



Marigold-swing I

R 1,850.00 ex. vat



Shamil Balam's *Marigold-swing I* (2019) explores the relationship between ancestral knowledge and land. Balam spent much of his childhood on his grandparents' farm in KwaZulu-Natal. He recounts how they would plant marigolds in between their crops to act as a natural pest deterrent. He grew these plants pictured from seed, nurturing life and honouring his personal genealogy. The box in which the orange buds blossom is a wooden crate that was formerly used for coal mining samples. Both soil and coal share a kind of kinship in being excavated from the earth. The re-appropriation of the crate as a swing in this piece makes reference to the swings often seen hanging from the bow of a tree on plantations in the Southern States of America. Balam elaborates, "I wanted to bring in this element of relaxing, but while thinking or remembering enduring pain and suffering".

Frame	None
Medium	Photographic print on archival paper
Height	29.70 cm
Width	42.00 cm
Artist	Shamil Balram
Year	2019

