

EVERARD READ

NELSON MAKAMO

(b. 1982 Modimolle, Limpopo, South Africa)

"In my work, I reflect on the movement of culture amongst the youth living in and around the city. My observation is that there is an exchange between people where we adopt each other's cultures that are relevant to our respective ages. I am greatly fascinated by this, and how we in turn manage our identity with different personas. Therefore, my work aims to show that we are always changing and moving in a path of self discovery. My work does not represent a certain group of people, it moves across cultures and generations."

Known for his vibrant portraits set in pulsating African urbanized landscapes, Nelson Makamo is a celebrated, young South African artist based in Johannesburg. Observing with astute sensitivity the chaotic energy of the city, Makamo strives to capture everyday people going about their ordinary lives as the contemporary world accelerates around them.

Joining the Artist Proof Studio (Johannesburg) in 2003, Makamo was the recipient of the Johnson & Johnson International bursary. He exhibited alongside fellow South African artists William Kentridge, Deborah Bell and David Koloane in *Ten Years of Printmaking* at the David Krut Print Studio in 2006. Makamo has exhibited in the USA, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom,, and is included in various international public and private collections. His solo exhibition, *A New Lease on Life*, marked his debut at Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg in 2014

Nelson's work is strongly influenced by the candid innocence of children. He is particularly drawn to children in rural South Africa, as he believes that they embody the peace and harmony we all strive for in life. The search for eternal joy lies in the child within us all; we are just so consumed with worldly things that we forget the simplicity of life through a child's perspective. His medium of expression ranges from charcoal, acrylic and water colours, to monotypes, silk screen and oil paintings. He refrains from planning his pieces and opts rather,for the canvas and day's inspiration to lead him.

Makamo's work forms part of a few collections such as those of fashion mogul Giorgio Armani, musician Annie Lennox, TELKOM, Hanzehof Zutphense KunstCollectis. His work was featured on the February 2019 edition of *TIME* magazine's 'Optimists' issue, guest edited by filmmaker Ava DuVernay.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020** *Botho, Motho, Batho*, Botho Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Nelson Makamo*, Loo & Lou Gallery, Paris, France
- 2018** *New Works*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Re-Awakening, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *I Am The Soul of Azania*, Gallery of African Art GAFRA London, UK
- 2016** *Dipolelo Exhibition*, Paris, France
- 2014** Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Movement*, Factory Gallery, South Africa
- 2009** *Sharing Realities II*, African Studies Centre, Leiden, Netherlands



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- Walk with Me*, UTS Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
A Place I Call Home, Gallery on the Square, Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *Moving into Light*, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
Sharing Realities, Gallery Izarte, Zutphen, Netherlands
2005 *Walk with Me*, Obert Contemporary Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** ARCOLisboa, with Everard Read, Lisbon, Portugal
2020 *Say it Loud*, curated by Destinee Ross-Sutton, Christie's online
Staring Straight to the Future, digital exhibition, Everard Read, South Africa
TINY2020, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
2018 1:54 Fair, with GAFRA Gallery, London, UK
2017 *No Commission*, Dean Collection Kraftwerk, Rummelsburg, Germany
Africa Art Fair, with Zurcher Gallery, New York, USA
We are the souls of Azania, GAFRA Gallery, London, UK
2016 *Post it*, Constitution Hill, Group exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, CIRCA Gallery Booth London, UK
2014 FNB Joburg Art fair Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *Art Angels*, Ellerman House charity auctions
2012 *Figuring Differences* curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa
21 year celebration of the Artist Proof studios at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
2010 *Young Contemporaries*, Galerie Nikki Diana Marquardt, Paris, France
My City, Arts on Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 City Link, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Gallery on the Square, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa
2007 Cultural and Business Art Exhibition, Somma Lombardo, Italy Making Identity, The Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2006 *Ten Years of Printmaking*, David Krut Print Studios, Johannesburg
2003 Student and Staff Artists Proof Studio Exhibition, Wits Substation Gallery, South Africa
Print Marathon, RAU Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Print Marathon, Boston, USA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 'The Story Behind the Painting on *TIME's* Optimists Cover', *TIME* Magazine, Feb 2019
Kodd Magazine, Dipolelo Exhibition
DESTINY Magazine
Mail and Guardian Kwanele Sosibo Rural boy Made Good
Kritzinger, N. (2014) Nelson Makamo, Everard Read Catalogue.
Lebitse P (2010) my work is my life, pain and joy.
Sowetan The arts section (2010) street art, True love P 90
Hengen, E (2010) Das Wahre Gesicht Südafrikas, Tageblatt, p 18, Zvomuya, P. (2010), Jozi for the alienated, Mail and guardian p6.
Thepa M. (2011) Visual art pushing the boundaries. The new age. Hamilton, N. (2012) Nelson Makamo the well-travelled artist exhibition in Johannesburg. Homeless Talk.
New exhibition coming of age - Artist proof studio turns 21. (2012) House and leisure.
Turbine Art fair (2013) Classic feel magazine
Zvomuya, P. and Larson, S (2013) The August House that fosters art. Mail and Guardian online.



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