

# Nicholas Hlobo



## Biography

Nicholas Hlobo (b. 1975, Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Johannesburg) began his career around the end of apartheid in 1994, when there was a new sense of freedom and national pride in South Africa. With the eradication of legalised and enforced discrimination and segregation, Hlobo and his peers were empowered to openly voice their opinions and ideas under the protection of these new laws. Hlobo's subtle commentary on the democratic realities of his home country and concerns with the changing international discourse of art remain at the core of his work. Using tactile materials such as ribbon, leather, wood, and rubber detritus that he melds and weaves together, Hlobo creates intricate two- and three-dimensional hybrid objects. Each material holds a particular association with cultural, gendered, sexual, or ethnic identity. Together, the works create a complex visual narrative that reflects the cultural dichotomies of Hlobo's native South Africa as well as those that exist around the world. His evocative, anthropomorphic imagery and metaphorically charged materials elucidate the artist's own multifaceted identity within the context of his South African heritage.

Hlobo received a fine art degree from Johannesburg's Technikon Witwatersrand in 2002. His work is included in numerous international public and private collections, including Tate Modern, London; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Museum of Art, Savannah; Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit; and the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cape Town. Solo museum exhibitions have been held at the Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague (2016); Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia (2010) and Tate Modern, London (2008). Hlobo has participated in several biennales including the 18th Biennale of Sydney, Australia (2012), 54th Venice Biennale (2011), 6th Liverpool Biennial (2010) and 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, China (2008).

Hlobo has received numerous honors and distinctions such as the Rolex Visual Arts Protégé (2010-11); Standard Bank Young Artist Award (2009); and the Tollman Award for Visual Art (2006).

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2022** *Yongamela Ubumnyama*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022** *Elizeni lenkanyiso*, Lehmann Maupin, London, United Kingdom
- 2021** *Inyoka Yobhedu*, Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2019** *Nicholas Hlobo*, Lehmann Maupin, Seoul, South Korea
- 2019** *Unyukelo*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA
- 2018** *Isango*, Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018** *Ulwamkelo*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
- 2018** *UMTHAMO*, The Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *umBhovuzo: The Parable of the Sower*, Performa 17, New York, NY
- 2017** *iimpundulu zonke ziyandilandel*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Zawelela ngale*, Uppsala Art Museum, Uppsala, Sweden
- 2016** *Sewing Saw*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Imilonji Yembali (Melodies of History)*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2016** *Nicholas Hlobo*, Lehmann Maupin, New York, NY
- 2013** *Tyaphaka and Other Works*, Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *Intethe (A Sketch for an Opera)*, Locust Projects, Miami, FL
- 2011** *Nicholas Hlobo: Sculpture, Installation, Performance, Drawing*, National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design, Oslo, Norway
- 2010** *Umtshotsho*, Standard Bank Young Artist for Visual Art 2009, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** *Paintings*, Galerie Pfiem, Savannah College of Art and Design, Lacoste, France
- 2010** *Paintings*, Brodie/Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Umtshotsho*, Standard Bank Young Artist Award 2009, Monument Gallery, Grahamstown, South Africa; Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa; Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 2009** *Ngubani na lo?*, Galleria Extraspaio, Rome, Italy
- 2009** *Ingubo Yesizwe*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008** *Uhambo*, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom
- 2008** *Monumentum II: Nicholas Hlobo*, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston, MA
- 2008** *Kwatsitywiziko*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007** *Umdudo*, Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2007** *Umakadenethwa engenadyasi*, Galleria Extraspaio, Rome, Italy
- 2007** *Idiom[s]*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 2006** *Izele*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024** *Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art*, Barbican Centre, London, United Kingdom
- 2024** *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, The Institutum, Singapore
- 2023** *Otherscapes*, JCAF, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2023** *Rolex Arts Festival*, Athens, Greece
- 2022** *Fragile Crossings*, Goodman Gallery x Marianne Boesky, London, United Kingdom
- 2021** *The same space three times*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *Silence calling from one continent to another*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020** *The Stomach and the Port*, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 2020** *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL
- 2020** *Alpha Crucis*, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway
- 2020** *Indian Ocean Current*, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, Boston, MA
- 2019** *Queer Abstraction*, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Parks, KS
- 2019** *In the Spotlight of the Night – Life in the Gloom*, Marta Herford Museum for Art, Architecture, Design, Herford, Germany
- 2019** *Delirious*, Lustwarande Foundation, Tilburg, The Netherlands
- 2019** *Kiss My Genders*, Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2019** *Queer Abstraction*, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
- 2019** *Material Insanity*, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakesh, Morocco
- 2018** *Face to Face: From Yesterday to Today, Non-Western Art and Picasso*, The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada
- 2018** *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, The Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco, CA
- 2018** *Blind Faith*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
- 2017** *Abstract Minded*, The N’Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
- 2017** *After the Thrill is Gone: Fashion, Politics, and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, OH
- 2017** *Afriques Capitales*, Gare Saint Sauveur Lille 3000, Lille, France
- 2017** *Art/Afrique, le nouvel atelier*, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France
- 2016** *The Quiet Violence of Dreams*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *After The Thrill Is Gone: Fashion, Politics and Culture in Contemporary South African Art*, Richmond Center for Visual Arts, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
- 2016** *Energy and Process*, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom
- 2015** *Material Matters: New Art from Africa*, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius
- 2015** *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory and Hell Revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C.
- 2015** *A History (art architecture design, from the 80s to now)*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2015** *Spatial Stories: Topographies of Change in Africa*, Center for Visual Art, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver, CO
- 2015** *Liberated Subjects: Present Tense*, Foundation De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium
- 2014** *Thinking, Feeling, Head, Heart*, The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *Chroma*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *The Danjuma Collection: One Man’s Trash (Is Another Man’s Treasure)*, 33 Fitzroy Square, London, United Kingdom
- 2014** *Threads*, Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 2014** *The Divine Comedy: Heaven, Purgatory and Hell Revisited by Contemporary African Artists*, MMK, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany; SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, GA
- 2014** *Public Intimacy: Art and Social Life in South Africa*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA A Sculptural Premise, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *Discontinuous Line: Selections from the Norlinda and José Lima Collection*, Oliva Creative Factory, S João de Madeira, Portugal
- 2013** *My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France; Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, Germany Cinematic Visions: Painting at the Edge of Reality, Victoria Miro, London, United Kingdom
- 2013** *Present Tense*, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2013** *Suspicious Mind: Artists’ Exploration of Mind and Matter*, Michaelis Gallery, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *Out of Fashion: Textiles in International Contemporary Art*, GI Holtegaard, Copenhagen, Denmark; Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Aalborg, Denmark
- 2012** *Fiction as Fiction (Or, A Ninth Johannesburg Biennale)*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *If A Tree...*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *all our relations*, 18th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- 2012** *Intense Proximity*, La Triennale 2012, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2012** *The Rainbow Nation*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2012** *The Next Generation*, Pulchri Studio, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2011** *What we talk about when we talk about love*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** *ILLUMInations*, 54th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2011** *The World Belongs to You*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy
- 2011** *Future Generation Art Prize*, Palazzo Papadopoli, Venice, Italy
- 2010** *Future Generation Art Prize*, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2010** *Touched*, Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, United Kingdom
- 2010** *Ampersand*, Daimler Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- 2010** *1910-2010: From Pierneef to Gugulective*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** *Wild is the Wind*, Gutstein Gallery, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA
- 2009** *Self/Not-self*, Brodie/Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Dada South?*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Beauty and Pleasure in South African Contemporary Art*, Stenersen Museum, Oslo, Norway
- 2009** *Gender, (Trans) Gender and (De) Gendered...*, Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba
- 2009** *Mythologies, Haunch of Venison...*, London, United Kingdom
- 2008** *Home Lands – Land Marks, Haunch of Venison*, London, United Kingdom
- 2008** *Disturbance: Contemporary art from Scandinavia and South Africa*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008** *Skin-to-skin*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008** *Flow*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, NY
- 2008** *ZA: giovane arte dal Sudafrica*, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy
- 2008** *Summer 2008/9: Projects*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007** *BoysCraft*, Haifa Museum of Art, Israel
- 2007** *A Legacy of Men*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2007** *Aardklop Nasionale Kunstefees*, Potchefstroom, South Africa  
**2007** *Impossible Monsters*, Art Extra, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2007** *Cape '07*, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2007** *Turbulence: Art from South Africa*, Hangar-7 (Edition 6), Salzburg, Austria  
**2007** *South African Art Now*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2006** *Second to None*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2006** *Olvida Quien Soy – Erase me from who I am*, CAAM – Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de  
**2006** *Gran Canaria*, Las Palmas, Spain  
**2005** *South African art 1848 – now*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2005** *Synergy*, Iziko Old Town House Museum, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2005** *Inventors, Makers and Movers*, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
**2005** *In the Making: Materials and Process*, Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2005** *Take Me to the River*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
**2005** *Subject to change*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2005** *Klein Karoo National Arts Festival*, Oudtshoorn, South Africa  
**2005** *A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa*, African American Museum, Dallas, TX; KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
**2005** *10 Years 100 Artists*, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2004** *Jo'burg Art City*, Johannesburg Development Agency, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2004** *Intercession*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2004** *Mine(d) Fields*, Stadtgalerie, Bern, Switzerland  
**2004** *A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa*, Center for African American Artists, Boston, MA  
**2004** *Show Us What You're Made Of II*, The Premises Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2003** *Makeshift*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2003** *18th Absa L'Atelier Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2002** *Technikon Witwatersrand Fine Art and Multimedia students' end of year exhibition*, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2002** *Jo'burg Art City*, The Fort, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2002** *17th Absa L'Atelier Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2001** *Technikon Witwatersrand Fine Art and Multimedia students' end of year exhibition*, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2000** *Arts Alive*, Electric Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2000** *Pride Exhibition*, The Zone at Rosebank and Windybrow Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1998** *Artist Proof Studio Exhibition*, Cape Town, South Africa

## Awards and Merits

**2016** Villa Extraordinary Award for Sculpture  
**2010-11** Villa Extraordinary Award for Sculpture  
**2009** Standard Bank Young Artist Award  
**2006** Tollman Award for Visual Art

## Academic Record and Residencies

Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

## Collections

Arquipelago – Centro de Artes Contemporaneas, Azores, Portugal  
 Centre Pompidou  
 Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI  
 Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, FR  
 Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Museum of Art, Savannah, GA  
 South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
 Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom  
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
 The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
 Unisa – University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa  
 Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cape Town, South Africa

## Commissions

**2006** Performance at Vansa Conference, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2005** Performance at Sessions Ikapa, Cape Town, South Africa

## Publications

**2019** *Porter, Janelle. Vitamin T: Threads and Textiles in Contemporary Art*. London: Phaidon Press Limited, 2019.  
**2012** "Trade Routes Revisited," Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 "Africa and Abstraction: Johannesburg- Blom, Hlobo, Nitegeka, Rhode," Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2011** "Nicholas Hlobo: Sculpture. Installation. Performance. Drawing," National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design, Oslo, Norway  
**2009** "Nicholas Hlobo: Standard Bank Young Artist Award 2009," Stevenson Gallery, Standard Bank, National Arts Festival, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2008** "Nicholas Hlobo: Kwatsityw'iziko," Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2006** "Nicholas Hlobo: Izele," Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa