

HABASHWE GROUP EXHIBITION

- ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

YOUNG GENERATION (2006 – 2016)

Masixole Ncevu (b. 1990)

Masixole Ncevu is a Cape Town based photographer and Artist. He has just completed an advanced course in photography at Vega in Cape Town and recently moved to Johannesburg in pursuit of various projects. His images consist of people and scenes from everyday life but have multiple readings that have over the years shifted and reformed the way in which Masixole sees the world around him through photography. His penchant for shooting street scenes and people he comes across in his daily interactions. His focus lies in fashion, portraits, documentary and travel photography. In 2015 Masixole has received the Fresh Cream award.

Tatenda Magasai (b. 1990)

Tatenda Magaisa currently lives and works in Johannesburg. She completed a BAFA at Wits University in 2013 and a MAFA by Research in 2016. Her primary research interests include globalisation, global cultural interaction, representation in mass media, popular culture, and the changing boundaries that define race and gender. At the moment this is presented by an analysis of who is included and excluded in the global colour spectrum. Other interests include ideas around colorism and feminism all of which are related a personal engagements with issues of race and gender.

Sipho Mpongo (b. 1993)

Sipho Mpongo was born in Nqamakwe in the Eastern Cape in 1993 and was raised in Langa, Cape Town. Mpongo began his pursuit of photography through *Illiso Labantu*, a local photographic mentorship program that provides a platform for young photographers. He has recently completed a full time course in study at the Cape Town School of Photography whilst simultaneously contributing to various photographic group shows and projects in Cape Town and internationally.

Khehla Chapape Makgato (date?)

Khehla Chepape Makgato was born in Kensington, Johannesburg and raised in Makotopong outside Polokwane in Limpopo. Chepape has a diploma equivalence for Fine Arts majoring in Printmaking from Artist Proof Studio. He also has a Diploma in Media Practice majoring in Journalism through Boston Media House, Sandton Campus. In 2012 Chepape was selected as one of two South African delegates and one of three SADC regional youth delegates to the 2012 Africa Utopia Youth Arts, Cultural and Olympia Festivals of the World at the Southbank Centre in London, UK. He has participated in numerous art exhibitions and projects both locally and internationally (Johannesburg, Polokwane, Cape Town, Washington DC and London). He works fulltime as an artist at Assemblage Studios.

Senzo Tshabangu (b.1985)

Senzo Shabangu was born in Driefontein, Mpumalanga, South Africa, and spent a large part of his childhood living at an apostolic mission station. Shabangu came to Johannesburg in 2006 after completing his Matric, and although he had dreams of becoming a pilot, he ended up studying printmaking at the Artist Proof Studio in Newtown (2006-2008) after being introduced to the art through the Taxi Art Education Program at the Johannesburg Central Library. In 2008 Shabangu's work was chosen to represent the Many Voices, One Movement Global Conference for which he produced an edition of linocut prints for the conference attendees. Shabangu's work was also selected to form part of the advertising for the World Art Summit at Museum Africa in 2009. He has won numerous awards including David Koloane Award. His work has recently been shown at the 2014 Johannesburg Art Fair.

MID-CAREER (1996 -2006)

Andrew Tshabangu (b. 1966)

Andrew Tshabangu is a South-African photographer, born in Soweto in 1966. His photography has been exhibited internationally in various exhibitions. Tshabangu is renowned for his surreal smoky lighting, documents the rituals of black communities in urban Africa. Tshabangu claimed to be fascinated by the fact of photographing interiors of living spaces without the physical presence of the inhabitants. In 2015, he participated in the exhibition *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell Revisited by Contemporary African Artists* (in Scad Museum, USA & Moderne Kunst Frankfurt/Main (MMK) in Frankfurt, Germany.) His works carries a philosophical assertion rooted on Dante's ideas about hell, heaven and purgatory, and religion overall. For fifteen years, photographers Andrew Tshabangu and René Paul Savignan led the project "Bridges" during common stays in Reunion and South Africa, dealing with religious practices of different communities. Tshabangu lives and works in Johannesburg.

Tracey Rose (b. 1974)

Tracey Rose was born in 1974 in Durban, and currently lives and works in Durban, South Africa. She received her B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, in 1996, and earned a Masters of Fine Arts from Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK, in 2007. In 2006, she was named one of the 50 greatest cultural figures coming out of Africa by *The Independent* newspaper in London, UK. Rose has had solo presentations in South Africa, as well as in Europe and the Americas, has been featured in major international events such as the Venice Biennale in 2001 and her work has been included in seminal exhibitions such as *Snap Judgments: New Positions in Contemporary African Photography* and *Africa Remix. Tracey Rose: Waiting for God*, the artist's mid-career retrospective, was held at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 2011. Rose continues to show in major international platforms including Art Basel, Documenta and the Lyon Biennale.

EARLY GENERATION (1986 – 1996)

The Real Amaqabane featuring Blondie Makhene (1991)

LP Cover Artwork

A Dog and Freedom (1987)

Poster by Open School in Soweto

This poster was derived from a publication of the same title which is a collection of essays by black South African school children discussing the political strife in their country and its effect on their daily lives. It was published through the work done at the Open School in Soweto.

Walter Pichler (date?)

Pichler was Born in Vienna, Austria but spent most of his school years in Salzburg. He studied glass painting and engraving and thereafter went back to Vienna, where he spent a couple of years making stained glass windows and restoring old ones. From 1963 to 1968 he studied graphic design on the Academy for commercial art in Vienna . During this time he started to do book illustrations. He met Pat, a South African girl, and after finishing his degree they married and came to South Africa in 1968. For the next 10 years he worked for various ad agencies and design studios in Johannesburg , where he lived with Pat and their 2 daughters. He also freelanced for newspapers (The Star, Pretoria News and Sunday Times) and magazines (Financial Mail and Style , etc, doing cartoons and illustrations. Never entirely happy in the ad industry he went fully freelance in 1978 - the second best move he ever made. In addition to the above mentioned work he did cartoons and strips for a number of house magazines and newsletters, as well as ad agencies. From 1985 to 1998 he did a daily cartoon for the front page of Business Day and for 6 years the cover of the SA Builder. In 1994 he moved to Cape Town , where he is working for all the major publishers doing illustrations and cartoons for, amongst others, text books. He has had two of his own cartoon books published. One of them educational, for pre-school children, together with Pat who is a pre-school teacher. The other one has a sporting theme. He likes to work on large, busy, pictures on any subject, for posters or calendars. Another speciality of his are framed caricatures for corporates and private clients. His medium is mainly pen and ink with water colours but is very flexible and uses other techniques, if called for.

Wapko Jensma (1939 -)

Wokpo was born on 26 July 1939 in Middelburg, Cape Town. He received his education at the University of Potchefstroom, but his studies were temporally interrupted by a motorcycle accident. However, from 1961 to 1964 he enrolled for a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with Botshabelo Training College and the University of Pretoria, and majored in sculpture. During this period, he also worked as an editor for Gerwe Magazine, and as a translator for the Afrikaanse Boekhandel Beperk. Jensma has been known for his extensive traveling, and work experience in countries such as Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique. He taught art at Serowe Art School in Botswana. Many art analysts have spoken greatly about Jensma's work, although critics have also found flaws. Most spoken about, is the ability to use multiple languages in his poems to strike the message home. As a privileged White artist, he spoke openly about the injustices that were experienced by Black people during apartheid. His poems *Once and Now*, speaks openly about racism experienced by young girls working as domestic workers. Written around the 1970s, these poems could also be read as an extension of his personal experiences with the South African government. He had a mixed racial marriage that was not allowed or even recognized by the South African laws. But, *Once and Now*, is not the only poem which Jensma displays his distaste of apartheid laws, in *Where White is the colour/Where Black is the number*, critically looks at the meaning of being Whiter and Black in South Africa. Written in 1977, this poem was banned.

POST HUMOUS (1976 -1986)

Dumisani Mabaso (1955 – 2013)

Dumisani Abraham Mabaso was born on 20 June 1955 in Soweto. He received his initial basic art training at the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) in Dube in Soweto. In 1970 to 1974 he studied art further at the Mofolo Arts Centre and then taught at the YWCA for nearly 2 years. After completing a printmaking course at Rorke's Drift Art School, Mabaso taught at the Mofolo Arts Centre from 1978-79. In 1980-81 he headed the Fine Art department at the Federated Union of Black Artists (FUBA) in Newtown, Johannesburg, and continued studying printmaking at the Witwatersrand Technikon. In 1986 he attended the New York Triangle Workshop, which annually brought together artists from around the world to exchange ideas and share knowledge. In 1987 he participated in the Thupelo Workshops in Johannesburg. Mabaso is a co-founder with Anthony Nkosi of the Hammanskraal Workshop.

Peter Clarke (1929 – 2014)

Peter Edward Clarke was born in Cardiff Road, Simon's Town, Western Cape on 2 June 1929, the third born child in a family of six. His mother was a domestic worker and his father a dockyard labourer. His parents were both interested in reading and inculcated in him the love for reading.

Clarke's family moved to a two bed roomed cottage in Wesley Street when he was four years old. He attended the Boys Mission School and Arsenal Road Secondary School. In 1944, he went to Livingston High school to do grade 9. He was a free spirited boy who did not enjoy the regimented life at school. After spending a year at Livingston High School, he told his parents that he no longer wanted to go to school. With assistance from his lifelong friend, poet [James Matthews](#), Clarke held his first solo exhibition in the newsroom of the newspaper *The Golden City Post*, in 1957. At that time he said: "Before my exhibition, I was just another coloured man. Our people took it for granted that only whites could do such things. Now they are becoming aware of the fact that we can do these things too; that we are human beings". Clarke was best known for his graphic prints, particularly his woodcuts and in later years he moved into collage. He also used leather, glass, found objects and other mixed media to produce his colourful work. His artistic career spanned more than six decades and he produced a large number of works and appeared in many exhibitions.

Nevertheless, despite this experience and exposure, it has been said that his work was not given the full recognition it deserves. Described as a "quiet chronicler", his work offers a critique of South Africa's social and political history over 60 years. He received six international as well as six national awards for his art and writing and had more than 70 solo exhibitions since 1957 in South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Australia, USA, Norway, Israel, Austria & the UK. He also had many group shows in South Africa, Yugoslavia, Germany, Brazil, Austria, Italy, USA, Argentine, Norway, Botswana, Japan, Switzerland & France. In 2005 he was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga

(silver) by President [Thabo Mbeki](#) and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. His 2011 exhibition was entitled *Listening To Distant Thunder*. A major retrospective exhibition of his work, *Wind Blowing on the Cape Flats*, took place in [London](#) in 2013

David Mbele (1942 – 2014)

David was born in Johannesburg in 1942 and developed an early interest in art. He sketched township life as he observed it but rendered it in a stylized manner in his drawings. In 1958 he joined the Polly Street Jubilee Art Centre in Johannesburg. Mbele worked predominately in charcoal, pastel and in various other graphic media. He also carved in wood. He had a density in the way he approached his medium, he concentrated on studies of people and occasionally animals. His work was reproduced on the cover of "South African Contemporary Artists" in 1980 and the cover of "Contrast 51" in 1982. Mbele began exhibiting his work in 1960, during this time his work showed in group shows in South Africa, West Germany, Italy, the USA, Spain and France. In 1961 he had his first of four solo exhibitions at the Adler Fielding Gallery in Johannesburg. David's works have been highly acclaimed in Atlanta, Georgia, USA where he exhibited in 1989.

Winston Churchill Masakeng Saoli (1950 – 1995)

Winston Churchill Masakeng Saoli was born on 3 January 1950 in the town of Acornhoek, Eastern Transvaal, now known as [Mpumalanga](#) Province. He was the second of six children, the son of the Reverend Russell Saoli. As a child, he attended the Arthurseat Lower Primary School, where his father was headmaster. When his family moved to Soweto in 1963, Saoli enrolled at the Morris Isaacson School in Moroka. Saoli cultivated an interest in art inspired by the drawings of his older brother, Chamberlain, and the carvings his grandfather made in wood and stone. He began attending classes at the [Jubilee Art Centre](#), where artists such as [Ephraim Ngatane](#) and [Ezrom Legae](#) encouraged his work. He had his first solo at [Johannesburg's](#) Goodman Gallery, the show sold out, and was soon followed by the appearance of Saoli's work at the Contemporary African Art exhibition at the Camden Arts Centre in London.

Nathaniel (Nat) Ntwayakgosi Mokgosi (1946 – 2016)

In 1965, at the age of 19, Nat Mokgosi, having completed his schooling, became a member of the Ricky and the Diamonds pop group. The following year he enrolled at the Jubilee Art Centre in Johannesburg for a year. He subsequently spent some time teaching at the Open School in Johannesburg before launching his career as a full-time artist in 1970.

The influence of Ezrom Legae (1939–1999) (qv.), under whom he studied at the Jubilee Art Centre, is a strong, underlying feature of his work. Mokgosi has however synthesised from his teacher and other diverse sources an idiom that is uniquely his own. African legends, the Bible as well as Greek mythology fired his visual imagination. Stylistically, to some extent, the cross-hatching of forms in the work of Judith Mason (b.1938) were also internalised by Mokgosi via Legae's own adaptations of her technique. A concern of Legae's work that Mokgosi continues to some degree is the concept of animism; the mystic union between man and animal, which was also explored by Dumile Feni (qv.). This is seen in many of Mokgosi's works, for example his mixed media work *The Flight of Nku* (1978) in the University of Fort Hare Collection