

# Ingrid Bolton

## *Sever* (2023)

### Copper cable, aluminium tubes and sheets

Copper may not be the driver our energy needs but it is the transmitter of power and essential in our daily lives. We rely heavily on it our homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and all our communication devises are powered by it.

Cable theft and loadshedding (the planned suspension of power so as not to adversely affect the grid) halts these connections. Everyday life is negatively affected to such an extent that even the county's economy and long-term sustainability shrinks. The global demand for energy, and consequentially copper, is high.

This artwork deals with the severing of our connectivity, by any means. Networks are severed, communication is halted, and power is interrupted. By slicing through the cable, I refer to this severing. The cutting is a violent act, as is the removal of copper from cities. Communication,

transport via rail and power supply are all affected by the lifting of copper, loadshedding and misallocation of funds.

My use of recycled cable is a conscious one. South Africa's primary source of power is from coal, a fossil fuel. The burning of this fuel is causing carbon dioxide emissions which in turn is causing climate change. We, as a country, are big emitters of carbon dioxide. I use recycled materials so that I use what is there already.

Our Earth is in a precarious state.

Cables are each separated, broken down and then reassembled to create a new pattern coming together to reference an amoebic shape. Prickly protrusions of fine copper cable spew out. The separation reveals the inner assembly of the cable and the individual strands of copper and rubber. This process reflects the micro or individual connecting strand, within the macro or landscape of power outages.