

Gabrielle Goliath



Biography

Through the ritual, sonic and social encounters of her art practice, Gabrielle Goliath (b. 1983, South Africa) attends (and tends) to histories and present-day conditions of differentially valued life, reaffirming ways in which black, brown, femme and queer practices of possibility perform the world differently. Each of her works convenes a coming-to – a tenuous community – collapsing the presumed remove and privileged subject position of representation (as white, male, heteronormative) and calling for meetings in and across difference, on terms of complicity, relation and love.

In 2024, Goliath presented her first solo exhibition titled 'Personal Accounts', at a major UK institution, Talbot Rice Gallery. Goliath's immersive, often durational installations have shown across South Africa and internationally. She has won several awards including a Future Generation Art Prize – Special Prize (2019), the Standard Bank Young Artist Award (2019), and the Institut Français, Afrique en Créations Prize at the Bamako Biennale (2017).

Recent exhibitions include: Personal Accounts, Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, UK (2024); Personal Accounts, 60th Venice Biennale (2024). This ongoing body of work is a transnational, decolonial, black feminist project of repair; Beloved, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (2023); Chorus, Dallas Contemporary (2022), Dallas; This song is for..., Kunsthau Baselland, Basel (2022); This song is for..., Konsthall C, Stockholm (2021); Our Red Sky, Göteborgs Konsthall, Gothenburg (2020); and The Power of my Hands, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris (2020).

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Collections include: Kunsthalle Zürich; TATE Modern, Frac Bretagne, Iziko South African National Gallery, Johannesburg Art Gallery, and Wits Art Museum.

Goliath lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Personal Accounts*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2024** *This song is for... Vol I*, Frac Bretagne, Rennes
- 2023** *Beloved*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2022** *Chorus*, Dallas Contemporary, Dallas
- 2022** *This song is for...*, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel
- 2021** *Chorus & This song is for... Vol I*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town
- 2021** *This song is for...*, Talbot Rice, Edinburgh
- 2021** *Roulette*, Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
- 2021** *This song is for...*, Konsthall C, Sweden
- 2021** *This song is for...*, Durban Art Gallery, Durban
- 2020** *This song is for...*, Göteborgs Konsthall, Sweden
- 2019** *This song is for...*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town
- 2019** *This song is for...*, Standard Bank Gallery / Johannesburg
- 2019** *This song is for...*, Monument Gallery / Makhanda
- 2019** *Elegy*, Cornelia van Piloane, AfroVibes Festival, Amsterdam & Rotterdam
- 2019** *Elegy...*, *Kagiso Maema*, Theatre of Vulnerability (It's the Real Thing Performance Art Festival), Basel
- 2018** *Elegy / Louisa van de Caab*, Iziko Slave Lodge, Cape Town
- 2018** *Elegy / Eunice Nthombifuthi Dube*, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg
- 2018** *Elegy / Sizakele Sigasa and Salome Masooa*, Verbo 2018, São Paulo
- 2018** *Elegy / Sizakele Sigasa and Salome Masooa*, Videobrasil, São Paulo
- 2018** *Elegy / Joan Thabeng*, National Arts Festival / Grahamstown
- 2018** *Elegy / Joan Thabeng*, Do Disturb Festival, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2018** *This song is for...Nondumiso Msimanga*, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg
- 2017** *Elegy / Karabo Mokoena*, The Holocaust and Genocide Centre, Johannesburg
- 2017** *Elegy / Hannah Cornelius*, Spielart Festival, Munich
- 2017** *Elegy / Camron Britz*, Spielart Festival / Munich
- 2017** *Elegy / Lerato 'Tambai' Moloi*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town
- 2017** *Stumbling Blocks*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town

2017 *Elegy / Lekita Moore*, Duke University, Durham
2017 *Elegy / Noluvo Swelindawo*, ICA Live Art Festival, Cape Town
2016 *Elegy / Koketso "Queen"*, Richmond Art Centre Atrium, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
2016 *Elegy / Sinxolo Mafevuka*, Langa Methodist Church, Cape Town
2015 *Elegy / Ipeleng Christine Moholane*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town
2014 *Faces of War*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
2011 *Murder on 7th*, Nirox at Arts on Main, Johannesburg
2010 *Berenice*, Circa, Johannesburg
2009 *Murder on 7th*, Gallery Momo, Johannesburg

Group Exhibitions

2024 *Personal Accounts*, Jaou Biennale, Tunis
2024 *Personal Accounts*, 60th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia "Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere", Venice
2024 *Rewilding*, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel
2024 *Cantando Bajito: Testimonies*, Ford Foundation, New York
2023 *These three remain*, Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
2021 *A Biography of Daphne*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia
2021 *La clairière d'Eza Boto – Opus I: Imagine a huge clearing in our forest*, L'Orangerie – Jardin des Plantes de Rouen, Rouen, France
2021 *In Our Veins Flow Ink and Fire*, Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi
2020 *The Power of my Hands*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
2020 *Our Red Sky*, Göteborgs Konsthall, Gothenburg
2019 *Le Guess Who*, Centraal Museum, Utrecht
2019 *I've grown roses in this garden of mine...*, Goodman Gallery, London
2019 *Future Generation Art Prize*, Palazzo: Ca' Tron University, Venice
2019 *Kubatana – An Exhibition with Contemporary African Artists*, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway
2019 *Future Generation Art Prize*, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev
2019 *Conversations in Gondwana*, São Paulo Cultural Center, São Paulo
2018 *Fracture Zone*, 24th International Symposium on Electronic Art, Durban
2018 *Harboured*, Analogue Eye, Silo's District V&A Waterfront, Cape Town
2018 *Nirox Winter Sculpture Fair*, Nirox Sculpture Park, Krugersdorp, South Africa
2018 *Evidence of things not seen: Performing gendered and Queer Identities*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
2017 *11th Les Recontres de Bamako African Biennale of Photography, Afrotopia: Mobilize Possibilities*, PAC Pavilion of Contemporary Art, Bamako
2017 *AFRICA. Raccontare un mondo*, PAC Pavilion of Contemporary Art, Milan
2017 *Looking after Freedom*, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town, Cape Town
2017 *Writing for the Eye/ Writing for the Ear*, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg, South Africa
2017 *Encounters of Bamako*, African Biennale of Photography, Bamako, Mali
2017 *Report Back: States of Grace*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *Africa Raccontare un Mondo*, PAC Padiglioni d'Arte, Milan, Italy
2017 *SpielART Festival*, Munich, Germany
2017 *Live Art Network Africa Launch*, Institute for Creative Arts UCT, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *The Evidence of Things Not Seen*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
2016 *After the Thrill is Gone*, Richmond Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, USA
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *Sights and Sounds: South Africa*, Jewish Museum, New York
2015 *In Print – In Focus*, Michaelis Gallery, Cape Town
2014 *Brave New World*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town
2014 *Language Games*, Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
2013 *Between the Lines*, Former Tagesspiegel Building (Between the Lines, Symposium North), Berlin, Germany
2012 *Rewind: Dathini Mzayiya & Gabrielle Goliath*, Centre for African Studies, UCT, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *A Shot to the Arse*, The Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *Working Title*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *Photoville*, Tierney Fellowship Exhibit, New York, USA
2012 *Dak'Art, Biennale of Contemporary African Art: Contemporary Creation and Social Dynamics*, Senegal
2011 *Alternating Conditions: Performing Performance Art in South Africa*, Goethe on Main and Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2019 Panel Discussion, Theatre of Vulnerability (It's the Real Thing Performance Art Festival), Basel
2019 Panel Discussion, No Innocence This Side of the Womb Symposium, Syracuse University, Syracuse
2019 Artist's Talk, Fonte Residency, São Paulo
2018 Academic Presentation, Live Art Network Africa, ICA, University of Cape Town
2017 Academic Presentation, CFP: A Feminist Space at Leeds: Looking Back to Think Forward, Leeds University
2017 Artist's Lecture, Nondumiso Msimanga 3rd Year Class, Wits University
2017 Lesser Violence, Panel Discussion, Visual Identities in Art & Design (VIAD), University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg
2017 Academic Presentation, Life Narratives Conference, Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, Johannesburg
2017 Artist's Lecture & Panel Discussion with Anne-Maria Makhulu & Walter Mignolo, Duke University, Durham
2016 Academic Presentation, Black Portraiture Conference, Turbine Hall, Johannesburg
2016 Academic Presentation, Draft conference, Zurich
2016 Artist's Lecture, Stellenbosch University
2013 Artist's talk, Between the Lines Symposium, University of Cape Town & Braunschweig University, Cape Town & Braunschweig

Awards and Merits

2019 *Future Generation Art Prize (Special Prize)*, Future Generation Art Prize, Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev
2019 *Standard Bank Young Artist Award*
2017 *Afrique en Créations Prize (Jury Prize)*, Institut Français, Bamako Encounters Biennale, Mali
2015 *Ampersand Foundation Fellowship*, New York

- 2011 *Tierney Fellowship Award*, Tierney Foundation, New York
- 2010 *Brait Everard Read Award*, Circa, Johannesburg
- 2007 *Art's Alive*, Johannesburg
- 2007 *Wits Martienssen Show*, Wits School of Arts, Johannesburg

Academic Record and Residencies

- 2018-present PHD candidate (Live, Interdisciplinary & Public Art), Institute for Creative Arts (ICA), University of Cape Town
- 2011 MAFA (with distinction), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- 2007 BAFA, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence & Lecture, Gwen Frostic School of Art, University of Western Michigan, Kalamazoo
- 2003 Diploma Fashion Design, Technikon of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Publications

- 2019 *A Different Kind of Inhabitation – Invocation and the Politics of Mourning in Performance Work* by Tracey Rose and Donna Kukama in *Acts of Transgression – Contemporary live art in South Africa*, eds. Jay Pather & Catherine Boulle, Published by Wits University Press
- 2017 *Afrotopia 11th Edition*, Rencontres de Bamako, Published by Ministry of Culture, Mali, Éditions Dilecta, Exhibition catalogue
- 2014 *South African Live Art and the Representation of its Residue: On Gabrielle Goliath's Stumbling Block*, in *Performativity in the Gallery – Staging Interactive Encounters*, Outi Remes, Laura MacCulloch & Marika Leino, pub. Peter Lang
- 2012 *Altering Conditions: Performing Performance Art in South Africa*
Editor: Claudia Marion Stemberger, Exhibition catalogue
- 2012 *Dak'Art Biennale – 10th Biennale of Contemporary African Art*
Published by the Republic of Senegal, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Exhibition catalogue
- 2012 *Space: Currencies in Contemporary African Art*, Co-published by Africa World Press and Unisa Press, Editor: Thembinkosi Goniwe, Exhibition Catalogue

Performances

- 2018 *This song is for...Nondumiso Msimanga / Season 3*, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg
- 2018 *Elegy / Sizakele Sigasa and Salome Masooa*, Verbo 2018, São Paulo
- 2018 *Elegy / Sizakele Sigasa and Salome Masooa*, Videobrasil, São Paulo
- 2018 *Elegy / Joan Thabeng*, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown
- 2018 *Elegy / Joan Thabeng*, Do Disturb Festival, Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2017 *Elegy / Hannah Cornelius*, Spielart Festival, Munich
- 2017 *Elegy / Camron Britz*, Spielart Festival, Munich
- 2017 *Elegy / Lerato 'Tambai' Moloi*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town
- 2017 *Stumbling Blocks*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town
- 2017 *Elegy / Lekita Moore*, Duke University, Durham
- 2017 *Elegy / Noluvo Swelindawo*, ICA Live Art Festival, Cape Town
- 2016 *Elegy / Koketso "Queen"*, Richmond Art Centre Atrium, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo
- 2016 *Elegy / Sinxolo Mafevuka*, Langa Methodist Church, Cape Town
- 2016 *Stumbling Block' performance*, Institute for Creative Arts, Cape Town
- 2015 *Elegy / Ipeleng Christine Moholane*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012 *South Africa*, Goethe on Main & The Bag Factory, Johannesburg
- 2011 *Transformations: Women's Art from the late 19 Century – 2010*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2010 *Blissful Disturbance – WITS Masters and Fine Art Students*, Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town
- 2010 *Unshape*, Maker, Johannesburg
- 2010 *SPace*, Museum Africa, Johannesburg
- 2010 *US*, South Africa National Gallery, Cape Town
- 2009 *Art that comes towards you*, Spring Art Tour, VANSAs, Johannesburg
- 2009 *Domestic*, Goethe Institute Arts on Main, Johannesburg
- 2009 *Sasol New Signatures*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria
- 2008 *Four Tales*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg
- 2007 *Art's Alive JHB City Exhibition*, Johannesburg
- 2007 *Lost and Found*, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg