

Artist Statement

“I am concerned about how the livelihood of Black people consists of struggle and sabotage – whilst celebrating the self-determining spirit that marks a long history of civic action, endurance and perseverance, spurred on by the frustration and drive of grassroots communities. This is a central theme of my work. My series of striking crowd scenes, inspired by the Marikana mineworker massacre of 2012, shows militant action not only as an expression of fury, but as a place of refuge and hope in post apartheid South Africa.”

Biography

Asanda Kupa, was born in 1981 in Molteno, a semi-rural village in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Kupa currently lives and works in Johannesburg, but frequently returns to his childhood home.

Education

Asanda Kupa holds an NDip in Fine Art from Walter Sisulu University.

Exhibition History

2022 - 'Time', solo exhibition, GFI Art Gallery, Gqeberha

2022 - 'Victorious tears', group exhibition, Light the flame, Washington, Miami

2021-2022 - 'Discover the Invisible, group exhibition, Light the flame, Washington, Miami

2021 - 'Those Summer Nights', group exhibition, Guns and Rain exhibition

2021 - Eclectica contemporary, Art X Lagos, Nigeria

2021 - RMB Turbine Art Fair, M Studio community

2021 - 'Remnant', duo exhibition, Absa Art Hot Spot

2021 - 'Cloud', group exhibition, Gallery 2 in collaboration Studio Nxumalo

2021 - Bag Factory Art Studios, Cassire Welz Award: 10 year Retrospective

2020 - 'Relearn my Sou', solo exhibition, Eclectica Contemporary

2020 - M Studio community, Turbine Art Fair, Virtual Exhibition

2019 - Artyrama, Art X Lagos, Nigeria

2019 - SAFFCA, Seed1, Johannesburg

2019 - 'Our Contemporary needs and the Other', ABSA GALLERY, Johannesburg

2019 - ABSA Champagne festival

2019 - M Studio community, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg

2019 - Guns & Rain, Investec Cape Town Art Fair

2018 - Guns & Rain, AKA Paris

2018 - Guns & Rain, FNB Joburg Art Fair

2018 - 'Feast Your Eyes', Group Show, Nando's, London, UK

2018 - 'Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs', group exhibition, Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, USA

Awards

Between 2009 and 2011, Asanda Kupa resurrected the Molteno Museum. Kupa was the recipient of both the 'Ann Bryant Young Artist of the Year' award in 2010, and the 'Cassirer Welz Award' in 2013. Kupa was also awarded the Eastern Cape Provincial Cultural Award for Visual Art 2018.