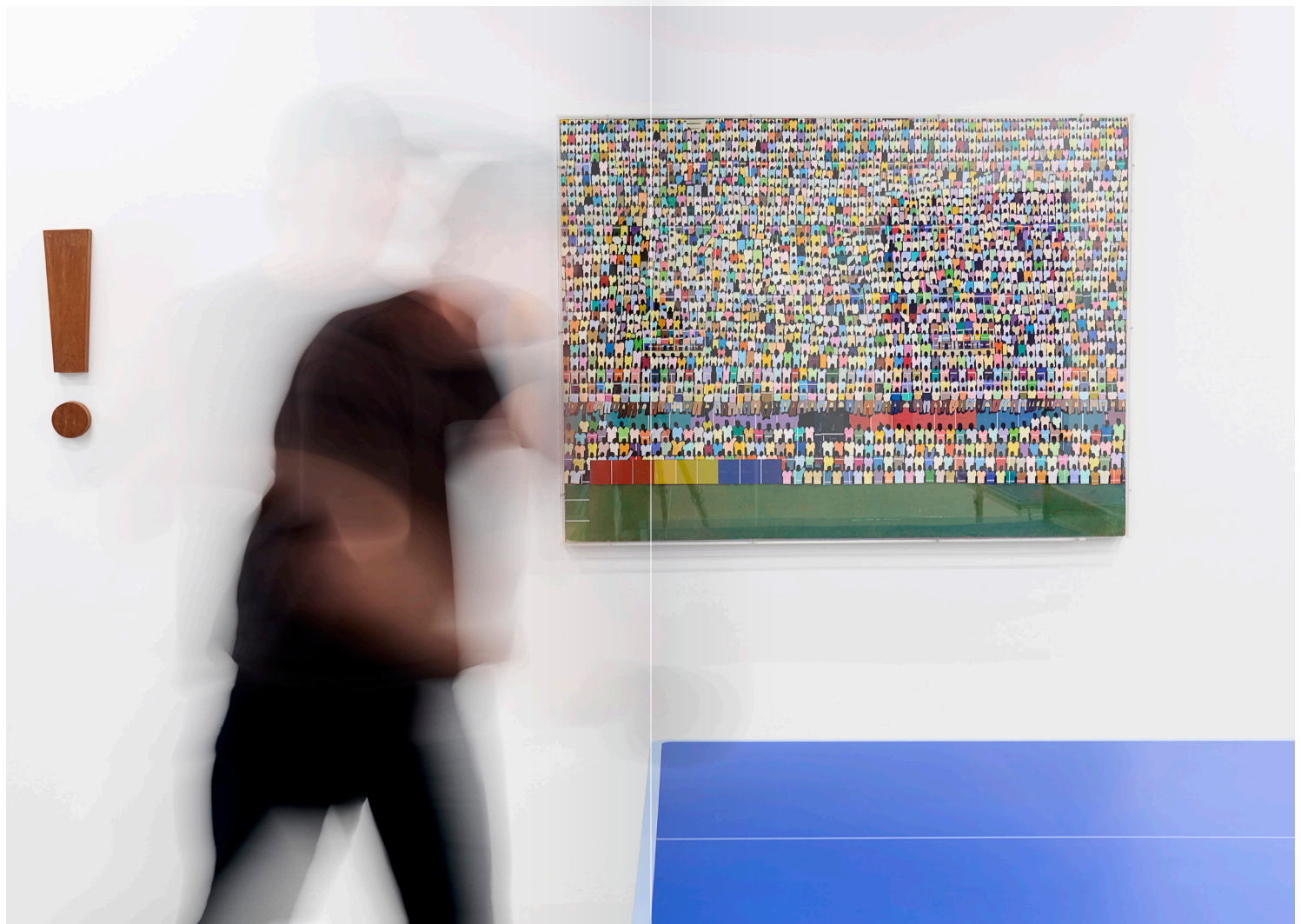


ONE—LOVE

Curated by
Chloé de Villiers



No one can play a game alone.
One cannot be human by oneself.
There is no selfhood where there
is no community. We do not relate
to others as the persons we are;
we are who we are in relating to
others. – James P. Carse, 1986

Coincidentally, however timeously,
the International Table Tennis
Federation (ITTF) was founded in
1926, one hundred years ago. First
imagined by the Victorians in the
late 1800's, table tennis began as
an after-dinner parlour game (for
nighttime, or inclement weather) played
with champagne corks for balls and
books for bats. Originally called ping-
pong, after the onomatopoeic sound of
the game, it was later officially named
table tennis after an equipment brand
trademarked the former name. Table
tennis developed into a competitive
sport, while also retaining its place in
the home, where the parlour gave way
to the garage.

One–Love is a table tennis community
club, started by Brad Lubner in March
2026, that hosts free tournaments and
ping-pong events at various places
around Cape Town. Named for the
scoring system in which zero is referred
to as 'love', One–Love also references
Bob Marley and his message of unity.
While the etymology of using love
to represent 'nothing' in tennis is
uncertain, speculation points to the
spirit of the player who lands no point,
yet perseveres 'for the love of
the game'. One–Love events invite
people of all skill levels to gather and
play competitively or just for fun.

To intersect two communities,
table tennis and art, One–Love and
A4 host a table tennis tournament
accompanied by an exhibition.
The selected artworks speak to
anticipation, youth, movement, play,
spectatorship, community, and the
structure of sport. As an example,
David Goldblatt's photograph
*Sisters Ella and Betty Marais in their
father's orchard. Gamkaskloof in
the Swartberg Mountains, Western
Cape*, 1966 of two sisters playing
on a makeshift seesaw, can be
read as touching on the duplicity
and reliance on one another in a
game of table tennis, the back-and-
forth that happens. Neither do all
of the represented artists practice
professionally, or exclusively, as
'artists'. Some wear multiple hats,
or work as art dealers or curators –
a nod to workers across fields
playing together.

A4 centres on the idea of serious
play in the way we work and
approach problem solving. For
this occasion, we invite people to
play and converse around a ping-
pong table. The tournament on
Saturday, 31 October, embraces
the competitive side of the game,
with a trophy for the winner made by
artist Luca Evans. For the following
two weeks, a table will be open for
play every weekday after 4pm.



Artworks



Marc Barben (b.1988, Cape Town)
Untitled (Roger Federer), 2009
Found footage, sound
Infinite loop

Courtesy the artist



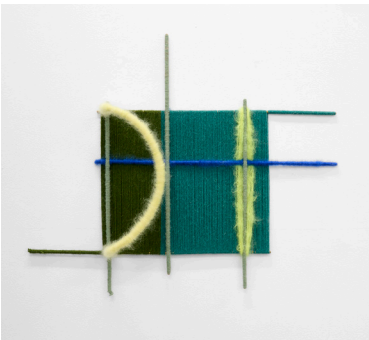
Luca Evans (b.1994, Cape Town)
Loud Sounds, 2024
Sapele, MDF
40 x 9 x 3 cm

Courtesy the artist and
Everard Read



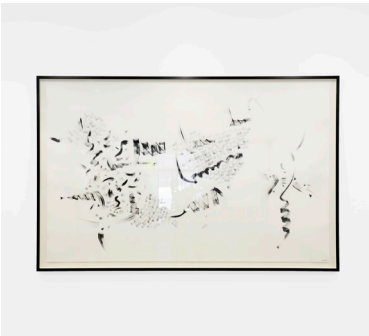
Dan Halter (b.1977, Harare)
Untitled (Study with Colour, Dulux Range), 2005
Dulux paint-sample cards
on blackboard
88.5 x 118.5 cm

Courtesy private collection



Zoë Paul (b.1987, London)
Firefly, 2025
Wool, mohair, brass
57.5 x 67.5 x 10 cm

Courtesy private collection



Kemang Wa Lehulere (b.1984, Cape Town)
Canis Major 3, 2018
Ink on paper
167.4 x 259 cm

Courtesy the artist and
blank projects



David Goldblatt (b.1930, Randfontein; d.2018, Johannesburg)

Sisters Ella and Betty Marais in their father's orchard. Gamkaskloof in the Swartberg Mountains, Western Cape, 1966

Silver Gelatin print
33 x 40 cm

Courtesy private collection



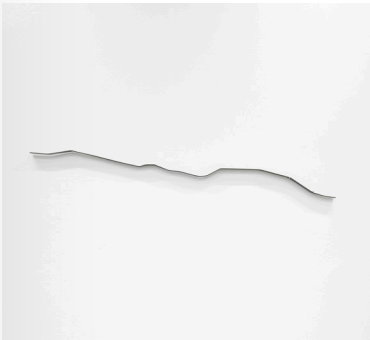
Kevin Atkinson (b.1939, Cape Town; d.2007, Cape Town)
Untitled No. 1, 1967
Acrylic on canvas
122 x 92 cm

Courtesy private collection



Daniel Malan (b.1991, Cape Town)
Grilled Joe Special with Tentacles, 2026
Chalk pastel on paper
59 x 74 cm

Courtesy the artist



Kyle Morland (b.1986, Johannesburg)
Ruler, 2013
Black passivated mild steel
147 x 3 x 15cm

Courtesy private collection



Luca Evans (b.1994, Cape Town)
Swing, 2026
African rosewood, cherry, kiaat, maple, sapele and walnut on pine
23,5 x 33 x 3 cm

Courtesy the artist



Standing and playing across a ping-pong table is a good place for a hard conversation.

– Luca Evans

It's an intuition-based sport. You don't have to think too hard about the physicality of it while you're playing.

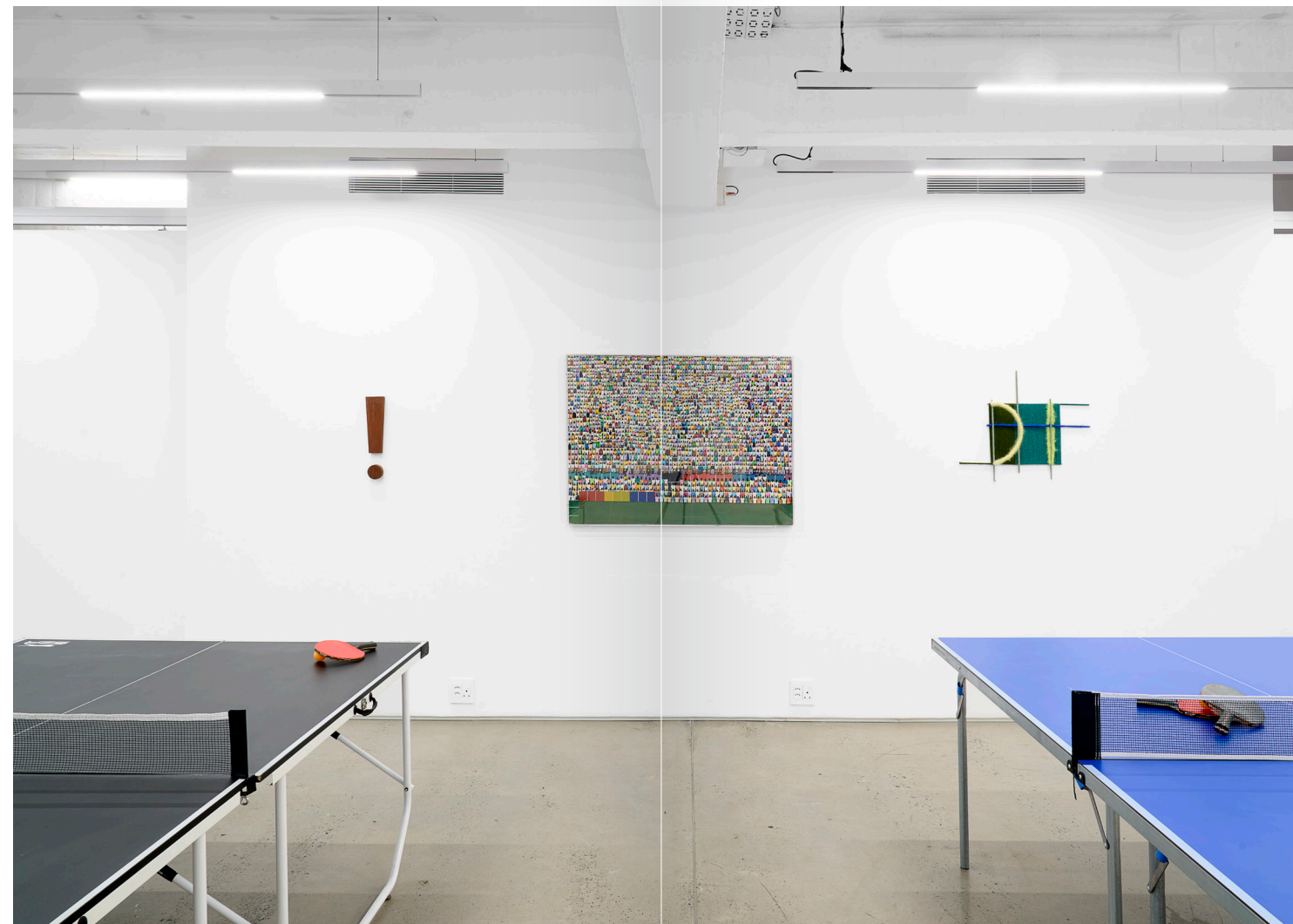
– Brad Lubner

No one can be human by themselves or without a community.

– Chloé de Villiers

Compositionally, the table between the two players in ping-pong creates so much distance; it doesn't show how connected they really are.

– Luca Evans





Ping-pong has a versatile format, you can play it on many surfaces and in many places. This low barrier to entry allows for anyone, of any level, to enjoy themselves.

– Brad Lubner

I think sport achieves things art sometimes tries to do, but doesn't manage. Maybe sport has more of an impact because it has a wider audience, or maybe sport is more fun.

– Chloé de Villiers

Ping-pong blue is one of the most beautiful colours in the world.

– Luca Evans

Notes



– All quotes on previous pages:
Brad Lubner, Chloé de Villiers
and Luca Evans talk over ping-pong
at A4, 20 October 2026.



Tournament and Exhibition:

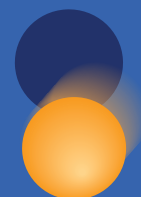
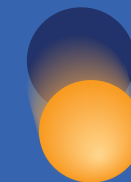
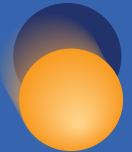
Curator – Chloé de Villiers
Tournament organiser – One–Love
Trophy – Luca Evans

Wayfinder:

Design – Ben Johnson
Editor – Sara de Beer
Writer – Chloé de Villiers

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A4 Reading Room

31 Oct —
14 Nov '26