

Sam Nhlengethwa



Biography

Sam Nhlengethwa was born in the black township community of Payneville near Springs (a satellite mining town east of Johannesburg), in 1955 and grew up in Ratanda location in nearby Heidelberg. In the 1980s, he moved to Johannesburg where he honed his practice at the renowned Johannesburg Art Foundation under its founder Bill Ainslie.

Nhlengethwa is one of the founders of the legendary Bag Factory in Newtown, in the heart of the city, where he used to share studio space with fellow greats of this pioneering generation of South African artists, such as David Koloane and Pat Mautloa.

Despite Nhlengethwa's pioneering role in South Africa art, his work has received rare visibility in London. A major survey exhibition, titled *Life, Jazz and Lots of Other Things*, was hosted by SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia in 2014, which was then co-hosted in Atlanta by SCAD and the Carter Center.

Other notable exhibitions and accolades in South Africa and around the world include: in 1994 – the year South Africa held its first democratic elections – Nhlengethwa was awarded the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year award; in 1995, his work was included in the Whitechapel Gallery's *Seven Stories About Modern Art in Africa* in London; in 2000, he participated in a two-man show at Seippel Art Gallery in Cologne.

Other significant international group exhibitions include *Constructions: Contemporary Art from South Africa* at Museu de Arte Contemporanea de Niteroi at in Brazil in 2011, *Beyond Borders: Global Africa* at the University of Michigan Museum of Art in 2018.

Nhlengethwa's work has featured on a number of international biennales: in 2003, his work was included in the 8th Havana Biennale, *Southern African Stories: A Print Collection*, the 12th International Cairo Biennale in 2010, the 2013 Venice Biennale as part of the South African pavilion, titled *Imaginary Fact: Contemporary South African Art and the Archive*, and in the 6th Beijing Biennale in 2015.

Nhlengethwa's practice features in important arts publications, such as Phaidon's *The 20th Century Art Book* (2001).

Solo Exhibitions

*2017*_IN FOCUS: SAM NHLENGETHWA_, The University of Michigan Museum, Michigan, USA

*2016*_The Past and The Present ... Now is The Time_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

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*2014*_Life, Jazz and Lots of Other Things_, Gallery 1600, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
*2014*_Life, Jazz and Lots of Other Things_, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia, USA
*2014*_Life, Jazz and Lots of Other Things_, Trois Gallery, Atlanta, USA
*2012*_Conversations_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2010*_Kind of Blue_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2008*_Tributes_, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
*2006*_Townships Re-visited_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2005*_Sam Nhlengethwa_, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
*2004*_Glimpses of the fifties and sixties_, Florence Lynch Gallery, Chelsea, New York, USA
*2004*_Sam Nhlengethwa_ Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2004*_Sam Nhlengethwa_, Joao Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
*2002*_All that Jazz_, Kubatana Moderne Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
*2001*_Jozi People_, Goodman Gallery, Hyde Park, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1998*_Interiors_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1996*_Mine Trip_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1995*_Senegalese Images_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994-1995*Homage to Jazz, Standard Bank Young Artist Award travelling show, South Africa*
*1993*_Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'_ , Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1993*_Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'_ , NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
*1990*_Cassirer Fine Art (with guest Daniel Phaladi), Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

*2018*_TRANS_, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2018*_BEYOND BORDERS: GLOBAL AFRICA_, The University of Michigan Museum, Michigan, USA
*2018*_Talking to Deaf Ears_, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2018*_SEEING NOW_, 21c Museum Hotel, Nashville, USA
*2018*_Afriques_, Artist of Yesterday and Today_, Clément Foundation, Martinique
*2017*_A labour of Love_, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2017*_South Africa: The Art of a Nation_, British Museum, London, United Kingdom
*2016*_New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2014*_Contemporary Art / South Africa at Yale University Art Gallery_, Standard Bank Gallery, 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
*2011*_ (Re)constructions Contemporary Art from South Africa_, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói, Brazil
*2010*_12th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt
2009 *Strengths and Convictions: The lives and times of South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize laureates, Albert Luthuli, Desmond Tutu, F.W. de Klerk, Nelson Mandela_, Iziko SA National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa*
*2006*_Faces to Names_, Alliance Francaise, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2006*_Sam Nhlengethwa: Black Goats: Art on Paper_, Johannesburg, South Africa
*2006*_From Apartheid to Democracy: The Freedom Struggle in South Africa and the American South_, Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum, Atlanta, USA
*2005*_Unity Series_, The World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland
*2004*_New Identities – Contemporary South African Art_, Museum Bochum, Germany
*2004*_POST – Contemporary South African photography_, Tama Art University Museum, Tokyo, Japan
*2004*_In a City_, collaboration with Andrew Tshabangu, Bag Factory Artists Studios, Fordsburg, South Africa
*2003*_Southern African Stories: A Print Collection_, Centre for Contemporary Art in the Fernandes Industrial Centre, Laventille, Trinidad and Tobago
*2003*_Florence Lynch Gallery_, Chelsea, New York, USA
*2003*_8th Havana Bienale, Cuba
*2002*_Towards new Cultures_, Trevi Exhibition Area, Bolzano, Italy.
*2002*_South African Art from 1850 to 2002_, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg South Africa
*2002*_African & African American Shared Understanding Project_' , Atlanta, Georgia, USA
*2002*_Ubuntu_, Malaysia
*2001*_The Art Salon, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
2001 *Sam meets Zwelethu_, collaboration with Zwelethu Mthethwa, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa*
*2000*_Artlook South Africa_, Gahlberg Gallery, College of DuPage, Chicago, USA

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*2000*_The Art Salon_, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
*2000*_Project Conflux_, touring exhibition started in Cape Town, South Africa
*2000*_Two-man show with Zwelethu Mthethwa_, Seippel Art Gallery, Cologne, Germany
*2000*_South African Trade Exhibition_, Mauritius
*2000*_Artery, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
2000 The Art Salon_, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
*1999*_Fast Forward za_, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands
*1998*_Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands
1998 The Art Salon_, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
*1997*_Cross Over_, Johannesburg to Nantes, Nantes, France
*1995*_Africa 95_, Whitechapel, London, UK
*1990*_Thupelo Show_, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1990 Goodman Gallery, Hyde Park, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1989*_Thupelo Show_, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1989*_Two-man show with Gerard Sekoto_, Cassirer Fine Art, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1988*_Cassirer Fine Art_, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1987*_Thupelo Show_, The Art Foundation, South Africa
*1987*_Two-man show with Madi Phala_, Fuba Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1986*_Thupelo Show_, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1985*_Tributaries_, Africana Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
1984 FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1983*_Shell Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1981*_Civic Centre, Kwa Thema, Springs, South Africa
*1981*_Haenggi Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

*2001*_Lines of Connection_, an MTN Art Institute project – exhibiting and facilitating education workshops for students, Douala, Cameroon
*2000*_College of DuPage, lecturer and conducted workshops, Glen Ellyn, Chicago, USA
*2000*_MTN Art Institute Community project, Conducted art workshops, South Africa
*1992*_FUBA, part time teacher, Johannesburg, South Africa

Professional Appointments and Consultation

*2004*_Triangle Workshop with Sir Robert Loder, London, England
*2003*_Matric Art Seminar project, illustrated lectures to Art & Design students, PE
*2003*_Technikon and Rhodes University, Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown, South Africa
*2002*_Johannesburg Art City exhibition, Wall Project (part of the WSSD), Johannesburg, South Africa
*2002*_MTN Art Institute art competition judging in schools, South Africa
*2001*_Gerard Sekoto Foundation project in partnership with Mamelodi Heritage Foundation, De Beers and Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
*2000*_Participant in filming of Afro-Cuban Connection documentary, Havana, Cuba
*2000*_Secure the Future, a Bristol Myers Squibb art project to promote HIV/AIDS research, Johannesburg, South Africa

Conference and Workshop Participation

*2000*_Gerard Sekoto Foundation Community project, Mural workshops, Northern Province and Sophiatown, South Africa
*1994*_TENQ African Workshop – Senegal, West Africa

Awards and Merits

*1996*_First National Bank Vita Awards Nominee, First National Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1994*_First National Bank Vita Awards nominee, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1993*_Bertrams VO Art for Africa Finalist, Johannesburg, South Africa
*1993*_Standard Bank Young Artist Award Winner for 1994, Standard Bank,

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Johannesburg, South Africa

*1992*_Delfina Studio Trust Summer Award, London, UK

*1992*_AA Vita Awards Nominee, Johannesburg, South Africa

*1991*_AA Vita Awards Nominee, Johannesburg, South Africa

*1988*_AA Vita Awards Nominee, Johannesburg, South Africa

Academic Record and Residencies

Residencies

*2017*_Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA), Saint Emilion, France

1976-1977*Johannesburg Art Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa*
h2. Postgraduate

1977-1978Diploma, Rorkes Drift Art Centre, Natal, South Africa

Collections

World Bank, USA

Botswana Art Museum, Botswana

Mobil Court, Cape Town, South Africa

Anglo American, Johannesburg, South Africa

Sasol, Johannesburg, South Africa

GENCOR, Johannesburg, South Africa

Standard Bank Head Office, Johannesburg, South Africa

BMW, Pretoria, South Africa

Mercedes-Benz, Johannesburg, South Africa

TELKOM, South Africa

ABSA, Johannesburg, South Africa

Nedcor, Johannesburg, South Africa

Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Johannesburg, South Africa

SA Broadcasting Corporation, Auckland Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

DaimlerChrysler Headquarters, Pretoria, South Africa

Millennium Consolidated Investment, Sandton

Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Private collections in South Africa and abroad

Selected Articles and Reviews

*2018*_Anstey, G, *Sam Nhlengethwa's art looks to explore the 'light spent in limbo'*, *Sunday Times*, 4 November

2018Ndlovu, B, *'I think that I was ahead of my time' – Sam Nhlengethwa, Artist*, 702, 27 May

2013Brent Meersman, *An Imperfect Past and Its Impact on the Present*, *Mail & Guardian*, Johannesburg, South Africa

*1999*_*The Money Standard*, Vol 1, Issue 4, 1999, p26.

*1997*_*Vuka SA*, Volume 2, Issue 3

*1996*_*Williams, M. Jazz Heritage. Vol 4. Oxford University Press. p16-17*

1988Younge, G, Leadership, 'The Next Million Years', Vol 7, Issue 5, 1988, NAIL, Johannesburg, p 58-65.