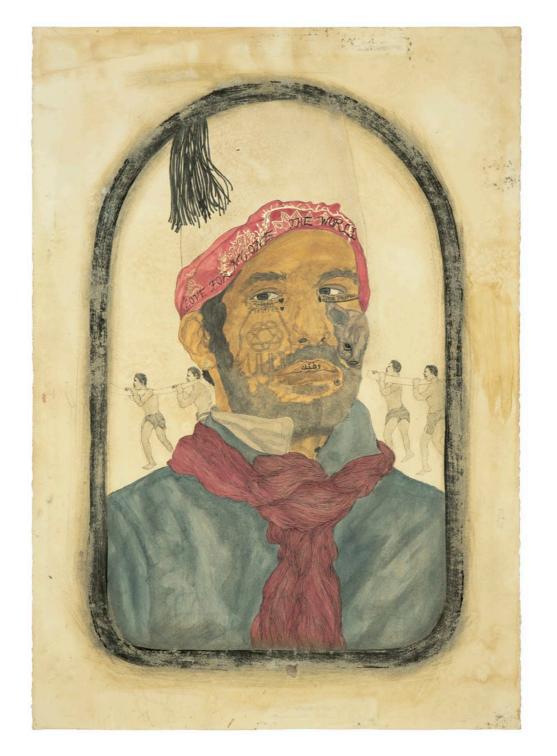






PLATE VIII
The shared fate of traitors. Johanna and her lover Dumile

and had 'liar' carved into his face. Dumile and Johanna attempted to raise a force of disgruntled soldiers, landless Boers and servants against the colony. Their plot was leaked, Johanna and Dumile were executed and Namaqualand was annexed.

One day in November, a slave ship commanded by former Frenglish Captain Charles Enfield (Bedouin Charlie) [Plate VII], carrying fresh slaves from the Gold Coast, told Didier that the Frenglish Empire had been dissolved and that he had just passed a great armada of IOO warships flying the Batavian standard and heading towards Frengland Australis. Bedouin Charlie was a horrible man. He had once fought with honour and distinction but after the death of his wife Ribqah, he became a merciless pirate. The son of an Irish shipbuilder and a Bedouin mother from Egypt, Charlie always felt displaced. He was ridiculed by his peers and the only way that he could feel superior was through victory in battle. He was an accomplished seaman but relished hit-and-run guerrilla tactics. It was this ability that enabled him to become such a skilled slaver and ivory trader. He went where others dared not go. His exploits in the Congo were grotesquely legendary. And most of all he held no country in any regard. To him, the entire world was a ripe fruit to be devoured.

Although Didier was shocked and disheartened to receive this news, he made preparations to fortify the colony and prepare for a naval invasion in the place the invaders would most likely try to land: Table Bay. The Cape Colony's ships were in disrepair and would not do much good against the superior warships of Batavia and their fast and

PLATE IX
Pure-blooded 'horse power'
Joao Do Nascimento

Former cavalryman in the Portuguese Empire before its capitulation to Frengland. Although he considered himself a 'pure blood', he was an octoroon. Routed the Batavians at Agulhas with a cavalry charge but was ordered to abandon his pursuit of the defeated, allowing them to retreat into the hinterlands. A mistake.





 $\label{eq:plate_problem} P_{\texttt{LATE}} \ X$  You can't serve two masters and expect to live, part 3. Bekoe of the Ashanti



PLATE XI The silk merchant of Satsuma

deadly fluyts. So he had the majority of his small fleet of 20 to 25 ships tied to floats and scuttled in the bay to form a delaying action. Didier made sure that he did not tell the colonists the empire had fallen or he would surely have had to face a 'homegrown insurrection'.

The troops trained day and night for the coming onslaught. Many of them were 'green' and had never seen battle. The dashing cavalryman João do Nascimento [Plate IX] rounded up as many men and horses as he could and armed them with rifles from the armory. João was once an enemy of the Frenglish Empire but after the dissolution of the Portuguese Overseas Empire, he decided to serve his former enemies, for all he wanted to do was ride horses and fight. He divided his time between Frenglish Mozambique and Francisabad (Cape Town). He thought of himself as a pure blood and had no love for his darkerskinned comrades but he himself was actually an octoroon (a fact that he hid fairly well despite his swarthy appearance).

Huge anti-naval cannons were placed on Table Mountain and other strategic positions facing the bay. A fake palisade was constructed along the rim of the bay and a string of painted 'dummy' forts was constructed along the coast. On the morning of November 21st, the Batavian Armada finally arrived. The colony had been on guard since initially learning of the invasion. Didier ordered the beach cleared and told the artillery corpsmen to hold their fire until the invaders reached the line of scuttled ships. At the line, a salvo was fired toward the town from the first wave of ships but the shots fell short and landed in the water. And then, the Batavian Armada was met with a fierce barrage of cannon fire that can only be described as nightmarish. After an hour of repeated shelling, you could hardly see the ships behind the opening

PLATE XII Beer, Braaivleis, Battle The Battle of Cape Agulhas, 1792







line because of all the smoke and fire. When the smoke cleared, the soldiers that tried to escape were shot dead in the water before being eaten by sharks. However, half the armada managed to swing southeast and escape to Cape Agulhas. Antoon was furious, as he had commanded the other ships to hold their positions until he had given the order. But given the Batavians' distrust of their commander, his orders were largely ignored and disaster was the outcome.

Didier did not know this for sure, of course, but he knew that the Batavians were still a force to be reckoned with and would not abandon their mission even though they had just suffered one of the worst naval defeats in history. And the Batavians were due another dosage of pain. Cape Agulhas is not a very good natural harbor and Didier had had the artificial harbour destroyed to prevent the slightest ease of landing. And so, the next morning, the Batavians arrived again. This time however, they were allowed to land and were not attacked until the majority of the soldiers and Admiral DeVries himself were off the ships.

The first ship to disembark was that of **Bekoe** [*Plate X*], a lesser Ashanti war chief, and **Haranobu Sakamoto and his wife Chiyo**, both silk merchants from Satsuma [*Plate XI*]. Bekoe was a good friend of the V.O.C. and supplied them with many slaves at Fort Elmina. He became quite wealthy but was given no real respect. His idea was to join the armada and, with his crew, The Gold Coast Boys, to win enough fame and glory in battle to return home a hero. Haranobu, on the other hand, was a ronin samurai who was very friendly with the Dutch traders of the V.O.C. At the time, Satsuma domain was the only port that the Dutch were allowed to trade in as the rest of Japan enjoyed self-imposed isolation. Haranobu's wife Chiyo was the daughter of a silk trading family and sought to expand her family's fortunes in Africa. Haranobu also secretly longed to fight and at heart was always a soldier.

PLATE XIII

Scenes from the Veld 1

Mulattress of the veld.





PLATE XIV

Scenes from the Veld 2

Hunter-gatherer of the veld and the spectre of his future, a servant.



PLATE XV

Scenes from the Veld 3

A landed Frenglish noblewoman fencing with her servant — a Xhosa woman — while her imported Caribbean slave pounds out wild rhythms on the drums.

Bekoe and Haranobu both noticed wafts of smoke nearby but thought nothing of it. In actuality the smoke came from a braaivleis at the officer's camp situated not far from the beachhead. Didier, Daluxolo and João all complained that this foolish haughtiness would compromise their strategy but their protests were completely ignored as it was customary for colonial Frenglish officers to be as obstinate as possible.

With everything still going according to plan, it was decided that enough had landed; a fierce volley of musket fire rang out and shot many of the Batavians dead. The Batavians, including The Gold Coast Boys, rushed east of the firing line to take cover behind some patches of rocks. The ships that were still operational followed the Frenglish volley with a salvo of their own, forcing the Frenglish to give ground. The Batavians and their allies then went on the offensive, firing a volley at the Frenglish defenders. The Frenglish mortar companies fired on the ships in force, damaging many and forcing their retreat. But by this time, most of the Batavian troops had been hastily unloaded and began a charge for the gun placements. The Force Fantastique veterans of Groelno used Didier's massed artillery tactics to great effect and cut down 70 per cent of the charging Batavian forces. The dead formed a hideous pyramid of flesh. The Batavian artillery corps was forced to roll over the bodies of their own fallen soldiers. And after a surge by Mfengu tribesmen armed with shield and spear, João do Nascimento led a cavalry charge that completely routed the Batavians from the field.

Despite the numerical and tactical advantages of the Cape Colony garrison, a considerable number of Batavians were able to retreat unchallenged into the interior. João was furious while the officers (still eating their braaivleis and drinking their ale) decided that enough

PLATE XVI Scenes from the Veld 4

Outlawed portrait of the death of Lord Darlington was widely circulated throughout the Cape in response to the Frenglish occupation.

To be caught with one in your home would get you a lengthy jail sentence.





PLATE XVII
Scenes from the Veld 5
Soldier's wife of the veld with orphaned child of questionable parentage.



PLATE XVIII

Scenes from the Veld 6

Fashionable Xhosa and Khoi girls modeling the latest threads under the kissing tree.

blood had been shed and proclaimed that the Batavians would 'never survive the veld'. Didier was also angry but given his fragile position in the colony could not afford to anger his officers.

Haranobu and Bekoe were both killed in action (Bekoe died charging the lead horse of João's cavalry charge armed only with a bayonet) but Chiyo surrendered to Didier and was allowed to return to Francisabad. Antoon was also killed but many suspect that the corpse was a double, as Antoon was as useless on land (especially on horseback) as an elephant on the sea.

The epic Battle of Cape Agulhas thus ended the Batavian reconquest and all hopes for an external invasion. But they were not completely defeated. Stories from the veld told of a great army in the hinterlands that waited for the right moment to strike back. And one month later, 'King Gorgeous' rescued Nokwazi from Didier and the Mfengu revolted. It was now his turn.

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PLATE XIX
The Force Fantastique Artillery Corps at Agulhas



FROHAWK TWO FEATHERS was born in Chicago in 1976. He received his BA at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 2000, and lives and works in Los Angeles. He has been developing the narrative of the Frenglish Empire since 2006, with exhibitions Last Night, After the Lights Went Out, We Fell, In the Court of the Crimson King and La Guerre de Machettes Danseuses (The War of the Dancing Machetes) Crocodile Company Part 1 at Taylor De Cordoba in Los Angeles, and The Wolf and Hawk War 1782–1790 for Morgan Lehman Gallery (New York) at Pulse, Miami. Recent group exhibitions include Stranger than Fiction at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA; Opening Geremony at Morgan Lehman Gallery, New York; and Else, curated by Derrick Adams, at Tilton Gallery, New York, all in 2010. In 2012, Two Feathers will have his first solo museum exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, Colorado.

Published on the occasion of the exhibition

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All works 2011, acrylic, ink and tea on paper
Plate I: 112 x 110cm; plates II-XI: 111 x 77cm; plate XII: 112 x 164cm;
plates XIII-XVII: 40.5 x 50.5cm; plate XVIII: 49.5 x 40cm; plate XIX: 57 x 76cm

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