

Parler L'Amour
The Wrong Gallery Birmingham

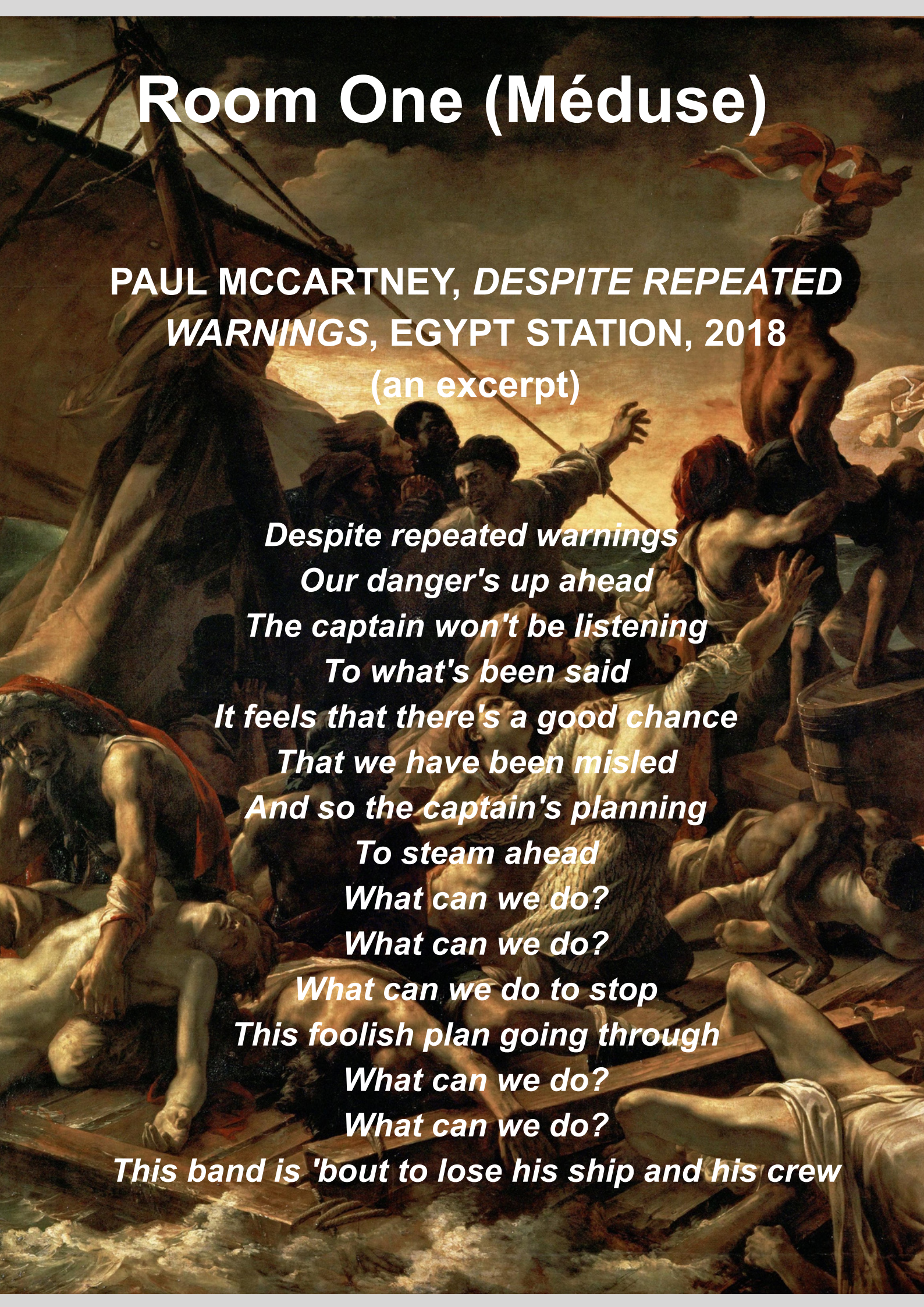
Salon Reframed



Room One (Méduse)

PAUL MCCARTNEY, *DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS*, EGYPT STATION, 2018

(an excerpt)



*Despite repeated warnings
Our danger's up ahead
The captain won't be listening
To what's been said
It feels that there's a good chance
That we have been misled
And so the captain's planning
To steam ahead
What can we do?
What can we do?
What can we do to stop
This foolish plan going through
What can we do?
What can we do?
This band is 'bout to lose his ship and his crew*

Room Two

(Horrors of War)

GIL SCOTT-HERON, *WHITEY ON THE MOON*, 1970
(an excerpt)

*A rat done bit my sister Nell
With whitey on the moon
Her face and arms began to swell
And whitey's on the moon
I can't pay no doctor bills
But whitey's on the moon
Ten years from now I'll be payin' still
While whitey's on the moon
The man just upped my rent last night
Cause whitey's on the moon
No hot water, no toilets, no lights
But whitey's on the moon
I wonder why he's upping me?
Cause whitey's on the moon?
Well I was already giving him fifty a week
With whitey on the moon
Taxes taking my whole damn check
Junkies making me a nervous wreck
The price of food is going up
And as if all that shit wasn't enough:
A rat done bit my sister Nell*





JOHN SINGER SARGENT, *GASSED*, 1918-19

**WILFRED OWEN, *DULCE ET DECORUM EST*, 1920
(an excerpt)**

[...]

If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
 Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,
 His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,
 Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
 To children ardent for some desperate glory,
 The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est
 Pro patria mori.



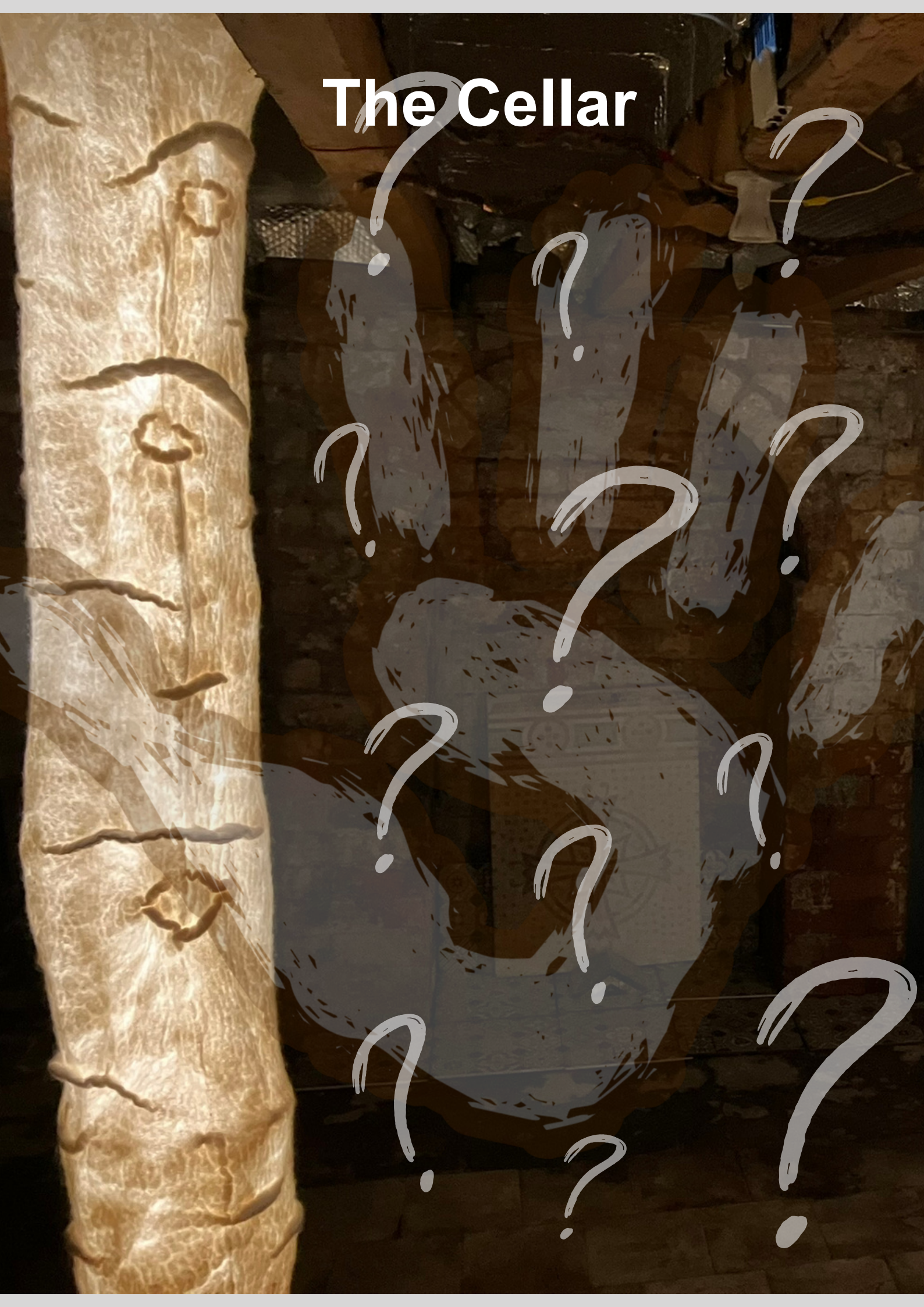
FADWA TUQAN, *THE DELUGE AND THE TREE*, 1946-2003

*When the hurricane swirled and spread its deluge
Of dark evil
Onto the good green land
“They” gloated. The Western skies
Reverberated with joyous accounts
“The Tree has fallen!”*

*The great trunk is smashed! The hurricane
Leaves no life in the tree!
Has the Tree really fallen?
Never! Not with our red streams flowing
forever*

*Not while the wine of our thorn limbs
Fed the thirsty roots,
Arab roots alive
Tunnelling deep, deep, into the land!
When the Tree rises up, the branches
Shall flourish green and fresh in the sun
The laughter of the Tree shall leaf
Beneath the sun
And birds shall return
Undoubtedly, the birds shall return.*

The Cellar



Room Three

(Historic Women)

Women Cave Painters (c. 30,000-12,000 BCE)

For centuries, cave art was assumed to be the work of men, the hunters of early human societies. But studies of hand stencils and painting techniques reveal that many of these first artists were women.

They told stories, recorded rituals, and shaped the earliest visual culture- yet their contributions were erased from history.

In their art, their presence still speaks across tens of thousands of years.

King Ku-Baba (ca. 2500-2330 BCE)

The only woman listed as a ruler in the Sumerian King List.

She is called lugal ("king"), which indicates she held supreme political authority, not just as a consort or regent.

Ku-Baba was originally a tavern keeper.

Ku-Baba founded what's known as the Fourth Dynasty of Kish.

Ku-Baba is one of the earliest recorded female political leaders in world history.

Sappho (c. 630-570 BCE)

Greek poet from the island of Lesbos,

She wrote nine books of poetry, praised by Plato

And limited for centuries.

She led a circle of women devoted to poetry, music, and love and her verses were famous for their lyrical intimacy, passion, and innovation.

The Virgin Mary

Runyaro Mapfumo

British filmmaker of Zimbabwean heritage who graduated with first-class honours in Film and Visual Effects from Sheffield Hallam University in 2013.

Currently she is directing the second block of the upcoming Netflix series KAOS and developing her first feature film- a sci-fi rooted in African mythology, in collaboration with Film4.

Writer-director who award-nominated short films reclaim cultural identity and emotional resilience.

A rising star- yet still under-recognised- in a global industry that often overlooks women of colour.

Room Four (Whack a Dick)

CARAVAGGIO, SALOME WITH THE
HEAD OF JOHN THE BAPTIST c.1609

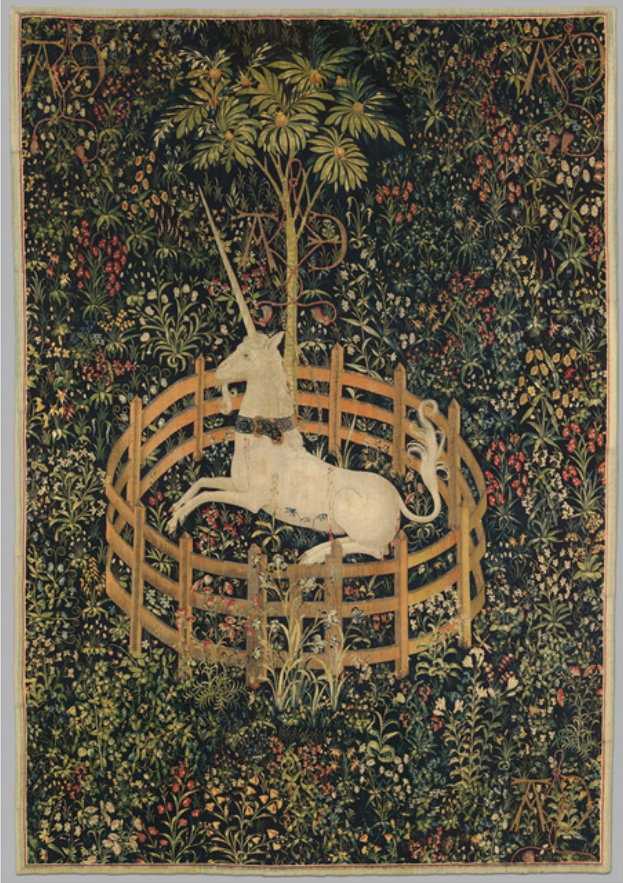


ARTEMESIA GENTILESCHI, JUDITH
SLAYING HOLOFERNES, 1610



Room five (The Chapel) and The Loft

Fortius Conclists



Unknown Maker(s), *The Unicorn Rests in a Garden* (from the Unicorn Tapestries) c. 1495–1505



Guido Reni, *Adoration of the Shepherds*, c.1640

