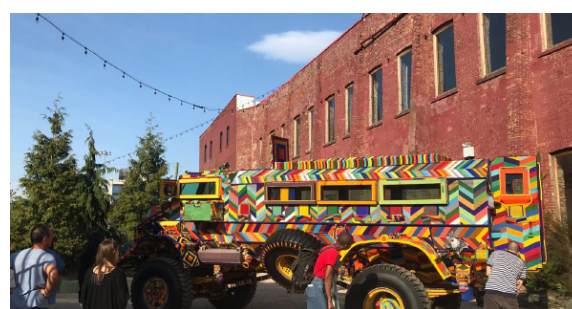
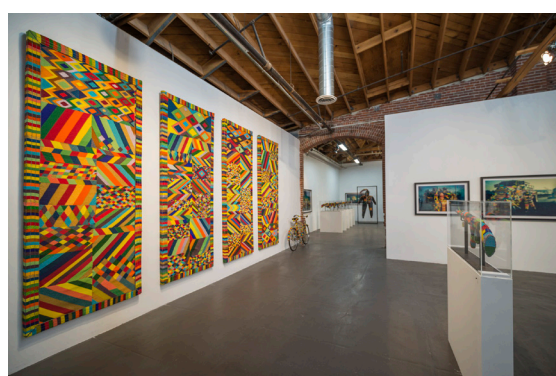


THE RENDON GALLERY

THE CASSPIR PROJECT

Collaborative Programming





ABOUT THE CASSPIR PROJECT

The Casspir Project is a traveling multidisciplinary fine art exhibition that encompasses a variety of media including installation, photography, oral history, and documentary film, available to be presented in whole or in part.

Artist Ralph Ziman was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. He created The Casspir Project as a response to apartheid's effects on South African culture. The work stems from the oppression of apartheid, but instead of focusing on the past, it reclaims the violent imagery and tools from that time, repurposing them as a vibrant celebration of South Africa's creativity and community.

Anchoring the exhibition is an eye-catching and memorable piece of contemporary art—Ziman's 11-ton, 9-foot-tall, 22-foot-long Casspir military vehicle, entitled SPOEK 1. Ziman worked with nearly 100 African artisans to cover the entire vehicle with brightly-colored beaded panels comprised of 70 million glass beads arrayed in traditional patterns. Together, they transformed the Casspir from a symbol of tyranny into an icon of peace. Through projects like SPOEK 1, Ziman creates income for African craftspeople while raising awareness of oppressive governments and militarized police forces around the world.

The Casspir Project is an impressive exhibit at any size, and we are interested in partnering with you to create a customized version of the show that best suits your unique needs.





The Casspir itself is visually stunning, inside and out. Covered in bright-colored beads arrayed in traditional African designs, the vehicle is a conversation-starter—and the conversations it starts feel especially meaningful today, as the United States experiences an increasingly divisive political climate.

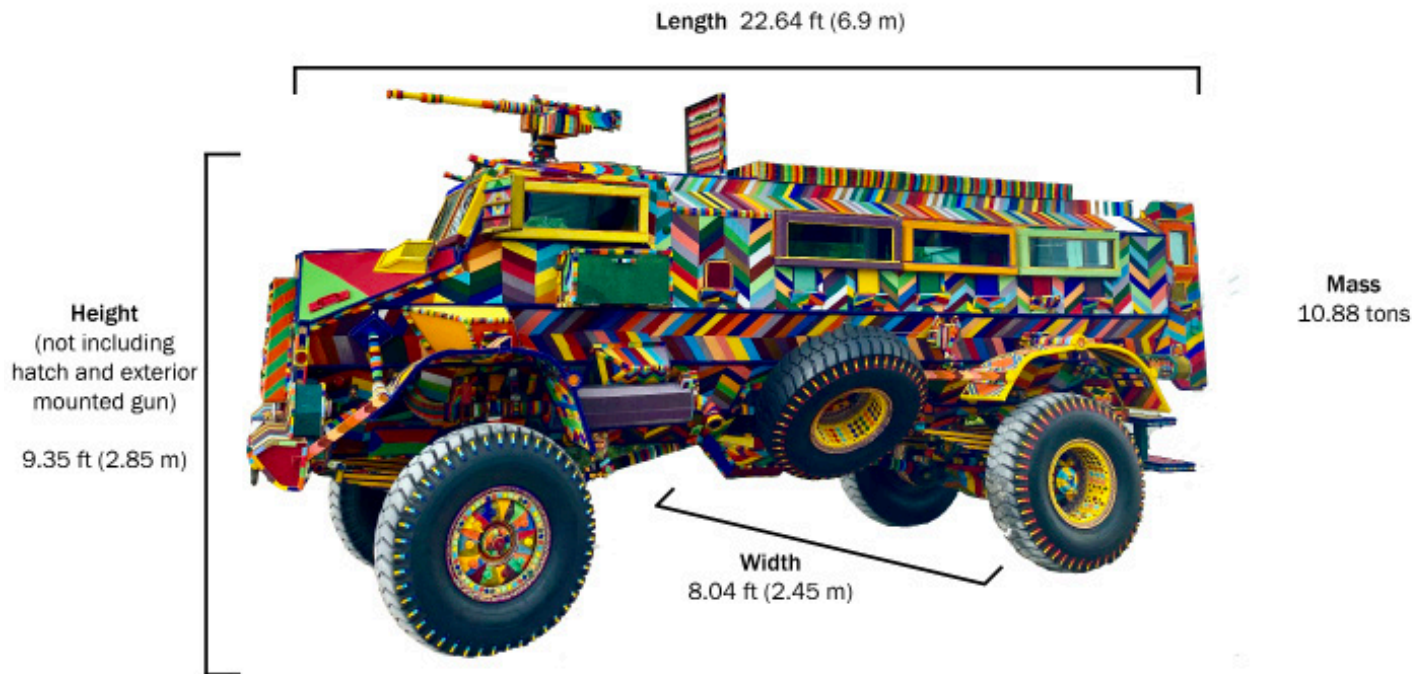
THE ARTIST: RALPH ZIMAN

“I grew up in South Africa in the dark days of apartheid. It was a time of bigotry, a time when the government exploited divides and turned people against each other. It was a time when the police became highly militarized and violent. My art tells of that history, because I see aspects of it repeating itself around the world. By repurposing symbols of violence into icons of peace, I use art as a way to come to terms with my own past. My work is a colorful reimagining of what I encountered, as well as a call for change.”

– Ralph Ziman

Originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, artist and filmmaker Ralph Ziman is based in Los Angeles, California. Ziman's artwork has shown in solo exhibitions at Joseph Gross Gallery in Tucson, Arizona; C.A.V.E. Gallery in Venice, California; The Rendon Gallery in Los Angeles, California; PULSE Art Fair in Miami, Florida; as well as group exhibitions at the National Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa; the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts in Brooklyn, New York; the FNB Art Fair in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Musée de Design et d'Arts Appliqués Contemporains in Lausanne, France; and Forum Schlossplatz in Aarau, Switzerland, among others. He has been featured in Art in America, BBC, CNN, The Guardian, The Independent, Hyperallergic, and other publications. His award-winning films have screened at prestigious festivals around the world, including the Berlinale International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and Zurich Film Festival. His feature film *Jerusalem* was short-listed for a Best Foreign Film Language Academy Award nomination in 2008.

LOGISTICS & SPECIFICATIONS



Fully operable
Covered in 70 million glass beads
In collaboration with 100 African artisans
Completed over the course of 3 years
Runs on diesel

The Rendon Gallery partners with DTCare, a subsidiary of the DTGruelle Group of Companies, which operates with a focus on humanitarian projects in the developing world. DTCare provides unique expertise and understanding of strategic and geopolitical concerns to help us coordinate the operations and logistics of moving the SPOEK 1 Caspir vehicle around as it travels the world.

THE CASSPIR PROJECT IN ACTION



SAN FRANCISCO TRIBAL & TEXTILE ART SHOW
San Francisco, California
February 2020

PULSE ART FAIR
Miami, Florida
December 2019

THE RENDON GALLERY
Los Angeles, California
February 2019

1 - 54 ART FAIR AT PIONEER WORKS
Brooklyn, New York
Summer 2018

THE MELROSE GALLERY
Johannesburg, South Africa
September 2017

TURBINE ART FAIR
Johannesburg, South Africa
July 2017

EVERARD READ GALLERY
Johannesburg, South Africa
July 2017

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL GALLERY
Cape Town, South Africa
December 2016



COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMING



On its own, the Casspir attracts a great deal of attention. When it's exhibited in tandem with the companion works, the vehicle becomes the centerpiece of an experiential exhibition. The Casspir Project's historical relevance, collaborative process, and activist elements are just a few topics around which programming could be based.

Below are a few examples of the partnerships that have taken place with The Casspir Project:

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Rendon Gallery in Los Angeles partnered with Cartwheel Art on a series of workshops and events, including a panel discussion that was held at the gallery. The discussion, entitled "From Oppression to Expression: Speaking Out Against a History of Violence," used The Casspir Project as a springboard to address racial oppression throughout history, including apartheid in South Africa and the militarization of police forces around the world. The panel discussed disarmament, gun control, and the effectiveness of nonviolent forms of self-expression in response to violent oppression.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Ziman's 20-minute documentary on The Casspir Project is available for screening. It includes historical footage, as well as personal interviews with South Africans about their experiences during apartheid. The film shows viewers how Ziman worked with South African artisans on beading the Casspir, and reveals the emotional impact of transforming an object of fear into an object of beauty.

MUSICAL & CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

On days that The Rendon Gallery was closed to the public, Ralph Ziman partnered with local artists and musicians to provide guided tours and immersive programming to a few hundred students from Los Angeles' Unified School District, including hands-on workshops in visual art and West African drumming.

LIVE PAINTING

Each Saturday and Sunday during the duration of his Los Angeles exhibition, Ralph Ziman collaborated with a different artist on a live painting. Viewers were invited to watch the artists create a new art piece outside the gallery in conjunction with the exhibition inside.

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Ralph Ziman:
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Africa, and currently lives and works in Los
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lian, among other publications.



BOLD, POSITIVE, RELEVANT...

We work with A&O PR, an international boutique public relations agency that has attracted positive media coverage for The Casspir Project. A few samples:

“In this reclaimed work, Ralph Ziman has covered the surface in elaborate, brightly-colored panels of glass beads, arrayed in traditional patterns made by artisans from Zimbabwe and the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. Doing so was a way to transform this symbol of violence and terror into one of cultural pride and beauty.” – **Sothebys**

“Ziman's idea seems to be to turn a war machine into decorative, decidedly non-utilitarian object, thus negating its power to psychologically and physically dominate.” – **Hyperallergic**

“Ziman worked with 100 local craftsmen to cloak the tank in handmade glass beads— approximately 70 million, according to the artist (though it's hard to know how anyone could count that high). In doing so, he explains, they turned an infamous symbol of violence and subjugation into one of cultural pride and collective healing.” – **ArtNet News**

“Ziman's elaborate embellishment destabilizes the brute force that this war machine once projected.” – **Art in America**

“Woven by artisans from Zimbabwe and the Mpumalanga province in South Africa, these traditional patterns offer stark contrast to the vehicle's original army-green body and in turn, its intended purpose. Their vibrancy channels the optimism and spirit of a country emerging out of systemic abuse—Ziman calls it ‘Africanness’ and also, ‘hope.’” – **Surface**

THE RENDON GALLERY

The Rendon Gallery is a contemporary art space located in the Downtown Los Angeles Arts District. Named for the landmark hotel in which it is situated, The Rendon Gallery is a supportive platform for a diverse range of artists both local and international. Inspired by the rich cultural history of the surrounding area, the gallery's focus is to develop a creative hub, energizing L.A.'s artistic community. The Rendon Gallery presents work across a wide variety of media, disciplines and culture from traditional to installation and performance based art.

therendongallery.com // [@therendongallery](https://www.instagram.com/therendongallery)

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