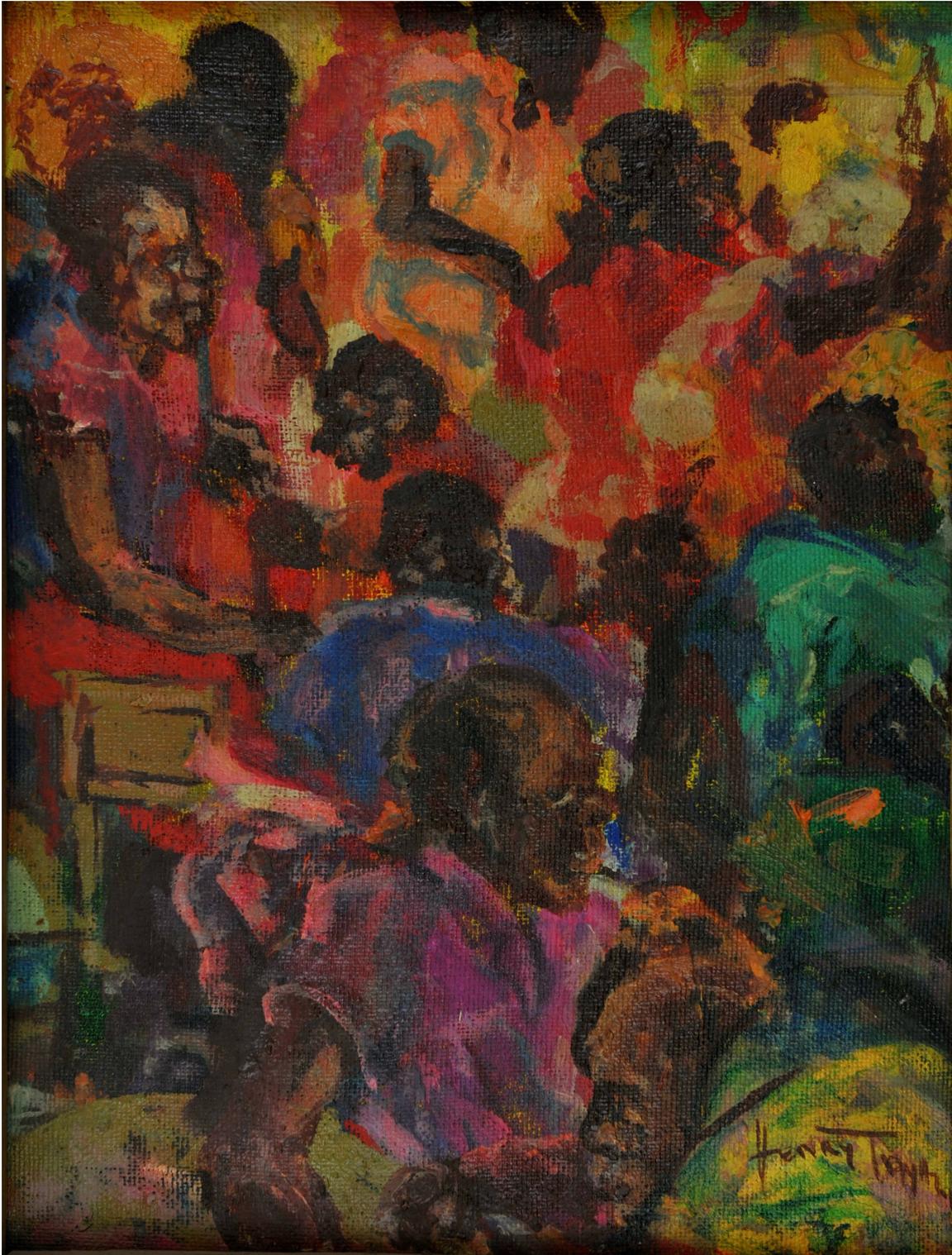


Henry Tayali, Title Unknown, c. 1972



Henry Tayali was from Zambia, a landlocked country in south eastern Africa. Henry was from a small town called Serenje.

He died in 1984, but he is still one of Zambia's most famous and popular artists.

Henry spent a lot of time in the capital city of Zambia, Lusaka. In his paintings he liked to show what was happening in the city. He painted restaurants and cafes. He painted people who were rich and people who were poor.

Here is another painting and a print by Henry. ***Do they look different to one that you have in Argyll?***



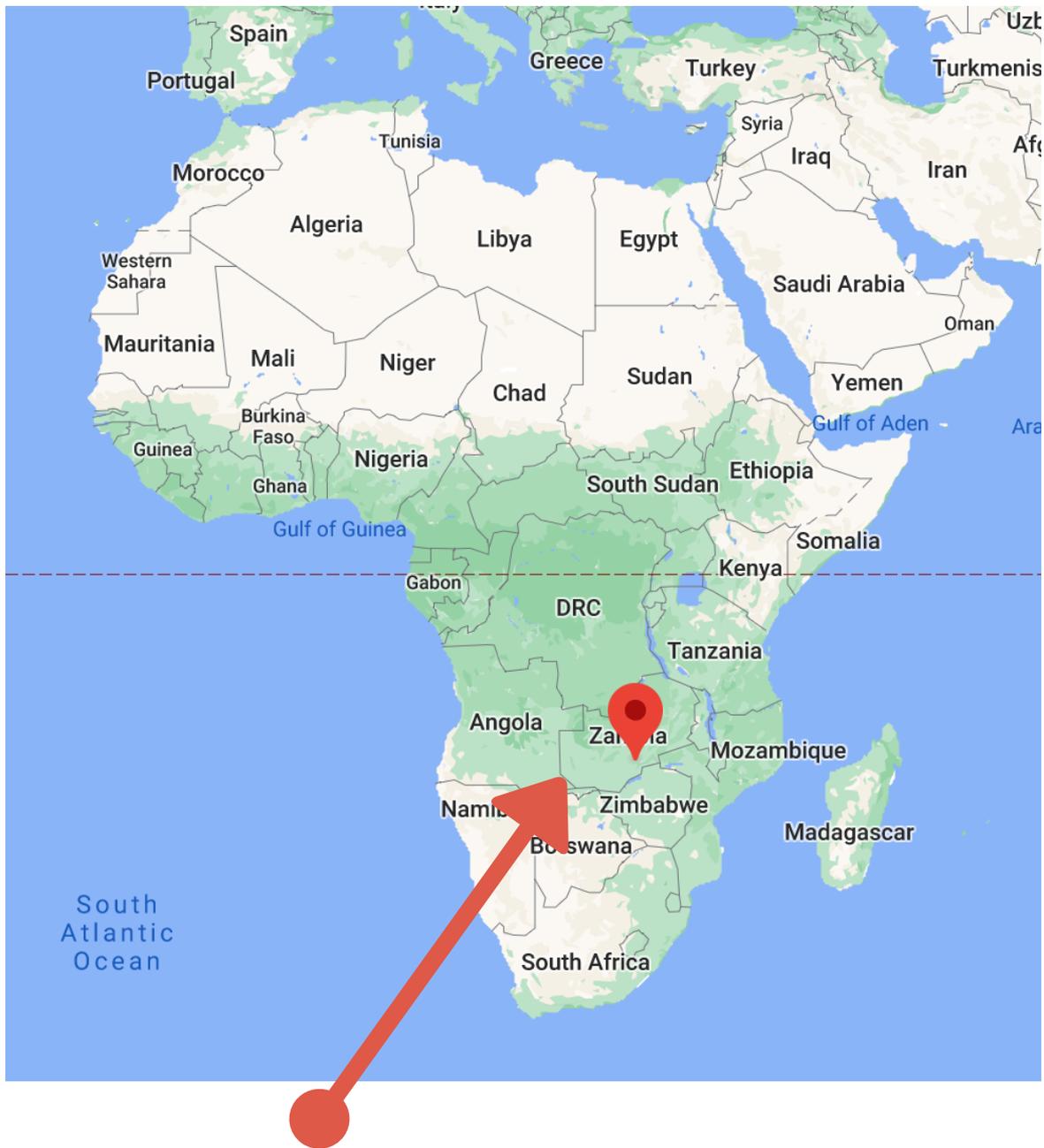
Village Scene at Night, early 1960s
© Rhodrick Tayali



Bier Garten, 1971
© Rhodrick Tayali

Henry painted people in their own homes. On the left is a family living in a simple house with no electricity. Not everyone in Lusaka lived like this, but some people did.

Henry also liked to show busy scenes with lots of people in places like cafes. Look closely at the picture on the right. There are so many tiny people!



This is Zambia on a map. It is a big country which is land locked, meaning that it is not by the sea. Instead it is surrounded by other countries.

The red spot shows you where the capital of Zambia, Lusaka is. Lusaka is a big city, and it is where Henry spent a lot of his time working as an artist. Here is a photo of the busy city at night.



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Time to look closely at Henry's painting!

It looks like a busy scene, doesn't it? Look at it up close, and then move slowly backwards. ***Do you see different shapes and different colours?***

Up close it looks like a bit messy, with lots of different colours all together. When you move away you can see that there is a group of people, all wearing different colour clothes.

How many different people can you count?

Some of them have very clear noses and eyes, but some others only have the outline of a head.

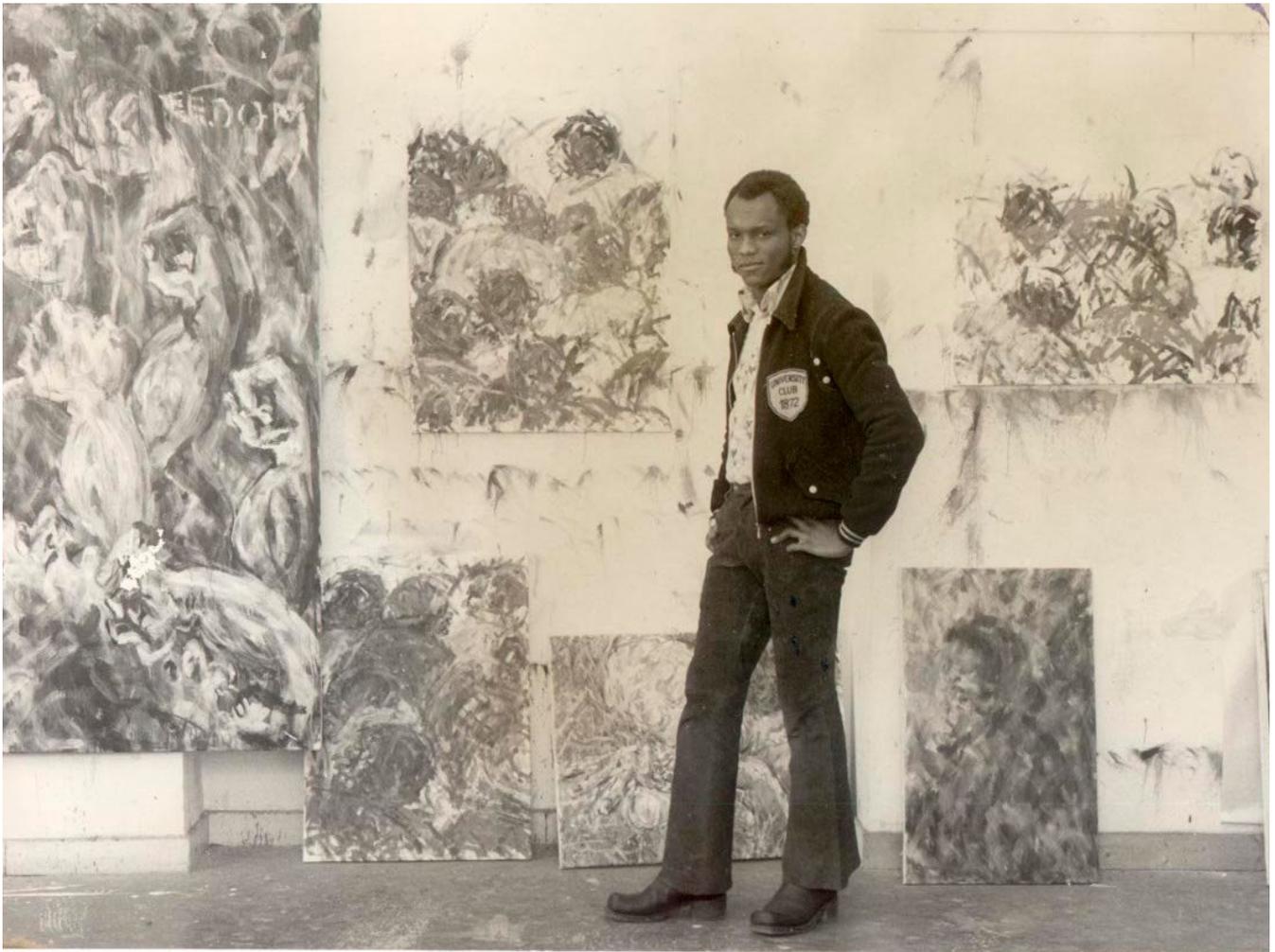
Henry does this to create the idea of a busy place.

He liked to make pictures of places where people would come after a hard day of work.

What sounds does this painting make you think of? What do you think the people are talking about?

This painting travelled to Argyll from Lusaka. Sadly, we have lost the title of the work. We have been trying really hard to find out what Henry might have called this painting, but for now it just known as 'Title Unknown'. ***What title would you give it?***

Here are is a photo of Henry. It was sent to Argyll by his son, Rhodrick. He wants everyone to know what his Dad looked like.



What does Henry look like? Does he look like a very serious artist? Can you see some of his other paintings here? Do they look like the one we have in Argyll?

Some of them look a bit messy, don't they? Perhaps they are more busy pictures.

On one side of the photo is a big painting. ***Can you see any shapes in that painting?*** If you look closely you can see arms and clenched fists. These are signs of strength. Henry thought that people should always look out for each other. His painting shows people raising their arms and fists together.

Here are some ideas for things you could do now that you have learned a bit about Henry and his paintings:

1. Can you make a picture of a busy place? How can you use different colours and different shapes to make it feel busy?
2. Think about something that really matters to you. What is something you think is really important? Henry thought it was important to use art to show that some people had a hard life in the city. What would you like to use art to show people?
3. Can you imagine what life is like in a big city? What are some of things that make you think of a big city? Draw a picture of what your perfect city would look like.
4. Cut up lots of pieces of coloured paper and see if you can recreate Henry's busy scene in a collage.

Have fun!