

Artist Statement

“At the end of the day, black bodies are political...” – Amy Sherald

My works embody the African American painter's words, as I unearth and challenge aspects of Blackness clothed in the female form - whether by interrogating hair, colourism or the sexualisation of the Black body. There is a single constant that is present throughout my many themes and mediums, and that is the need to present Blackness as aesthetically pleasing. This desire to bind representations of the Black figure is no doubt a result of my love for fashion. I gather my inspiration from Tignon Laws and multiple 21st century trends that have led Black women to replace their natural hair with synthetic hair, bleach their skin and modify their bodies to fit into certain beauty standards. My work celebrates the versatility of African (Afro) hair as I mould my subjects' hair into a popular Nigerian hairstyle known as 'threading'. The process is done by using a heat glue gun, wool and gold dust, to create a crown-like structure that emphasises the popular term “Crowning Glory”, often used by Black society when referencing Afro textured hair.”

Biography

Samantha Maseko, also known as Impumelelo, is a South African Artist born in June 1997 in Boschfontein, Mpumalanga. Maseko currently resides and works in Johannesburg. Maseko uses oil painting, acrylic painting, collage, and different print mediums in her artistic practice and she enjoys working with found materials such as fabric.

Education

Samantha Maseko graduated from Artist Proof Studio where she studied professional printmaking.

Exhibition History

Samantha has participated in multiple exhibitions such as the Turbine Art Fair in 2022 and the RMB Latitudes Art Fair in 2023, where she sold out her prints.