

Sam Nhlengethwa



Biography

Sam Nhlengethwa (b. 1955, Payneville, Springs) part of a pioneering generation of late 20th century South African artists whose work reflects the sociopolitical history and everyday life of their country. Through his paintings, collages and prints Nhlengethwa has depicted the evolution of Johannesburg through street life, interiors, jazz musicians and fashion.

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 Johannesburg CBD, 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.

In 2014, a major survey exhibition, titled 'Life, Jazz and Lots of Other Things,' was hosted by SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia, which was then co-hosted in Atlanta by SCAD and the Carter Center.

Nhlengethwa's practice features in important arts publications, such as Phaidon's *The 20th Century Art Book* (2001).

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 Seippel Art Gallery in Cologne.

Group exhibitions include: 'Constructions: Contemporary Art from South Africa,' Museu de Arte Contemporanea de Niteroi, Brazil (2011); 'Beyond Borders: Global Africa,' University of Michigan Museum of Art, Michigan (2018).

Biennales include: 6th Beijing Biennale in (2015); 55th Venice Biennale, as part of the South African Pavilion, titled *Imaginary Fact: Contemporary South African Art and the Archive* (2013); 12th International Cairo Biennale (2010); 8th Havana Biennale (2003); *Southern African Stories: A Print Collection*, CCA (Caribbean Contemporary Arts), Trinidad (2002).

Collections include: Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Durban Art Gallery (DAG), Iziko South African National Art Gallery (ISANG), Standard Bank's Head Office, Absa, Botswana Art Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, amongst many in South Africa and abroad.

Nhlengethwa lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023** *Art Meets Fashion*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021** *Jazz and Blues at night*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2020** *Interiors continued*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 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

2025 *Urban Entanglements: How Art Reflects Citymaking...*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
2024 *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, curated by Dr Zoe Whitley, The Institutuum, Singapore
2024 *Landing (again)*, Goodman Gallery, New York
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*, Z1c 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 Francaise, 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 Biennale, 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 & American Shared Understanding Project*, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
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

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