

Artist Statement

“The exploration of the self is one of the intrinsic drives of an artist, especially the odyssey of shifting toward reflective consciousness. My artistic practice is an exploration of existence as a phenomenon affected by race, gender, religion, psychology & philosophy. It is engaging with social life & cultural sentiments as they become prescriptive roles & expectations. It is navigating the transition from notions of self that are and not defined by motherhood, womanhood & Blackness. Each image is commenting on an attempt to reconcile the conflict between socio-cultural sensibilities and neo-contemporary influences. We exist in a world where being human is now a political matter; a contestation of whose values, culture, identity, aesthetic, perspective, belief or faith matters. My art is an introspective quest for a being reflecting on her subjectivity & agency, which is necessary for a transcendental existence. Hers is an awareness of oneself as a subject searching for human ideals or multiple possibilities to be human.”

Biography

Mbali Tshabalala is a multidisciplinary artist, independent curator and creative entrepreneur. Tshabalala has been a practising artist since 2019. Tshabalala's artistic approach uses the curator as artist and the artist as curator. She works from her studio at the Asisebenze Art Atelier in the centre of Johannesburg, where she draws inspiration and produces her prints.

Education

2019 - Bachelor's Degree Fine and Applied Arts, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria

2019 - National Diploma Fine and Applied Arts, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria

2013 - NQF 6 Printmaking, Artist Proof Studios, Johannesburg

2010 - NQF 6 Photography, Bokomo Art Centre, Soweto

2008 - National Diploma Graphic Design, Rosebank College, Johannesburg

Exhibition History

Group Exhibitions

2023 - 'To Embrace the Shadow is the Journey of the Sun and Soul', The Melrose Gallery

2022 - Sanlam Private Wealth, Asisebenze Art Atelier exhibition titled 'Inner City Views', curated by Nolan Stevens & Choni Gavin

2022 - Johannesburg Art Fair: David Krut Projects curated by Ame Bell.

2022 - 'Alone of its Kind', David Krut Projects, curated by Ame Bell.

2022 - 'Abadali', curated by Anastasia Panther, JP Morgan Collection.

2022 - Print Collab: Perspective Art, Collective Untitled, Asisebenze Art Atelier, Open Studio Johannesburg

2020 - 'Embodying Hir-Self', Latitudes Online in partnership with Madlozi Art Africa

2020 - 'She Impressions', curated by Reneiwe Mathibe

2020 - Material Matter, Collective Untitled, Rand Merchant Bank Turbine Art Fair

2020 - Faces of Africa, curated by Patrizia Litty, Litty Contemporary

2019 - 'She Impressions, curated by Reneiwe Mathibe, The Project Space

2019 - 'Articulating the Infinite', curated by Palesa Suthane, Office Gallery

2019 - 'Urban Findings', curated by Mbali Tshabalala, Keys Art Mile

2019 - 'That's What She Said- An exhibition for Women, by Women, in Spirit the of Women', curated by Palesa Motsumi, Constitution Hill

2019 - 'Smorgasbord' curated by Megan Theunissen, Art Afrique

2019 - Rand Merchant Bank Exhibition, curated by Busi Ntombela, MM Art House

2019 - Joburg Fringe in Cape Town, curated by Sarie Potter, Ruth Prowse

Solo Exhibitions

2022 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, Mbali Tshabalala's Ever-Present Shift & Gallery2.

Art Fairs

2023 - RMB Latitudes Art Fair, David Krut and Artist Proof Studios

2023 - Investec Cape Town Art Fair, World Art Gallery

2022 - Art Johannesburg, David Krut

2022 - Johannesburg Art Fair, David Krut Projects, curated by Ame Bell.

2022 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, Gallery2

2021 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, Collective Untitled

2020 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, Collective Untitled

2019 - RMB Latitudes Art Fair, Latitudes Ltd, X David Krut

2019 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, Collective Untitled

Auctions

2020 - Aspire Art Auction, Summer Collection

2019 - Strauss & Co., First Edition Auction

Corporate Collections

Tshabalala's works can be found in a number of collections, namely, JP Morgan Chase, William Humphries, The National Art Bank, Spier Art Trust, Nando's Collection, RMB Art Collection and Asisebenze Art Atelier Collection.

Art Competitions

2022 - Latitudes ANNA awards Finalists

2022 - Sasol New Signatures

2019 - Thami Mnyele Fine Art Award

Press

<https://mg.co.za/friday/2022-10-10-young-black-artist-in-a-time-and-a-culture/>
<https://www.wantedonline.co.za/art-design/2023-05-26-mbali-tshabalala-unveiling-the-intertwining-dance-between-womanhood-and-identity-through-art/>
<https://sowetolifemag.co.za/artist-mbali-tshabalala-showcases-at-two-art-fairs-in-a-single-week/>
