

# Cassi Namoda



## Biography

Cassi Namoda (b. 1988, Maputo, Mozambique) is known for her strong colour palette and narrative approach. Her hybrid narratives are at once wondrous and poignant, everyday and fantastical, archival and current. Namoda's work transfigures the cultural mythologies and historical narratives of life in post-colonial Africa, particularly those of the artist's familial home of Mozambique. Namoda's paintings are highly elusive, drawing upon literary, cinematic and architectural influences that capture the expansiveness of her specifically Luso-African vantage point. The idiosyncratic subjects who appear and reappear in Namoda's paintings also convey this hybridity: they emerge from African indigenous religions just as much as they spring from Western mythologies. Her work borrows from an art historical canon and arises from vernacular photography in equal measure. While they appear straightforward, her images are conceptually rigorous and portray figures with complex narratives. Namoda is equally attentive to landscape, creating scenes that depict both the rural and the urban through a surreal lens.

In 2024, Namoda presented her first institutional exhibition and most significant on the continent, titled "Is it sunny or cloudy in the land you live on?" at the Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa. Throughout the exhibition Namoda explores landscape in multiple ambiguous other worldly forms.

Notable solo exhibitions include: *Life has become a foreign language*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2022); *To Live Long is To See Much*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (2020); *Little is Enough for Those with Love/Mimi Nakupenda*, The Royal Academy of Arts, London (2019); and *Bar Texas, 1971*, Library Street Collective, Detroit (2017).

Group shows include *ECHO. Wrapped in Memory*, MoMu, Antwerp; *When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town (2022 – 2023); *American Women*, La Patinoire Royale-Galerie Valérie Bach (2020).

Collections include: Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore; MACAAL, Marrakesh; and The Studio Museum; New York.

Namoda lives and works in Italy.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2024** *Is it sunny or cloudy in the land you live on?*, Norval Foundation, SA
- 2023A** *Gentle Rain is Dying*, 303 Gallery, New York, US
- 2022** *Life has become a foreign language*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, SA
- 2022** *Tropical Depression*, Xavier Hufkens, Rivoli, Brussels
- 2021** *Forgotten Limbs*, François Ghebaly, LA, US
- 2021** *The sun has not yet burned off the dew*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2020** *To live long is to see much*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020** *Little is Enough For Those in Love*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London
- 2019** *The Day a Monkey is Destined to Die All Trees Become Slippery*, François Ghebaly, Los Angeles
- 2019** *Little is Enough for Those with Love/Mimi Nakupenda*, The Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK
- 2018** *Outside the Witch Doctor's House*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami
- 2017** *Meat is Meat & Our Nightly Bread*, OOF Books, Los Angeles
- 2017** *We Killed Mangy Dog*, Harper's Books, Hamptons, New York
- 2017** *Bar Texas, 1971*, Library Street Collective, Detroit
- 2017** *Island of Earth*, Front Room Gallery, Los Angeles

## Group Exhibitions

- \*2022\* *\_Girls,Girls,Girls\_* Lismore Castle Arts, Co., Waterford, UK
- \*2022\* *\_When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting\_* Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022** *Body Language*, Andrew Krepps Gallery, New York, US
- 2021** *Citizens of Memory*, The Perimeter, London, UK
- 2021** *Winter of Discontent*, 303 Gallery, New York, USA
- 2020** *Authenticité*, Goodman Gallery, Online programme
- 2020** *American Women*, La Patinoire Royale-Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels
- 2019** *LA Dreams 2*, CFHILL, Stockholm, Sweden
- 2019** *Sister Sister*, The National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2018** *Coping Mechanisms*, Library Street Collective, Detroit, USA
- 2018** *BioPerversity*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

**2018** *The Adderall and The Ecstasy*, Nicodim Gallery, Bucharest, Romania

## Collections

### Public collections

- Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD, USA
- Inhotim Museum, Brumadinho, Brazil
- K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong
- Long Museum, Shanghai, China
- MACAAL, Marrakesh, Morocco
- Museum Azman, Malaysia
- Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL, USA
- The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY, USA
- Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa

## Selected Articles and Reviews

- 2021** Kristin Farr, *Cassi Namoda: The Sense of Suadade*, Juxtapoz, San Francisco, US
- 2021** Stephanie Njeri, *Cassi Namoda: A sense of rootedness*, Metal Magazine, Barcelona, Spain
- 2021** Will Fenstermaker, *Myth and History: Cassi Namoda*, BOMB Magazine, New York, US
- 2020** Portia Malatjie, *Cassi Namoda*, Artforum, 2020

## Publications

- 2021** Okeke-Agulu, Chika & Underwood, Joseph L. *African Artists: From 1882 to Now*, Phaidon, 2021
- 2018** Ganley, Yasmine. *Cassi A. Namoda*, Anaak Collection, February 4, 2018
- 2018** Debar, Priscilla. *Meet: Painter Cassi Namoda*, FAUBOURG, February 22, 2018
- 2017** *Island Of Earth By Cassi A Namoda*, Anyonegirl, August 5, 2017
- 2017** Patterson, Leigh. *Apiece Apart Woman: Cassi Gibson*, Apiece Apart, 2017