

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlanta Contemporary presents **The Casspir Project** by **Ralph Ziman** for Atlanta Art Week. (September 25 - October 6)



Atlanta Contemporary is excited to present South African-born and Los Angeles-based artist **Ralph Ziman and The Casspir Project**, a unique multidisciplinary, experiential exhibition that encompasses installation, film, photography, oral history, and documentary. On view at Atlanta Contemporary will be the centerpiece of The Casspir Project, Ziman's SPOEK 1, a massive eleven-ton, twenty-two-foot-long, nine-foot-tall, Casspir vehicle that has been transformed into a striking, indigenized art structure.

Ziman worked with nearly 100 artisans from Zimbabwe and the Mpumalanga province of South Africa, including women of the Ndebele tribe, to cover the entire vehicle with brightly-colored beaded panels comprised of 70 million glass beads in traditional patterns. Together, they restored, refitted, and transformed the Casspir from a symbol of Apartheid-era tyranny into an icon of peace.

"I remember columns of Casspirs, ten or fifteen, heading for the East Rand Townships of Daveyton and Katlehong," Ziman says. "Heavily armed paramilitary police sitting casually on the roofs brandishing automatic weapons. I remember Casspirs flying at high speeds down the narrow, potholed streets of Soweto. I remember how the South

African police would park two Casspirs in the road to form a blockade, forcing drivers to slow into an S-shaped route for tense inspection. My art tells of that history, because I see aspects of it repeating itself around the world. My work is a colorful reimagining of what I encountered, as well as a call for change.”

The Casspir Project has traveled throughout South Africa making stops at The South African National Gallery, Iziko Cape Town; The Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg; Everard Read Gallery- Keys Art Mile, Johannesburg; The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg; and arrived in the United States in 2018 to travel to 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Brooklyn; The Rendon Gallery, Los Angeles; PULSE Art Fair, Miami; San Francisco Textile and Tribal Show, San Francisco; Seattle Art Fair, Seattle; TASWIRA, Seattle; and RailSpur, Seattle.

Ziman’s SPOEK 1 vehicle installation will be on display at Atlanta Contemporary from September 25 - October 6, including Atlanta Art Week, with additional programming throughout that time.

Image Caption: Ralph Ziman and SPOEK 1 outside Fort Mason Center for the San Francisco Tribal & Textile Show, 2020. Photo credit: Mauricio Hoyos

### **About Ralph Ziman**

Ralph Ziman’s practice is motivated by a sense of social responsibility toward global politics. Using imagery that is at once vivid and dark, he comments on serious issues such as life under apartheid, the arms trade and trophy hunting. His work extends across a variety of media, including film, photography, public intervention, sculpture, and installation.

### **About Atlanta Contemporary**

Atlanta Contemporary engages the public through the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art. Founded in 1973 as Nexus, a grassroots artists’ cooperative, Atlanta Contemporary has since become one of the leading contemporary art centers in the southeastern United States.

### **Programming Events:**

Installation/Media and Press Preview - September 25, 11:00AM

Exhibition Opening - September 26, 6:00PM

Artist Talk with Ralph Ziman - September 28, 12:30PM

Contemporary Kids - September 29, 12:00PM

For more information, contact: [director@atlantacontemporary.org](mailto:director@atlantacontemporary.org)