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Johannesburg is as brash as a teenager and, visually, a real zero. Snarled highways connect an obese metropolis described by Achille Mbembe and Sarah Nuttall as fundamentally 'elusive'. Drawing inspiration from the city Stephen Hobbs delivered the year's most surprising show, at the University of the Witwatersrand's makeshift (and now defunct) Substation art gallery. Titled 'High voltage/Low voltage', Hobbs eschewed literalness in favour of a more speculative evocation of Africa's capital of commerce. Equally preoccupied with Modernist art history is Zander Blom, whose photographs of his home environment, shown at Rooke Gallery, recalled Kurt Schwitters' fabled 1930s studio space. Blom's output suggested the arrival of an embryonic talent.

by Sean O'Toole

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