Pregnant Woman

H: 152cm W: 107cm

Toy Boy was born in 1976, two years after the end of Angola's War of

Independence and right into a decades-long civil war.

This is an autobiographical painting, depicting his mother carrying him in her womb while he, the embryo, is screaming; a baby feels the mother's pain while in her womb. In the background are the names of the African countries his father had to flee to during the war.

As is often the case in civil wars, the men fled while most of the women who remained in Angola marched to the capital, which was safer than the country's rural areas.

Toy Boy's mother gave birth to him at the age of 15, while marching towards Luanda, where she arrived when he was two weeks old. When he was five, he saw his father for the first time, and moved in with him and his new (fourth) wife. When the fighting resumed, his father had to run again and Toy Boy's stepmother threw him out of her house, at age 12.







