

## **Artist Statement**

“The use of beads is a central element of my work. I carefully suspend each bead individually with fishline strings, hung from a steel rod, to create a cohesive image. The meticulous and labour-intensive nature of my art medium is a tribute to the strength of the African continent. Each bead represents an individual, but when brought together, they create a community. The large-scale picture made of thousands of small beads is a testament to the power of many small parts converging to form something greater and whole. It is a reminder that every individual is essential and has the potential to contribute to the collective strength of a community. Through the use of different shades of green and red, I aim to create a contrast between the coolness of human figures and the warmth of the natural environment. My approach to colour is that each colour represents a collective aspect of the African experience. Themes in my work are diversity and the uniqueness of African identity. My ultimate goal is to convey a message of celebrating diversity and coming together. The African community is an excellent example of this, and through my art, I aim to honour and commemorate their beauty and resilience. By highlighting the power of community, I hope to inspire others to create and embrace a world where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.”

## **Biography**

Morgan Mahape, born March 5th 1982, is a multimedia artist from Umlazi, South Africa. Growing up in a household with younger brothers and a mother who was an art teacher, Mahape's interest in art was sparked at a young age.

## Exhibition History

**2023** - 'Roots to Wings', Artyli.com, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg

**2023** - 'African Alchemy', Artyli.com, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg

**2022** - AKA Art Fair

**2022** - BAD+ contemporary art fair

**2022** - 145 New York Art Fair

**2022** - Investec Art Fair

**2022** - 'Art and Culture' Pop Up Exhibition

**2021** - 1st Winner of Innibos National Craft Awards

**2020** - Love Etc exhibition, Musée Bargoin, Clermont-Ferrand Avec Galerie Carole Kvasnevski

**2019** - Group show, AKA Art & Design Fair

**2019** - 'Ikhono laseNatali', A4 Gallery, Capetown

**2019** - 'Ikhono laseNatali', KZNSA Gallery, Durban

**2019** - 'African Spirits', group exhibition, Yossi gallery, New-York

**2018** - 'Scream' exhibition, African Art Center, Durban.

**2018** - Art Bank Exhibition, Durban Art gallery, Durban

**2018** - Amasosha art movement group exhibition, Inkomkhulu Gallery, Durban

**2016** - Art in the park fair, Pietermaritzburg.

**2012** - PPC young sculpture finalist, KZNSA gallery, Durban

**2011** - COP17 art exhibition (gallery 405) Durban