

# David Koloane



## Biography

David Koloane (1938 – 2019) was born in Alexandra, Johannesburg, South Africa. Koloane spent his career making the world a more hospitable place for black artists during and after apartheid. Koloane achieved this through his pioneering work as an artist, writer, curator, teacher and mentor to young and established artists at a time when such vocations were restricted to white people in South Africa. A large part of this effort involved the initiatives Koloane helped establish, from the first Black Art Gallery in 1977, the Thupelo experimental workshop in 1985 and the Bag Factory Artists' Studios in 1991, where he served as director for many years. Koloane also tutored at the Federated Union of Black Artists (FUBA) in 1979 and became the head of the fine art section and gallery from 1985 to 1990.

Through his expressive, evocative and poetic artwork, Koloane interrogated the socio-political and existential human condition, using Johannesburg as his primary subject matter. Koloane's representations of Johannesburg are populated with images of cityscapes, townships, street life, jazz musicians, traffic jams, migration, refugees, dogs, and birds among others. Imaginatively treated, through the medium of painting, drawing, assemblage, printmaking and mixed media, Koloane's scenes are a blend of exuberant and sombre, discernible and opaque pictorial narratives.

Koloane's work has been widely exhibited locally and internationally. In 1999 he was part of the group exhibition *„Liberated Voices..“* at the National Museum of African Art in Washington DC. In 2013, Koloane's work was shown on the South African pavilion at the 55th la Biennale di Venezia and on the group exhibition *„My Joburg..“* at La Maison Rouge in Paris. In 1998, the government of the Netherlands honoured Koloane with the Prince Claus Fund Award for his contributions to South African art. Koloane was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate twice, once from Wits University in 2012, and again from Rhodes University in 2015. In 2019 Koloane was the subject of a travelling career survey exhibition, *„A Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane..“*, which opened at IZIKO SANG and later travelled to Standard Bank Gallery and Wits Art Museum in October.

## Artist Statement

David Koloane's work focuses on socio-political matters and contributions to the furtherance of disadvantaged black South African artists during and after the apartheid era is evident. My work can be said to reflect the socio-political landscape of South Africa both past and present. The socio-political conditions created by the apartheid system of government have to a large extent transfixed the human condition as the axis around which my work evolves. The human figure has become the icon of creative expression.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2019** *David Koloane: Chronicles of a Resilient Visionary*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Resilient Visionary: Poetic Expressions of David Koloane*, IZIKO Sang, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *In The City*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014/15** *David Koloane Survey*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Twenty Ten and Other Things*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008** *Revival*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006** *New Work*, A.B.A Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2003** *Rituals*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2002** *City Beat*, Seippel Gallery, Germany
- 1999** *Cityscapes and City Dwellers*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997** *New Work*, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 1994** *Made in South Africa 2*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1993** *Made in South Africa 1*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1993** Solo Exhibition, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1990** Gallery on the Market, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1977** Nedbank Gallery, Killarney, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1977** Nedbank Gallery, Killarney, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Group Exhibitions

- 2018** *Hacer Noche/Crossing Night*, Oaxaca City, Mexico
- 2016** *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2014** *Controversial ways of seeing*, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, 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  
**2012** *Terra firma*, Fried Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, Pretoria, South Africa  
**2011** *e-Scapes*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2009** *KOLOANE MABASO MASHILE MAUTLOA*, Gallery AOP, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2008** *\_Print Run*, David Krut Publishing, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2006** *Unhomely – Seville Bienale*, Seville, Spain  
**2002** *Ubuntu*, Malaysia Art Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**2000** *South African Artists*, Seippel Gallery, Germany  
**1999** *Liberated Voices*, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA  
**1996-1997** *South Africa National Gallery*, Cape Town, South Africa  
**1996** *Alvar Aalto Museum*, Jyväskylä, Finland  
**1996** *\_Bomani Gallery*, San Francisco, USA  
**1995** *\_Zora Neal Hurston National Museum of Fine Art* Hurstonville, Florida, USA  
**1995** *\_Meridian International Center*, Washington DC, USA  
**1995** *South African Murals*, ICA Gallery, London, UK  
**1995** *Art from South Africa*, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK  
**1989-90** *Touring Exhibition*, Nordic Countries  
**1989** *African Encounter*, Dome Gallery, New York, USA  
**1989** *The Neglected Tradition*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1988** *Pachipamwe International Artists Workshop*, Zimbabwe National Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe  
**1988** *\_Group show with Dumile Feni and Louis Maqhubela*, Gallery 198, London, UK  
**1987** *South Africa Tour*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1987** *Natal Society of Arts*, Durban, South Africa  
**1987** *Contemporary Black Artists Exhibition*, Academy Art Gallery, Paris, France  
**1987** *Vita Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1986** *\_Academy Art Gallery*, Paris, France  
**1986** *\_University of South Africa*, Pretoria, South Africa  
**1986** *Historical Perspective of Black South African Artists*, Alliance Francaise, Pretoria, South Africa  
**1986** *Historical Perspective of Black South African Artists*, Alliance Francaise, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1985** *'USSALEP/Fuba Workshop Exhibition'*, Fuba Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1985** *\_Touring Exhibition, South Africa and Germany with Ben Ntsusha*, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1984-1985** *\_Stockwell Open Studios*, London, England, UK  
**1984** *\_Stickwell Studio Exhibition*, London, England, UK  
**1983-1984** *Triangle Artists' Workshop Exhibition*, New York, USA  
**1982** *Art Towards Social Development*, National Gallery and Museum, Gaborone, Botswana  
**1979** *\_Bill Ainslie Studios*, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1978** *Black Expo '78*, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1976** \* **\_Group exhibition with Michael Zondi, Nedbank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa**  
**\*1975** *\_Nedbank Gallery*, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Curated Exhibitions

**1995** *Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK  
*Women's voice*, Daimler-Chrysler Museums, Stuttgart, Germany  
**1990** *Dialogue*, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa  
**1985-90** *Federated Union Black Arts*, FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

**2001** External Examiner, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

## Professional Appointments and Consultation

**1997 to present** Board Member: National Arts Council, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1993 to present** Co-founder and Director: Fordsburg Artists' Studios (The Bag Factory), Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1990** Coordinator: Art from South Africa, Oxford Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK  
**1985-90** Head of Department: Federated Union Black Arts (FUBA) Gallery  
**1985** Judges Panel: African Arts Festival, University of Zululand, Kwazulu-Natal  
**1983-5** Coordinator: Botswana Arts Festival, Gaborone, Botswana  
**1982** Visual Arts Co-coordinator: Culture and Resistance Festival, Gaborone, Botswana  
**1979** Tutor: Federated Union Black Arts (FUBA)  
**1977-9** Co-Founder: Johannesburg's first black-owned art gallery

## Conference and Workshop Participation

**2001** Thapong, Gaborone, Botswana  
**1998** Koj, Modinagar, India  
**1996** Triangle, Cuba  
**1991** Thapong, Gaborone, Botswana  
**1989** Triangle, New York, USA  
**1985-91** Thupebo: Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa

## Awards and Merits

- 1998** Prince Klauss Fund Award, Royal Netherlands Cultural Fund, Netherlands
- 1993** Vita Quarterly Award, South Africa
- 1983** British Council Scholarship, UK

## Academic Record and Residencies

### Residencies

- 2001** Biel, Switzerland
  - 1993** Tami Mnyele Residency, Amsterdam, Holland
  - 1989** Robert Blackburn, New York, USA
  - 1983** Birmingham Polytechnic, England Triangle Workshop, New York, USA
  - 1974-7** Bill Ainslie Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Undergraduate
- 1984-5** Diploma in Museum Studies, University of London, London, UK

## Collections

- Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg
- A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town
- Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town
- Durban Art Gallery, Durban
- William Humphries Museum, Kimberley
- Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg
- Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg
- South African Reserve Bank
- Spier Arts Trust
- Hollard Collection
- Barloworld Collection
- SASOL Collection
- Mobil Oil Collection
- Standard Bank SA Ltd Collection
- University of the Western Cape, Cape Town
- University of South Africa, Pretoria
- University of Cape Town, Cape Town
- South African Higher Education Trust, Johannesburg
- Department of Education and Training, Pretoria

### International:

- Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA
- Prince Claus Collection, The Netherlands
- Dutch Royal Family Collection, The Netherlands
- BMW Collection, Germany
- Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- Botswana National Museum and Gallery, Gaborone, Botswana
- Robert Loder, London, UK
- Sir Anthony Caro, London, UK

## Selected Articles and Reviews

- 2013** Sean O'Toole, *Shared Visions The Johannesburg Art Scene / Kunstszene Johannesburg*, ArtMag by Deutsche Bank, Issue No 3
- 2013** Brent Meersman, *An Imperfect Past and its Impact on the Present*, Mail & Guardian Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** Miles Keylock, *Koloane's City In Motion*, Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Publications

- 2002** Veronique Tadjou, *David Koloane: Taxi 006*. David Krut Publishing: Johannesburg
- 1999** Frank Herreman and M. D'amato, *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*. The Museum of African Art: New York, p.27.
- 1997** *Walking The Tight Rope: Trade Routes*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale catalogue text
- 1996** Andre Magnin and Jacques Soulillou, *Contemporary Art of Africa*, Thames and Hudson, New York and London
- 1996** Sue Williamson and Ashraf Jamal, *Art in South Africa: The Future Present*, David Philip Publishers: Claremont, South Africa
- 1995** Clementine Deliss (ed.), *Seven Stories About Modern Art In Africa*. Flammarion: Paris, p.140 – 156 and p. 261 – 265 (in conversation with Ivor Powell).
- 1993** *Esme Berman: Painting in South Africa*, Southern Book Publishers, Halfway House, p. 363.
- 1990** *Art from South Africa: Catalogue*, Thames, and Hudson
- 1990** *A question of identity*: Third Text magazine, London, UK
- 1990** *A report on the Johannesburg Africa's Biennale* catalogue text
- 1997** *Walking The Tight Rope: Trade Routes*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale catalogue text
- 1984** *A dissertation on the establishment of printmaking workshops employing alternative methods in the urban areas of South Africa*, U.K

**1982** *A Profile: Lucas Seage: A Konrad Aadenauer Prize Winner.* Staff Rider Magazine

**1981** *Margaret Makhoana, Bonanza Magazine*

**1981** *A Profile: Dan Rakgoathe Mofolo Art Centre*