



Dernika Williams

Call for Price



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These images capture the essence of a unique and aspirational subculture in South Africa: all-female drum majorette teams, affectionately known as "Drummies." The sport boasts a long history in the country, surging in popularity during the early 1980s. However, participation has declined significantly

since then.

In contemporary culture, drum majorettes evoke a strong sense of nostalgia, often seen as a relic of a bygone era. Yet, within many marginalized communities across South Africa, the sport remains highly competitive and taken very seriously. For the girls and young women involved, being a "Drummie" represents a privilege and a significant achievement, symbolizing success both on and off the field. Their notoriously demanding practice schedules are a testament to their dedication and commitment to hard work.

While debates exist surrounding the sport's potentially outdated disciplinary practices and idealized notions of femininity, being part of a team fosters a powerful sense of belonging and bolsters the girls' self-worth. The importance of pride and confidence is deeply ingrained in these young athletes, especially considering the often limited opportunities available to them within their communities. "Drummies" allows them to excel, and their distinctive uniforms become a visual symbol of their success and a form of personal empowerment within their environment.

This series is part of my ongoing exploration of femininity and empowerment in contemporary society. Through continued investigation into this subculture, I aim for these images to convey the immense pride and confidence these girls cultivate through their "Drummie" identity, especially given the social challenges they face. Ultimately, I want these photographs to serve as a tribute to the unwavering commitment and determination displayed by these young female athletes, existing in a world where many sporting opportunities remain predominantly focused on men.

Edition Size	5
Medium	Inket print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag
Location	Cape Town, South Africa
Height	55.00 cm
Width	65.00 cm
Artist	Alice Mann
Year	2017

