

# Misheck Masamvu



## Biography

Oscillating between abstraction and figuration, Misheck Masamvu's (b. 1980, Mutare, Zimbabwe) works allow him to address the past while searching for a way of being in the world. As one of the most significant artists from Zimbabwe, Masamvu's work offers a renewed understanding of visual culture in Africa and the decolonial project more broadly. Rhythmic lines and layered fields of colour have become a prominent language for Masamvu to explore structures of power and how history comes to bear on the contemporary moment, but also how one can adapt to a new way of interacting with the world.

Selected solo exhibitions: *Show me how ruins make a home*, A Gentil Carioca, São Paulo (2024); *Exit Wounds*, Goodman Gallery, New York (2024); *Safety Pin*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2023); *Pivot*, Bernier/Eliades Gallery, Brussels (2023); *Talk to me while I'm eating*, Goodman Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2021); *Hata*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2019); *Still Still*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town; Misheck Masamvu, Institut Français, Paris, France (2015); *Disputed Seats*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal (2009).

Notable group exhibitions include: *Kuvhunura/Kupinda nemwenje mudziva*, Fondation Blachere Bonnioux, France (2024); *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, The Institutum, Singapore (2024); *Inside Out*, Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva (2022); *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA (2020); *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami (2020); *Two Together*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town (2020); *Five Bobh: Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2017); *Africa 2.0 > is there a Contemporary African art?*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon (2010); *Art, Migration and Identity*, Africa Museum, Arnhem (2008); and *696*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare (2008).

Major international exhibitions include: *The 't' is silent*, 8th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium (2022); *STILL ALIVE*, 5th Aichi Triennale, Aichi, Japan (2022); *NIRIN*, 22nd Sydney Biennale, Sydney (2020); *Incerteza Viva (Live Uncertainty)*, the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo (2016) and his international debut at Zimbabwe's inaugural Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011).

Collections include: A4 Arts Foundation (Cape Town, South Africa); Braunsfelder Family Collection (Cologne, Germany); Uieshema Collection (Tokyo, Japan); Perez Art Museum (Miami, USA); Pigozzi Collection (Geneva, Switzerland); Taguchi Art Collection (Tokyo, Japan); Fukutake Foundation (Auckland, New Zealand); COMMA Foundation (Damme, Belgium); ANA Collection (Lagos, Nigeria); Sigg Art Foundation, Le Castellet, France; Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (Geneva, Switzerland); and Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Cape Town, South Africa).

Masamvu lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2021** *Carnivorous Words*, Goodman Gallery Projects, East Hampton, United States of America
- 2021** *Talk to me while I'm eating*, Goodman Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2019** *Hata*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Still / Still*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Still*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015** *Misheck Masamvu*, Institut Français, Paris, France
- 2014** *Life Sentence*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *Epitaph*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Shame*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2009** *Disputed Seats*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2006** *Relay*, Munich, Germany
- 2006** *Colour of Sweat*, Bonn, Germany
- 2003** *A Naked Mind II*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2002** *A Naked Mind I*, National Gallery, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

## Group Exhibitions

- 2022** *STILL ALIVE*, 5th Aichi Triennale, Aichi, Japan (forthcoming)
- 2022** *The 't' is silent*, 8th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium (forthcoming)
- 2022** *When We See Us*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (forthcoming)
- 2022** *Inside Out*, Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2021** *The same space three times*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *XXL*, OPEN24HRS Studio and Project Space, Cape Town, South Africa

**2021** *SOUTH SOUTH: Everything fits to our daily needs*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2020** *Did ever think there would come a time?*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2020** *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA  
**2020** *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA  
**2020** *Alles Notwendige (Everthing Necessary)*, Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany  
**2020** *NIRN*, 22nd Sydney Biennale, Sydney, Australia  
**2019** *I've grown roses in this garden of mine*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK  
**2019** *Borders*, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA  
**2019** *Two Together*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2018** *Five Bhoob Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2018** *In Context: this past was waiting for me...*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2018** *Narrative Means*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2018** *Jeepers, Creepers*, Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany  
**2017** *All things being equal*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2017** *When Heaven Meets the Earth*, Heong Gallery, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK  
**2016** *Incerteza Viva (Live Uncertainty)*, 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil  
**2016** *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2016** *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2015** *Triangle*, with Tayseer Barakat and Ismail Al Rifai, curated by Mohamed Abou Elnaga, The Mojo Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
**2014** *next thing you know*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2013** *Afroplicity*, Njelele Art Station, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2013** *blank projects in Johannesburg*, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2013** *Working Title*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2013** *Leatherette*, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
**2012** *The Spirit of Two Friendship: Entre Dos Aguas / Pakati Pemugungwa*, Gabarron Foundation, Barcelona, Spain  
**2012** *Dekonstruiert und Geflickt*, Gallerie Françoise Heitsch, Munich, Germany  
**2011** *54th Venice Biennale*, Zimbabwe Pavillion, Venice, Italy  
**2011** São Tomé Biennale, São Tomé and Príncipe  
**2010** *Africa 2.0 > is there a Contemporary African art?*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal  
**2008** *Art, Migration and Identity*, Africa Museum, CBK, Arnhem, Netherlands  
**2008** *Hidden Stories*, Grote Kerk, Haarlem, Netherlands  
**2008** *Many Rivers to Cross*, Cafe Gallery, London, UK  
**2008** 696, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2007** *Paintings and Sculptures*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2006** *Relieving the Trauma*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2006** Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal  
**2006** *The Summer Exhibition*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2005** *Gallery Delta for 30 Years*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2004** *Legacy*, Pasinger Fabrik, Pasing, Munich  
**2004** *New Directions in Zimbabwean Contemporary African Painting*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2003** *Decimation, Deprivation and Decapitation*, Gallery Delta & HIFA, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2003** *Artists for Zimbabwe*, Gallery 27, London, United Kingdom  
**2002** *Pre-Election Selection*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2001** *Colourfields Africa II*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2001** *Africa Exhibit*, Munich, Germany  
**2000** *Colourfields Africa*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**2000** *Colour Africa*, Munich, Germany

## Academic Record and Residencies

**2015** Artist in Residence, Institut Français, Paris  
**2005 – 2007** *Kunste Akademie, Munich*  
 1999 *Atelier Delta*

## Collections

A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 Barloworld Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany  
 Danjuma Collection, London, United Kingdom  
 DRAT Collection, Singapore  
 El Espacio 23, Miami, USA  
 Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Fundacion Yannick y Ben Jakober, Mallorca, Spain  
 Gabarron Foundation, Barcelona, Spain  
 Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 Institut Français, Paris, France  
 National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe  
 Old Parliament Collection, Singapore  
 Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA  
 Perić Collection, Berlin, Germany  
 Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Royal Portfolio Collection, Mutare, Zimbabwe  
 Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa  
 Sina Jina Collection, London, United Kingdom  
 Sovereign Art Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia  
 Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 United States National Embassies Permanent Collection, Washington DC, USA  
 X Museum, Beijing, China

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa