

Misheck Masamvu



Biography

Misheck Masamvu (b. 1980, Penhalonga, Zimbabwe) explores and comments on the socio-political setting of post-independence Zimbabwe, and draws attention to the impact of economic policies that sustain political mayhem. Masamvu raises questions and ideas around the state of 'being' and the preservation of dignity. His practice encompasses drawing, painting and sculpture.

Masamvu studied at Atelier Delta and Kunste Akademie in Munich, where he initially specialised in the realist style, and later developed a more avant-garde expressionist mode of representation with dramatic and graphic brushstrokes. His work deliberately uses this expressionist depiction, in conjunction with controversial subject matter, to push his audience to levels of visceral discomfort with the purpose of accurately capturing the plight, political turmoil and concerns of his Zimbabwean subjects and their experiences. His works serve as a reminder that the artist is constantly socially-engaged and is tasked with being a voice to give shape and form to a humane sociological topography. In 2020, Masamvu took part in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney.

Masamvu's work has been well-received and exhibited in numerous shows including Armory Show 2018, Art Basel 2018, Basel Miami Beach 2017, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair New York 2016, São Paulo Biennale 2016, and the Venice Biennale, Zimbabwe Pavillion 2011.

Solo Exhibitions

- 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 Franchise, 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

Goodman Gallery

2020 22nd Sydney Biennale, Sydney, Australia
2018 *Five Bhobh 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 *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 *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 Francais, Paris
2005 – 2007 *Kunste Akademie, Munich*
1999 *Atelier Delta*

Collections

A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany
Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA
Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
Sina Jina Collection, London, UK
Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa