

## 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 Seppel Art Gallery in Cologne.

Other significant international group exhibitions include *Constructions: Contemporary Art from South Africa* at Museu de Arte Contemporanea de Niteroi 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

2021 *Jazz and Blues at night*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK

2020 *Interiors continued*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK

## Goodman Gallery

2019 *Joburg Selected*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2018 *Waiting*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
2019 *Leeto: Print retrospective*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa  
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  
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 *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 Française, 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

## Goodman Gallery

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

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

2000 *Province and Sophiatown*, South Africa

1994 *TENQ African Workshop – Senegal*, West Africa

## Awards and Merits

## Goodman Gallery

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, 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

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

1976-1977 *Johannesburg Art Foundation*, Johannesburg, South Africa

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

## Collections

Museum of Fine Arts Houston, USA

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

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

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

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

1997 *Vuka SA, Volume 2, Issue 3*

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

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