

# The Brother Moves On

## Biography

As soon as you touch me I change -  
Mr Gold, The Bother Moves on

Self proclaimed art movement The Brother Moves On is an ever-evolving performance art collective founded by Nkululeko Mthembu and his brother Siyabonga Mthembu. Determined to belie any one definition, the collective's work is often deliberately improvised and unpredictable. Collaboration drives the collective, which strives to undermine the traditional authority of individual artist practice and ownership.

Long term members of the collective include Siyabonga Mthembu, Zelizwe Mthembu, Ayanda Zalekile, Simphiwe Tshabalala, Oscar Kgwane, Itani Thalefi, Hlubi Vhakalise, Malcolm Jiyane, Nolan Oswald Dennis and Stuart Cairns but membership is constantly fluctuating and transient.

Various performers, writers, artists, musicians and activists may collaborate at any given time on different projects before moving on.

The collective create live performances and installations so that meaning is generated through an experience rather than contained within one object. Fiction, re-enactment and the fantastical are utilized in performances like *The Afterlife of Mr Gold*, which chronicles both the life and afterlife of a supernatural fat cat - and *The Brother Breaks the Bullion* and *The Brother Burns the Bullion* - where real world economics and queer identity are amalgamated into a fable of greed and power.

In combining elements of fiction, the supernatural and the fantastical with factual history or recorded 'truths' in their installations and performances, The Brother Moves On defamiliarises our experience of both our present and our past. Performative fiction, which drives so much of The Brother Moves On instigates the altered realities through which the collective critique and comment on the socio-political issues of our own reality.

## Artist Statement

The Brother Moves On (TBMO) got tired of the idea of being a band and embraced a multi-aesthetic multi-disciplinary concept of a collective happening to new spaces and places.

"Re-challenging hip hop's five pillars (MCing, DJing, B-boying, graffiti writing and knowledge of self) into a concept-technic performance art project that incorporates historical, political and sociological perspectives" the collective hopes to remind and be reminded of the worth of its art.

## Solo Exhibitions

2016 *Hlabelela: It's a New Mourning Nkush*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2016 *Ubu Never Loved Us*, Berliner Festspiel, Berlin, Germany

2015 *The Afterlife of Mr Gold*, Goodman Gallery / King Kong, Johannesburg South Africa

2014 Hank Willis Thomas *Black Righteous Space*, Featuring the Brother Moves On, Goodman Gallery / Alexander Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014 *The Brother Burns the Bullion*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg South Africa

2013 *The Brother Breaks the Bullion*, Goethe on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa