

Kudzanai-Violet Hwami



Biography

Kudzanai-Violet Hwami's courageous and tender paintings reveal a deeply personal vision, exploring themes such as diaspora, displacement and identity, featuring self-portraits and images of her extended family. For Hwami, powerful nudes raise questions about the black body and its representation, as well as sexuality, gender and spirituality. The artist's influences include music, such as ZimHeavy & Afrobeats; literature, including the works of Carl Jung; and her own ongoing voyage of self-discovery.

Hwami's process involves experimenting with photography and digitally collaged images, using these to create large works on paper or canvas with intensely pigmented oil paint, and often incorporating other media and techniques, such as silkscreen, pastel or charcoal.

Hwami was born in Gutu, Zimbabwe in 1993 and lived in South Africa until the age of 17. She is currently based in the UK and on graduating from Wimbledon College of Arts in 2016, she was awarded the Clyde & Co. Award, the Young Achiever of the Year Award at the Zimbabwean International Women's Awards and was shortlisted for Bloomberg New Contemporaries. In 2017, her first solo show, *If you keep going South, you'll meet yourself*, at Tyburn Gallery was met with wide critical acclaim.

Recent group exhibitions include the 58th Venice Biennale Zimbabwe pavilion (2019). *Les Ateliers de Rennes – Biennale d'Art Contemporain*, France (2018); *Five Bhoobh – Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa (2018); *Vos désirs sont les nôtres*, Triangle France, Marseille, France (2018); *Talisman in the Age of Difference*, curated by Yinka Shonibare MBE, Stephen Friedman Gallery, UK (2018); *Ladies by Ladies*, Espace Art Absolutement, Paris, France (2018); *Afriques: artistes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*, Fondation Clément, Martinique (2018); and *Discoloured Margins*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe (2017). Hwami will present her first institutional solo exhibition at Gasworks in London, UK in September 2019 and will commence an MFA at the Ruskin School of Art at Oxford University.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *(15,952km) via Trans-Sahara Hwy N* Gasworks, London, Gasworks, London, UK

2017 *If You Keep Going South You'll Meet Yourself*, Tyburn Gallery, London, UK.

2013 *We Made You Nations & Tribes*, CornExchange, Manchester, UK.

Group Exhibitions

2019 Zimbabwean Pavilion, 58th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

2018 *Les Ateliers de Rennes – Biennale d'Art Contemporain*, curated by Céline Kopp and Étienne Bernard, Rennes, France
2018 *Five Bhobh – Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Vos désirs sont les nôtres*, Triangle France, Marseille, France
2018 *Talisman in the Age of Difference*, curated by Yinka Shonibare MBE, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
2018 *Ladies by Ladies*, Espace Art Absolument, Paris, France
2018 *Afriques: artistes d'hier et d'aujourd'hui*, Fondation Clément, Martinique. Organised in collaboration with Musée Dapper, Paris, France
*2017*_Discoloured Margins_, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
*2016*_RSA Open Exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Lower Galleries, Edinburgh, UK
2016 *Black Blossoms Exhibition*, UAL showroom, High Holborn, London, UK
2016 *Affordable Art Fair Hampstead*, London, UK
2016 *Undergraduate Summer Show*, Wimbledon College of Art, London, UK
2016 *Find The Start*, Copeland Gallery, London, UK
2016 *It's a Pleasure* [Curated by Jacob Seddon], Greyhound Lane, London, UK.
2015 *Black History Festival exhibition*, Union Gallery, Chelsea College of Arts, UK
2015 *Drive-Thru*, ArtsLav, London, UK.
2014 *ganda'Nga: weeping clay pot / Guest Project Africa Exhibition*, Shonibare Studios, London, UK.
2013 *Visual Arts & Music Festival / NQ Pop-Up*, Shudehill Studios, Manchester, UK
2013 *The Art of Football*, The National Football Museum, Manchester, UK

Awards and Merits

2018 Nominee: Young Achiever of the Year, Zimbabwean International Women's Awards
2016 Young Achiever of the Year, Zimbabwean International Women's Awards
2016 Cass Art Materials Grant
2016 Winner: Clyde & Co Award
2016 Shortlisted: Bloomberg New Contemporaries

Academic Record and Residencies

Residencies

2018 Dzimbanhete Arts and Culture Interactions Trust, Zimbabwe
2017 The Gathering, Kenya

Academic Record

2021 Master of Fine Arts, Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.
2016 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Concentration in Painting, Wimbledon College of Arts, London, UK.
2013 BTEC National Diploma in Art and Design, North Manchester College.

Collections

Zeitz MOCAA, South Africa.

Nando's Art Collection, UK.

Fondation Blachère, France.

Sindika Dokolo Foundation, Angola.

Josef Vascovitiz & Lisa Goodman, USA.