

## Artist Statement

“My work is about the strength of women and capturing moments of their daily lives. The idealisation of the women in my paintings are a more truthful representation of the real and everyday lives that women lead. To me, this is a special way to acknowledge the different attributes I always see in my mother. I use charcoal drawing and acrylic painting on canvas, applied in the form of a wash. The washes mimic the constant wish that some women have to ‘wash away’ certain experiences they have undergone in their lives. I deliberately chose to wash the canvas and allow the paint to drip, which has become a metaphor for a woman’s tears of pain, joy and success. My choice of colours are black, sepia and pink. This reflects the time needed for healing, and it portrays the tension present daily in the lives of women. These colours are quite like shades of old photographs or the colour of ageing and rusting material as they signify reflections on the passing of time. Most portraits are drawn in the form of bust figures, similar to the eternal youth and idealised strength of the Roman and Greek statues which I draw inspiration from. To me, these Greek and Roman statues signify the strength of the depicted figures. The moments captured in my works represent sensitive issues around the world. I use Johannesburg as a point of reference. Johannesburg is a cosmopolitan city that attracts people globally from all social, political and cultural backgrounds. People from neighbouring African countries move to Johannesburg in search of work. It is especially within this multicultural, work deprived and overpopulated environment of Johannesburg, where I encounter the strength of the women I come across on a daily basis.”

## Biography

Patrick Seruwu is a self-taught artist, born in Kampala, Uganda. Seruwu was raised in a family of four women, with his mother and three sisters. Seruwu relocated to South Africa where he was fortunate to meet the late Benon Lutaaya, who mentored him artistically, until his passing in 2019. Benon's mentorship significantly influenced Seruwu's artistic practice. Seruwu currently lives in Johannesburg.

## Education

Patrick Seruwu completed his scholastic studies at Kyambogo High School.

## Exhibition History

**2018** - 'Talking to Deaf Ears', ABSA Bank GALLERY, Johannesburg

**2018** - Investec Cape Town Art Fair

**2018** - Jan Celliers Exhibition, Parktown

**2018** - Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg

**2018** - Studio Factice Gallery

**2018** - 'Aftermath', Rand Merchant Bank RMB, group exhibition, Sandton

**2018** - Spring Sasol Saloon Exhibition, Teresa Lizamore Gallery, Rosebank

**2018** - Auction at ABSA Annual Champagne Festival, Absa Bank Gallery

- 2019** - Klein Karoo Kunste National Arts Festival (KKNK), Oudthoorn
- 2019** - Lizamore Gallery, group exhibition
- 2019** - Bibliotheca 700, group exhibition, Bag Factory
- 2019** - 'Eulogy: A Tribute to Benon Lutaaya', Lizamore Gallery
- 2019** - 'Speak', group exhibition, The Project Space
- 2019** - Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg
- 2019** - ABSA annual Champagne Festival
- 2019** - Smorgasbord Group Show, Art Africa, Victoria Yards, Johannesburg
- 2019** - Vodacom World Art Exhibition
- 2020** - 'Highlights From the Future', Lizamore Gallery
- 2020** - 'Online Exhibition in Response to the Pandemic', Art & Poetry, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA USA. 2020
- 2020** - Summer group show to celebrate the start of festive season, Riboville Boutique Hotel, Waterfall Estate
- 2020** - 'Moment of Silence', solo exhibition, Lizamore Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2021** - 'Of The 1 Sing: Summer In House' , group exhibition, Lizamore Gallery
- 2021** - Autumn Group Exhibition, Daor Contemporary Gallery, Capetown
- 2021** - Group Exhibition, The Art Room, Parkhurst
- 2021** - Africonic Group Exhibition, Artyli.com Gallery

**2021** - Mstudio Community, group exhibition, Turbine Art Fair

**2022** - 'When Life Doesn't Give You Lemons', group exhibition, Origin Art gallery

**2022** - Saloon collectible exhibition. At Rand Merchant Bank, Sandton

**2022** - 'Into the Light', group exhibition, Artyli.com Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton

**2022** - Asisebenze Art Atelier, group exhibition

## **Auctions**

**2021** - Aspire Art auctions

**2022** - Stephan Welz&Co

**2021** - 'Memory 8' (2020), Latitudes Online

**2020 - 2021** - [www.happypeopleartauction.org](http://www.happypeopleartauction.org), Silent Auction

**2022** - 'When Life Doesn't Give You Lemons', group exhibition, Origin Art, Craighall

**2022** - Saloon Collectible Exhibition, RMB, Sandton

**2022** - 'Into the Light', group exhibition, Artyli.com, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton

**2022** - 'The Fountain', solo exhibition, Lizamore Gallery

**2023** - 'Tales of Our Journeys', group exhibition, UMOJA Gallery, Kampala, Uganda

**2023** - 'Inner City Views', group exhibition, Asisebenze Atelier & Sanlam Private Wealth

**2023** - 'Urban Findings', group exhibition, Lizamore Gallery, Rosebank

## Publications

Picks of the Week - VISI Magazine

**2018** - 'The Work of Artist Patrick Seruwu - Johannesburg-based artist Patrick Seruwu, whose work we spotted at this year's Investec Cape Town Art'

Patrick Seruwu on Why Women are a Mainstay in his Artwork

Contemporary African Artists in South Africa | August House

2019 Migrant in South Africa uses art to fight women's abuse  
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/migrant-in.art>. 2019

Colour Used to Tackle Social Ills, Joburg East Express  
<https://joburgeastexpress.co.za>

**2019** - 'Writing Without Paper', [writingwithoutpaper.blogspot.com](http://writingwithoutpaper.blogspot.com)

New Artist To Watch Feature at Escape Into Life

Patrick Seruwu Streaks of colour Drip Down the Canvas as the Image of a Woman Begins to Take Shape.

## Radio

[www.702.co.za](http://www.702.co.za) › podcasts

## Television

**2019** - ETV Morning Show, South Africa, Patrick Speaking About his Art

**2019** - Beautiful News South Africa Made Possible by Mercedes Benz

**2020** - 'Art, Sweat and the Tears', Real Business Day Newspaper

**2020** - 'Moment of Silence', Randburg, Sun

**2022** - Meet Our Next Teacher, @Imperative\_mag, online radio

**2022** - Conversation Around Art on Air Today with radio host Lebo "Jojo" Mokoena & Tholo Motaung from Opulence Radio