

Mukudzei Muzono



Gazzambo Gallery presents the artwork of Zimbabwean artist Mukudzei Muzono (Kwekwe, 1983).

Mukudzei is a talented artist who stands out for his unique technique based on screen printing and his creative discourse. His latest project, titled "Vessels: A meditation on the states of existence," represents a refreshing repertoire that reflects the richness of his artistic talent. Mukudzei uses his own image to explore identity and belonging, seeking to shape and give meaning to the concept of "State of Being."

"Using my body I like to draw from daily experiences of where I am, questioning self, condition of place and my perception of the contemporary society", the artist states.

Technique

The technical process he develops is closely related to his background as a graphic designer. First, he takes a photograph of himself and converts it to black and white. Once he has the desired image, he prints it out, applies oil to make it transparent, and cuts out the image.

Next, he uses an aluminum mesh screen and applies a layer of photosensitive solution (photosol) to it. He places the cut-out image on the screen, with glass on top and black board underneath the screen to protect it from light coming from below. The process continues in a dark room and concludes by briefly exposing the image to the sun for a few seconds allowing the photosensitive layer to harden¹. He washes the screen with pressurized water to obtain the negative, which is then dried and places on the canvas.

He primes the canvas and makes incisions with a sharp object. Then he pours drawing ink onto these incisions, waits for an hour, and after removing the canvas from the stretcher, he reverses it. The result is completely arbitrary and unique in each case.

The reverse side now becomes the front, where he places the screen with the image and presses it to print using paints. First he applies a white base layer, then the color. Finally, just before it completely dries, he applies a darker color, as it is easier to play with the colors when the paint is not completely dry.

Exhibitions and professional projects

Mukudzei has been able to participate in numerous exhibitions and projects that have established him as one of the most prominent artists in the African country. At the national level, he has collaborated with distinguished institutions such as the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. And at the international level, he has been able to exhibit in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Zambia, the USA, Germany, France, and for the first time, in Spain with this new exhibition at Gazzambo Gallery.

Exhibitions

2019

Allegories of Thoughts, Artillery Tribal and Contemporary Art, Harare Zimbabwe

2018

Thupelo International Artists Workshop Exhibition, Greatmore Studios Cape Town, South Africa

Resurrection, Group Exhibition, Artillery Tribal and Contemporary Art, Harare Zimbabwe

2017

African Voices: Confronting the Frontiers of Reality

Being, solo exhibition, Amanzi Contemporary, Harare

Zimbabwe Annual Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

2016

Matarenda, group exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

Beyond the Body, group exhibition, Tsoko Gallery

Annual exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

2011

Group exhibition *EU Continental dialogues*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

Group exhibition *HIFA Beyond Borders*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

Two man exhibition *ZIMAGES*, Zimbabwe German Society

2010

Group exhibition *Drawins n graphics*, Delta Gallery, Zimbabwe

Group exhibition, *Facet, Zimbabwe Now*, Delta Gallery, Zimbabwe

Group exhibition *Activism against gender violence*

Group exhibition *Audacity of Hope*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

2009

Doula, Durban, Harare via Cape – Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa

WATI CHII? Group exhibition, HIFA,

Group exhibition *Unity*, Delta Gallery, Zimbabwe

Group exhibition *Cottco*, National Gallery Zimbabwe

Group exhibition *Walls*, Delta Gallery, Zimbabwe

2008

Patsime Art Festival, AIDS AWARENESS, Harare

Group exhibition, Delta Gallery, Zimbabwe

Group Exhibition, *Cardboard print*, Dzimbanhete Art Interaction Centre, Zimbabwe

2007

Two man Exhibition Artist in Residence, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

COMESA Exhibition, Lusaka, Zambia

Group exhibition Mutare, National Gallery Zimbabwe

Expressions Zimbabwe, University of Avignon, France

2006

Final Year Exhibition, National Gallery Zimbabwe Art for Hope, US Embassy, Zimbabwe

2005

Final Year Exhibition, National Gallery Zimbabwe

Residences & Workshops

- Ophans Bulawayo Workshop with Aina Arts based at Harvard University Art Sense Workshop HIFA 2006
- Cardboard Print Workshop, Dzimbanhete Arts Interactions, Zimbabwe
- 3-D Graphite Workshop, HIFA 2009, National Gallery of Zimbabwe
- Visiting Artist Residence Programme at Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa, 2009
- AtWork Lettera 27 Workshop, 2017 National Gallery of Zimbabwe
- Thupelo International Artists Workshop Exhibition, Greatmore Studios Cape Town, 2018

Awards

Second Prize, Drawing and Graphics category, Delta Gallery, Harare Zimbabwe

Second Prize, Painting category, Cottco, National Gallery of Zimbabwe

Second Prize, Drawing and Graphics category, Delta Gallery

Mukudzei in Gazzambo Gallery



The hand that feeds, Mukudzei Muzono, 140 x 125 cm, 2023

Rest II, Mukudzei Muzono, 150 x 130 cm, 2023

