

The logo for KNYRNA FINE ART is centered at the top of the page. It consists of the word "KNYSNA" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "FINE ART" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font directly below it. The text is dark red and is set against a light grey rectangular background.

# KNYSNA FINE ART

## COLBERT MASHILE

### ABOUT

Colbert Mashile is a painter and visual artist who has developed a unique iconographical language within South African art, often dealing with the mystical, mythological and archaic elements of traditional African culture and its legacy on present-day life. Within the context of a modern, hybridized and integrated post-apartheid society, these practices, customs and rituals have inevitably filtered into contemporary consciousness and contribute to the complex psychological landscape which characterizes the new culture in a historically divided country. Mashile's early work dealt primarily with the traumatic, cruel and highly controversial circumcision rituals practiced widely upon young black initiates of both sexes, in different guises, as ceremonious, tribal, coming-of age rites of passage. These practices are criticized and condemned locally and internationally as cruel and inhumane and especially in terms of their long-term psychosomatic impact. Mashile draws on his own experiences, memory and psyche in an autonomous and intuitive process, creating vivid and intricate imagery, recalling both Surrealism and the satirical Pop art of artists such as Phillip Guston or more recently, George Condo.

Mashile's consummate understanding and application of colour conveys metaphorical meaning and signifies the artist's innate, organic understanding and connection to the land and its occupants. Colour is a tool employed to evoke and trigger emotional and emotive responses and through very considered colour combinations, the subtle manipulation of light and the sensitive insertion of visual stimuli, Mashile communicates on an instinctual level. Mashile's training and formative background in printmaking, is ever-present and his predisposition for graphic construction serves to integrate and anchor the disparate wanderings of the unconscious and the subconscious. Mashile's distinctive and original work escapes typical classification and despite the inherent cultural references, the visual landscape (and its inhabitants) are ambiguous and intriguing beyond its local origins. From within his well-honed and individual stylistic framework, the scope of Mashile's focus has expanded in recent years to deliver incisive political commentary and criticism. Originally from the rural Mpumalanga province, Mashile currently lives and works in the picturesque area of Howick in Kwazulu-Natal.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **University of the Witwatersrand**

Certificate: Internship Course (June, 2002)

Master of Arts in Heritage Studies (2001-)

Majors:

Tourism and Developmental Studies

Environmental Studies

Public Culture Studies

Research Report

### **University of the Witwatersrand**

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts (1996-2000)

Special Awards:

Certificate of Merit:

Outstanding Results in Drawing & Design III (1998)

Certificate of First Class: Painting IV (1999) **Johannesburg Art Foundation**

Certificate in Art Foundation Course (1992-1994) **Tladishi High School** Matric-1989

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2015 - Beast of Burden (Solo Show) - NIROXprojects, Johannesburg, March 2015
- 2015 - S'Ka Motho (Just Like Man) (Solo Show) - SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, March 2015
- 2013 - Messages from our Ancestors (Solo Show) - Art Eye Gallery, Sandton, Johannesburg, September 2013
- 2006 - Mmawaka-Montedi (Solo Show) - AVA, Cape Town, 16 October - 10 November 2006
- 2004 - Tsa Bagale (Solo Show) - Gallery On The Square, Sandton, 6 - 31 October 2004

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2006
- Les arts de la Coexistence? (Group Show) - Alliance Francaise, Paris, France, January 2006
- Les arts de la Coexistence? (Group Show) - Musee des Arts Derniers, Paris, France, February 2006
- New Painting (Group Show) - KZNSA Gallery, Durban, 30 March - 23 April 2006
- New Painting (Group Show) - Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria, 9 May - 2 June 2006
- DAK' ART, Senegal, 1 - 10 May 2006
- New Painting (Group Show) - Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, 23 July - 3 September 2006

#### 2005

- Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition 2005
- ABSA L' Atelier Competition Exhibition, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg
- Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum
- Les arts de la Coexistence? (Group Show) - Migrations Culturelles, Bordeaux , France, September 2005
- Les arts de la Coexistence? (Group Show) - Médiathèque, Biarritz, France, November 2005
- Florence Biennale, Florence, Italy, 3 - 11 December 2005

#### 2004

- ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition - Absa Gallery, Johannesburg
- Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition 2004
- Boston, Smithsonian, Gibbs Museum, Detroit - United States (Traveling Show): "A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa": 2004 - 2005 (Group Show); "The ID of South African Artists" - Amsterdam, Holland: 2004 - 2005 (Group Show)
- A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994 - 2004 from the Permanent Collection (Group Show) - South African National Gallery, Cape Town
- Making Waves (A selection of works from the SABC art collection) (Group Show) - Johannesburg Art Gallery, November 2004 - February 2005
- Negotiated Identities, Black Bodies (Group Show) - Johannesburg Art Gallery, 24 October 2004 - 2 January 2005

#### 2003

- Circumcised/Circumscribed (Group Show) - Axis Gallery, New York, January 2003
- Art Space, Johannesburg, January 2003 (Group Show)
- Show Me Home (Group Show) - Johannesburg Art Gallery, 5 April - 25 May 2003
- A New Collection (Group Show) - Gallery On The Square, Sandton, 28 June - 12 July 2003

#### 2002

- Art On Paper Gallery (April and August)
- Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudshoorn
- Gallery On The Square, Sandton

#### 2001

- Museum Africa Gallery, Johannesburg
- The Art Space Gallery

#### 2000

- ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg
- UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria
- Malangatana in South Africa, Sandton Civic Gallery
- Bill Ainslie Art Gallery
- Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudshoorn

#### 1998 & 1999

- Martienssen, University of the Witwatersrand

1994

- JHB Art Foundation

## **AWARDS**

- 2000 ABSA l'Atelier Merit Prize
- 1999 Martinssen Prize, University of the Witwatersrand
- Certificate of First Class in Painting IV, University of Wiwatersrand
- 1998 Martinssen Prize, University of Witwatersrand

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