

DR. ESTHER NOSTOKANA NAGIYANA NIKWAMBI MAHLANGU

BORN

1935 South Africa

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Esther Is Here!*, The American Federation of Arts (upcoming)
When Heart and Mind Agree, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2024 Art Basel Miami Beach, Kabinett Solo Exhibition, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting: Esther Mahlangu, A Retrospective, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting: Esther Mahlangu, A Retrospective, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, The Melrose Gallery, New York, NY
- 2023 *Dr. Esther Mahlangu: The Breath of Calligraphy*, Galerie Enrico Navarra, Paris, France
Dr. Esther Mahlangu: Where Two Rivers Meet, Almine Rech, London, United Kingdom; Paris, France
- 2021 *Dr. Esther Mahlangu*, Almine Rech, Paris, France
- 2020 *Esther Mahlangu 85*, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Abstractions of a Culture: Towards a Retrospective, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Past Modern Section, The Melrose Gallery, South Africa
Disrupting Patterns, The Melrose Gallery at the One&Only, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 *Timeless - Between Matter and Spirit by The Melrose Gallery*, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
Timeless - Between Matter and Spirit by The Melrose Gallery, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
Esther Mahlangu, Arena Studio d'Arte, Verona, Italy
- 2016 *Esther Mahlangu: Ex Africa Semper Aliquid Novi*, Kyo Noir Studio, Viterbo, Italy
- 2015 *Esther Mahlangu 80*, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 *Esther Mahlangu: An Artistic Residency*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- 2012 *Overlay*, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 *L'Africa Nei Loro Occhi*, Vitarte, Viterbo, Italy
I Colori Della Mia Tribù, Centro Espositivo St.Art, Calenzano, Italy
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa, Palazzo Samone, Cuneo, Italy
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa / African Dreams, Villa Genovese, Messina, Italy
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa, Museo Magi '900, Bologna, Italy
Regina d'Africa, Galleria Franco Riccardo Artivisive, Naples, Italy
- 2009 *Esther Mahlangu, La regina d'Africa (The African Queen)*, Artetivù Exhibition Center, Marcon, Italy
Esther Mahlangu, Un Artiste Ndebele Ai Colonos, Villacaccia di Lestizza, Udine, Italy
- 2008 *Esther Mahlangu: Reacquiring*, The Kyle Kauffman Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Esther Mahlangu*, 34LONG, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2003 *Esther Mahlangu 2003*, Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1998 *Esther Mahlangu*, Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
- 1997 *Esther Mahlangu and the Art of the Ndebele*, York College, York, PA
- 1996 *Recent Oil paintings: Esther Mahlangu*, Parish Gallery, Georgetown, DC
- 1995 *United States Tour in Tribute to Esther Mahlangu*, South African Muralist

- 1994 *Esther Mahlangu*, South African Muralist: The BMW Art Car and Related Works, National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
 FOG Design + Art Fair, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Femmes, curated by Pharrell Williams, Perrotin, Paris, France
Giants, the collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
Kings and Queens of Africa, Louvre, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- 2024 *The Avant Garde: Those Ahead of Their Time*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Frieze London, Almine Rech and the BMW Group, London, UK
Giants, the collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY
Giants, the collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz, Brooklyn Museum, High Museum, Atlanta, GA
60th International Art Exhibition Stranieri Ovunque Foreigners Everywhere, Venice Biennale Main Pavilion, Venice, Italy
What's Mine, What's Yours, Galeria La Cometa, Miami, FL
- 2023 *Artmonte-Carlo*, Almine Rech at Grimaldi Forum, Monaco, Italy
Frontline, Swivel Gallery, New York, NY
In Dialogue: Abstraction & Figuration, Visioner, New York, NY
Geometric Abstraction, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, NY
The Female Emperor, 137 Gallery, New York, NY
Unique Works: Paintings, Works on Paper and Board, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, NY
Works By or About Black artists, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, NY
To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions, Jorge M. Pérez Collection, EL Espacio 23, Miami, FL
Archipelago Hervé Di Rosa, Museu de Arte Arquitetura e Tecnologia (MAAT), Lisbon, Portugal
Africa Fashion, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Africa Supernova, Carla & Pieter Schulting Collection, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, Netherlands
Heritage Exhibition, 20th Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa
Icons of Contemporary Art, Bellagio Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas, NV
- 2022 *When Rain Clouds Gather- Black South African Women Artists, 1940 – 2000*, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
Bande-Annonce, La Collection Pigozzi à Cannes, Gare Maritime de Cannes, Cannes, France
SculptX 2022, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021 *House Party*, THEFOURTH, Cape Town, South Africa
Cosmogonies Zinsou: An African Collection, MO.CO. Hôtel des Collections, Montpellier, France
Africa Staged, LIS10 Gallery, Arezzo, Italy
A Force For Change, Agora Gallery, New York, NY
Breaking Down the Walls, Iziko: South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 *Courage is as Contagious as Fear*, Selected Works from the Hoosein Mahomed Collection, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa



- 2019 *Conflict Resolution Art*, Serafio Space, Athens, Greece
Expressions d'Afrique : Inside Jean Pigozzi's Collection, Galerie Gmurzynska, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2018 *Not A Single Story*, Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa
African Passions, Cadaval Palace, Évora, Portugal
BMW Art Cars Collection, Museum der Bildenden Künste Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
- 2017 Amref Health Africa: Benefit Auction 2017, Amref Health Africa Artball, New York, NY
Colours, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa
A Tribute to Nelson Mandela, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Concours South Africa, Sun City, South Africa
FNB Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 *Celebrating Contemporary African Art*, Amref Health Africa Artball, New York, NY
South Africa: The Art of a Nation, The British Museum, London, United Kingdom
Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
BMW Lounge, Frieze Art Fair, London, United Kingdom
- 2015 Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa
40 years of BMW Art Cars, BMW Museum, Munich, Germany
- 2014 Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa
Les Magiciens de la Terre (Revisited), Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Look Mickey!, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
Traditional African Murals, Museum of African Art, Belgrade, Serbia
- 2013 *FourWalls*, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
Africana, Fondazione Mudima, Milan, Italy
Urban Interpretation, Graffik Gallery, London, United Kingdom
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, United Kingdom
Les Trésors de l'Art Modeste, Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France
- 2012 *Blend*, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
Art Drive! The BMW Art Car Collection 1975-2010, London, United Kingdom
- 2011 *ArtMonaco'11*, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
Africa. Objetos y Sujetos, Teatro Fernan Gomez Centro de Arte, Madrid, Spain
Durban Tourism Indaba, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre (Durban ICC), Durban, South Africa
Ensemble, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 *Twenty: South African Sculpture of the Last Two Decades*, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa
ATASA Trust Southern Africa Handcraft & Ndebele Art Exhibition, Worker's Library, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Global Africa Project, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, Canada
- 2009 *Against Exclusion*, 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
Africa? Una Nuova Storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy
A-friche, Galleria Monteleone, Palermo, Italy
Sante Fe International Folk Art Market, Santa Fe, NM
- 2008 The Speed of Art Museum, Louisville, KY
- 2007 *Signs*, Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia
Why Africa?, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy
The Winter Show, AfroNova Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Esther Mahlangu and Speelman Mahlangu, 34Long, Cape Town, South Africa
Heritage Arts Awards Festival, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

- Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL
Tacoma Museum of Art, Tacoma, WA
- 2006 *100% African*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
Memory Innovation Tradition, 34LONG, Cape Town, South Africa
Beyond Lilith: The Sacred Feminine, Scuderie Aldobrandini Frascati, Roma, Italy
1st Malindi Biennale, FN centre, Malindi, Kenya
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IA
- 2005 *New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria;
Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Museum of Fine Arts,
Houston; The Smithsonian Institution: National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC
*I Walk with Ndebele, A Visual Journey with Women, Transformed and Self-Defined in
Post Apartheid South Africa*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
South Africa-USA Native American Exchange Project, Institute of American Indian Arts,
Santa Fe, NM
- 2004 *New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum,
Germany
South African Freedom and Congo Square Stage, New Orleans Jazz Festival, New
Orleans, FL
A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994-2004, Iziko: South African National
Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2003 *Dentro e Fuori le Mura*, Fabbrica Eos, Milano, Italy
- 2002 *Passport to South Africa*, Centro Culturale Trevi, Bolzano, Italy
The Art of Colour, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna, South Africa
- 2001 *Arte Africana Contemporanea*, Galleria d'arte Spazia, Bologna, Italy
Festafrika, Galleria Cavellini, Brescia, Italy
South Africa Today, The Helsinki Fair Centre, Helsinki, Finland
- 2000 *Partage d'Exotismes: 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art*, Halle Tony Garnier, Lyons,
France
Dialogue of Cultures, EXPO 2000, Hanover, Germany
- 1999 <<Rewind>>Fast Forward.ZA, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands
- 1998 *Africa Africa: Vibrant New Art from a Dynamic Continent*, Tobu Museum of Art, Tokyo,
Japan
Art of the Ndebele - Evolution of a Cultural Identity, Atlanta International Museum,
Atlanta, GA
- 1997 *Ndebele Images - Then and Now*, National Arts Club, New York, NY
Oog op Zuidelijke Afrika, Het Afrika Museum, Berg en Dal, Netherlands
African Immigrant Folklife Festival, Washington, DC
- 1996 *Esther Mahlangu: South African Muralist*, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's
Annual Legislative Conference Washington, DC
Armour J. Blackburn Centre, Howard University, Washington, DC
World bank, Washington, DC
- 1995 *BMW Art Cars and Paintings Exhibition*, Sydney, Australia
Africus, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
Eight From South Africa, Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts, San Francisco, CA
- 1993 *La Grande Vérité*, Les Astres Africains, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, Nantes,
France
European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Lisbon, Portugal
Geneva International Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1992 *Out of Africa*, Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom
BMW Art Cars Collection at Documenta IX, Kassel, Germany

- Africa Hoy*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; Cultural Centre of Contemporary Art, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1991 *BMW Art Cars Tour*, Johannesburg; Durban; Cape Town, South Africa
Ny Afrikansk Billedkunst, Rundetårn, Copenhagen, Denmark
Africa Hoy, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- 1990 *Les arts au Soleil: La Caravane des Caravanes*, France
- 1989 *Les Magiciens de la Terre*, Grande Halle de la Villette, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

COLLECTIONS

The World Bank Collection
 The Dean Collection
 The Shah collection
 High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
 Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia
 The Jean Pigozzi African Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
 Sovereign Art Foundation, Switzerland
 Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany
 BMW Art Cars Collection, Germany
 Kunstmuseum Den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands
 BROKER Art Collection, Belgium
 Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France
 Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
 Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France
 Musée d'Angoulême, Angoulême, France
 Centre national d'art et de culture Georges-Pompidou, Paris, France
 Museum of Modern Art, Equatorial Guinea
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA
 National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
 Pérez Art Museum, Miami, FL
 Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA
 Johnnic Communications Management Services Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 South African National Gallery, Iziko Museums, Cape Town, South Africa
 BOE Bank, Cape Town, South Africa
 Equatorial Guinea BHP Billiton Museum, Botshabelo, South Africa
 BHP Billiton Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
 RE:CM Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
 Rupert Art Collection, Stellenbosch, South Africa
 University of Cape Town Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
 Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
 William Humphrey Art Gallery, Kimberley, South Africa
 Wits Art Museum Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Isaac Shongwe Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
 Musée des Beaux Arts, France

AWARDS

- 2024 Honorary Doctorate, South African Creative Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, South Africa
- 2023 Metro FM Lifetime Achievement Award, Mbombela, South Africa
- 2022 Honorary Doctorate, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Pretoria, South Africa
- 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award, South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards, South Africa
- 2019 Officier de L'Ordre Arts et Lettres (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters), French Embassy, Pretoria, South Africa
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) South Africa NGO and Multi-Stakeholder Award
- 2018 Honorary Doctorate, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
Honorary Doctorate in Visual and Performing Arts, Durban University of Technology, SA
First United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) South Africa NGO and Multi Stakeholder Award
- 2017 Arts and Culture Veteran Award, Ubuntu Awards, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016 Minister's Award, Provincial Lilizela Tourism Awards, Mpumalanga, South Africa
Discourse Honorary Award, CAAMMPPS, South African Women Identity & Heritage Life Lessons, South Africa
- 2015 The Lilizela Tourism Award, Roots and Culture, South Africa
Lifetime Achievement Award, South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards, South Africa
- 2013 2nd Mbokodo Awards for South African Women in the Arts, Midrand, South Africa
- 2012 1st Mbokodo Awards for South African Women in the Arts, Soweto, South Africa
- 2011 Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality Lifetime Achievement award, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 2010 Increasing Access to the Arts Award, 13th annual BASA Awards, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 The Heritage Award for Preservation and Promotion of South African Heritage and Culture, Durban, South Africa
- 2006 The Order of Ikhamanga (Silver), Government of South Africa, South Africa
Lifetime Achievement Award, National Arts and Culture Trust, South Africa
- 2001 Arts and Culture Award for Art Promotion, South Africa
Pan African Broadcasting, Heritage and Achievement Award (PABHA), Nigeria
Radio Ndebele Award, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 1999 Mpumalanga Arts and Culture Award, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 1997 Incorporated Village of Hempstead Citation, Hempstead, New York, NY
Nassau County Commendation, New York, NY
Award from the Ministry of Culture and Communication, Centre de la Villette, France
- 1996 Mpumalanga Sport Premier's Culture Award, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 1991 1st prize Certificate of achievement for Traditional Painting, KwaNdebele National Show, Mpumalanga, South Africa
Honorary Citizen, Civic Authorities, Angoulême, France
- 1988 Radio Ndebele Award, Mpumalanga, South Africa

MURALS

- 2024 Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom, (on view through September 2025)
- 2023 Chalet Africa, Gstaad, Switzerland
- 2022 Casa Farida x Esther Mahlangu, Carvalhal, Portugal
- 2020 Indoor mural, Southgate Mall, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 The Market Theatre foyer, The Market Square, Johannesburg, South Africa
Esther Mahlangu Boardroom, Windybrow Arts Center, Johannesburg, South Africa
Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa
Cadaval Palace, Évora, Portugal
- 2010 Mandela Forum, Florence, Italy
- 2009 Villacaccia di Lestizza, Udine, Italy
- 2005 Project Row Houses: Round 22, Houston, TX
Arts of Africa, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
- 2004 New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany
- 2000 Maison de la Culture d'Amiens, Amiens, France
U'gwala, Partage d'Exotismes : 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art, Halle Tony Garnier, Lyons, France
- 1997 Courtyard mural, Spoleto Festival, Charleston, SC
- 1996 Alexandra Township Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1994 Full building facade mural at National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington, DC
Ndebele College of Education, KwaNdebele, Mpumalanga, South Africa
Stage backdrop for Lisboa94, African Festival, Lisbon, Portugal
South African Tourist Board mural, European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1992 Fire Screen, Civic Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1991 L'Émile Roux School, Angoulême, France
- 1990 Rosebank Shopping Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
School, Johannesburg, South Africa
Foyer mural of Student Hostel, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny, Bordeaux, France
- 1989 Indoor mural, Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Angoulême, Angoulême, France

SPECIAL PROJECTS, PRODUCTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

- 2025 *Projection of Harmony*, a commissioned work, at night illuminate the museum's architecture with vibrant geometric African patterns, as part of the exhibition *Kings and Queens of Africa*. Louvre, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 2024 *Nostokana* a new car featuring BMW's latest color change technology, Frieze Los Angeles, CA.
- 2023 *The Electric AI* canvas in association with BMW group for Art Basel, Switzerland; Frieze Seoul, South Korea & Contemporary, Turkey.
- 2021 Air Jordan 1 sneakers decorated by Mahlangu used for the South African Pavilion of the Expo 2020 Dubai.
- 2020 Unveiling of the Rolls-Royce Mahlangu Phantom in Cape Town, South Africa.
Carol Bouwer Bag Collection Collaboration at The Melrose Gallery in South Africa.
- 2018 Tiger Brands Heritage Day special edition Tastic rice and Albany bread packaging, South Africa.
Collaboration with tea company Freshpak for the Freshpak x Esther Mahlangu Tin, South Africa.
Decorated a motorcycle for the Africa Passions exhibition in Évora, Portugal

- 2017 Painted a 1995 BMW Isetta for Concours, South Africa.
- 2016 Collaborated with BMW again for the BMW 7 Series Individual with painted interior panels by Mahlangu.
New design for the Belvedere (RED) bottle and HIV/AIDs campaign tour across the USA.
- 2015 Sneaker design with Swedish company Eytys for Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France.
- 2010 Commissioned as the FIFA Official Artist for South Africa in Italy.
- 2009 Painted limited edition Ultragirl pumps in collaboration with shoe company Melissa for their São Paulo Fashion Week program in Brazil.
- 2007 Painted the New Fiat 500 for the Giovanni and Marella Agnelli collection in Italy.
- 2005 Painted Jean Pigozzi's Volkswagen Type 181 for his collection in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2003 Design for the poster of The South African Society for Surgery of the Hand 34th.
Congress in Cape Town, South Africa
- 1999 The Spirit House Project for the Three Rivers Art Festival in Pittsburgh, USA.
- 1992 Decorated one of the 100 make-up vases (No. 52) for Alessandro Mendini's 100% Make-up project.
- 1991 Fashion magazine campaign with supermodel Iman at Botshabelo in Mpumalanga, South Africa.
Comme des Garçons boutiques installation for the show Ndebele which toured Tokyo, Japan; New York, USA & Paris, France.
Invited to take part in the Quartiers-Lumières initiative in Angoulême, France.
BMW 525i Art Car, 12th Art Car commission, issued to Mahlangu from BMW headquarters in Munich, Germany.
- 1989 Star of the video documentary Esther se Wêreld which premiered on TV1 in South Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 *Esther Mahlangu – A Life In Color*, Dr. Thomas Girst, Azu Nwagbogu, Hans Ulrich Obrist
- 2018 *Living Human Treasures*, Flow Communications, Living Human Treasures Project, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture