

David Koloane



Biography

David Koloane (1938 – 2019) was born in Alexandra, Johannesburg, South Africa. Koloane spent his career making the world a more hospitable place for black artists during and after apartheid. Koloane achieved this through his pioneering work as an artist, writer, curator, teacher and mentor to young and established artists at a time when such vocations were restricted to white people in South Africa. A large part of this effort involved the initiatives Koloane helped establish, from the first Black Art Gallery in 1977, the Thupelo experimental workshop in 1985 and the Bag Factory Artists' Studios in 1991, where he served as director for many years. Koloane also tutored at the Federated Union of Black Artists (FUBA) in 1979 and became the head of the fine art section and gallery from 1985 to 1990.

Through his expressive, evocative and poetic artwork, Koloane interrogated the socio-political and existential human condition, using Johannesburg as his primary subject matter. Koloane's representations of Johannesburg are populated with images of cityscapes, townships, street life, jazz musicians, traffic jams, migration, refugees, dogs, and birds among others. Imaginatively treated, through the medium of painting, drawing, assemblage, printmaking and mixed media, Koloane's scenes are a blend of exuberant and sombre, discernible and opaque pictorial narratives.

Koloane's work has been widely exhibited locally and internationally. In 1999 he was part of the group exhibition *‘Liberated Voices’* at the National Museum of African Art in Washington DC. In 2013, Koloane's work was shown on the South African pavilion at the 55th *la Biennale di Venezia* and on the group exhibition *‘My Joburg’* at *La Maison Rouge* in Paris. In 1998, the government of the Netherlands honoured Koloane with the Prince Claus Fund Award for his contributions to South African art. Koloane was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate twice, once from Wits University in 2012, and again from Rhodes University in 2015. In 2019 Koloane was the subject of a travelling career survey exhibition, *‘A Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane’*, which opened at *IZIKO SANG* and later travelled to *Standard Bank Gallery* and *Wits Art Museum* in October.

Artist Statement

David Koloane's work focuses on socio-political matters and contributions to the furtherance of disadvantaged black South African artists during and after the apartheid era is evident. My work can be said to reflect the socio-political landscape of South Africa both past and present. The socio-political conditions created by the apartheid system of government have to a large extent transfixed the human condition as the axis around which my work evolves. The human figure has become the icon of creative expression.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *David Koloane: Chronicles of a Resilient Visionary*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
2019 *Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2019 *Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane*, IZIKO Sang, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *In The City*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2014/15 *David Koloane Survey*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
2010 *Twenty Ten and Other Things*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
2008 *Revival*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2006 *New Work*, A.B.A Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2003 *Rituals*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2002 *City Beat*, Seippel Gallery, Germany
1999 *Cityscapes and City Dwellers*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *New Work*, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
1994 *Made in South Africa 2*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1993 *Made in South Africa 1*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1993 Solo Exhibition, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1990 Gallery on the Market, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa
1977 Nedbank Gallery, Killarney, Johannesburg, South Africa
1977 Nedbank Gallery, Killarney, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2018 *Hacer Noche/Crossing Night*, Oaxaca City, Mexico
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2014 *Controversial ways of seeing*, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2013 *Imaginary Fact: Contemporary South African Art and the Archive*, South African Pavilion, 55th la Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy
2012 *Terra firma*, Fried Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, Pretoria, South Africa
2011 *e-Scapes*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 *KOLOANE MABASO MASHILE MAUTLOA*, Gallery AOP, Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *_Print Run*, David Krut Publishing, Cape Town, South Africa
2006 *Unhomely* – Seville Bienale, Seville, Spain
2002 *Ubuntu*, Malaysia Art Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2000 *South African Artists*, Seippel Gallery, Germany
1999 *Liberated Voices*, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
1996-1997 *South Africa National Gallery*, Cape Town, South Africa
1996 *Alvar Aalto Museum*, Jyvaskyla, Finland
1996 *_Bomani* Gallery, San Francisco, USA
1995 *_Zora Neal Hurston* National Museum of Fine Art Hurstonville, Florida, USA
1995 *_Meridian* International Center, Washington DC, USA
1995 *South African Murals*, ICA Gallery, London, UK
1995 *Art from South Africa*, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK
1989-90 *Touring Exhibition*, Nordic Countries
1989 *African Encounter*, Dome Gallery, New York, USA
1989 *The Neglected Tradition*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1988 *Pachipamwe International Artists Workshop*, Zimbabwe National Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe
1988 *_Group show with Dumile Feni and Louis Maqhubela*, Gallery 198, London, UK
1987 *South Africa Tour*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1987 *Natal Society of Arts*, Durban, South Africa
1987 *Contemporary Black Artists Exhibition*, Academy Art Gallery, Paris, France
1987 *Vita Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1986 *_Academy Art Gallery*, Paris, France
1986 *_ University of South Africa*, Pretoria, South Africa
1986 *Historical Perspective of Black South African Artists*, Alliance Francaise, Pretoria, South Africa
1986 *Historical Perspective of Black South African Artists*, Alliance Francaise, Johannesburg, South Africa

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1985 *'USSALEP/Fuba Workshop Exhibition'*, Fuba Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1985 *_Touring Exhibition*, South Africa and Germany with Ben Ntsusha, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1984-1985 *_Stockwell Open Studios*, London, England, UK
1984 *_Stickwell Studio Exhibition*, London, England, UK
1983-1984 *Triangle Artists' Workshop Exhibition*, New York, USA
1982 *Art Towards Social Development*, National Gallery and Museum, Gaborone, Botswana
1979 *_Bill Ainslie Studios*, Johannesburg, South Africa
1978 *Black Expo '78*, Johannesburg, South Africa
1976 * *_Group exhibition with Michael Zondi*, Nedbank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1975 *_Nedbank Gallery*, Johannesburg, South Africa

Curated Exhibitions

1995 *Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
Women's voice, Daimler-Chrysler Museums, Stuttgart, Germany
1990 *Dialogue*, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
1985-90 *Federated Union Black Arts*, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2001 External Examiner, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

Professional Appointments and Consultation

1997 to present Board Member: National Arts Council, Johannesburg, South Africa
1993 to present Co-founder and Director: Fordsburg Artists' Studios (The Bag Factory), Johannesburg, South Africa
1990 Coordinator: Art from South Africa, Oxford Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK
1985-90 Head of Department: Federated Union Black Arts (FUBA) Gallery
1985 Judges Panel: African Arts Festival, University of Zululand, Kwazulu-Natal
1983-5 Coordinator: Botswana Arts Festival, Gaborone, Botswana
1982 Visual Arts Co-coordinator: Culture and Resistance Festival, Gaborone, Botswana
1979 Tutor: Federated Union Black Arts (FUBA)
1977-9 Co-Founder: Johannesburg's first black-owned art gallery

Conference and Workshop Participation

2001 Thapong, Gaborone, Botswana
1998 Koj, Modinagar, India
1996 Triangle, Cuba
1991 Thapong, Gaborone, Botswana
1989 Triangle, New York, USA
1985-91 Thupebo: Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa

Awards and Merits

1998 Prince Klauss Fund Award, Royal Netherlands Cultural Fund, Netherlands
1993 Vita Quarterly Award, South Africa
1983 British Council Scholarship, UK

Academic Record and Residencies

Residencies

2001 Biel, Switzerland
1993 Tami Mnyele Residency, Amsterdam, Holland
1989 Robert Blackburn, New York, USA

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1983 Birmingham Polytechnic, England Triangle Workshop, New York, USA

1974-7 Bill Ainslie Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa

Undergraduate

1984-5 Diploma in Museum Studies, University of London, London, UK

Collections

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg

A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

Durban Art Gallery, Durban

William Humphries Museum, Kimberley

Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg

Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg

South African Reserve Bank

Spier Arts Trust

Hollard Collection

Barloworld Collection

SASOL Collection

Mobil Oil Collection

Standard Bank SA Ltd Collection

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town

University of South Africa, Pretoria

University of Cape Town, Cape Town

South African Higher Education Trust, Johannesburg

Department of Education and Training, Pretoria

International:

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA

Prince Claus Collection, The Netherlands

Dutch Royal Family Collection, The Netherlands

BMW Collection, Germany

Saatchi Gallery, London, UK

Botswana National Museum and Gallery, Gaborone, Botswana

Robert Loder, London, UK

Sir Anthony Caro, London, UK

Selected Articles and Reviews

2013 Sean O'Toole, *Shared Visions The Johannesburg Art Scene / Kunstszene*

Johannesburg, ArtMag by Deutsche Bank, Issue No 3

2013 Brent Meersman, *An Imperfect Past and its Impact on the Present*, Mail & Guardian

Johannesburg, South Africa

2010 Miles Keylock, *Koloane's City In Motion*, Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa

Publications

2002 Veronique Tadjou, *David Koloane: Taxi 006*. David Krut Publishing: Johannesburg

1999 Frank Herreman and M. D'amato, *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*. The Museum of African Art: New York, p.27.

1997 *Walking The Tight Rope: Trade Routes*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale catalogue text

1996 Andre Magnin and Jacques Soullou, *Contemporary Art of Africa*, Thames and Hudson, New York and London

1996 Sue Williamson and Ashraf Jamal, *Art in South Africa: The Future Present*, David Philip Publishers: Claremont, South Africa

1995 Clementine Deliss (ed.), *Seven Stories About Modern Art In Africa*. Flammarion: Paris, p.140 – 156 and p. 261 – 265 (in conversation with Ivor Powell).

1993 *Esme Berman: Painting in South Africa*, Southern Book Publishers, Halfway House, p.

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1990 *Art from South Africa*: Catalogue, Thames, and Hudson

1990 *A question of identity*: Third Text magazine, London, UK

1990 *A report on the Johannesburg Africa's Biennale* catalogue text

1997 *Walking The Tight Rope: Trade Routes*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale catalogue text

1984 *A dissertation on the establishment of printmaking workshops employing alternative methods in the urban areas of South Africa*, U.K

1982 *A Profile: Lucas Seage: A Konrad Aadenauer Prize Winner*: Staff Rider Magazine

1981 *Margaret Makhoana*, Bonanza Magazine

1981 *A Profile: Dan Rakgoathe* Mofolo Art Centre