

BLESSING NGOBENI

BORN

1985 Tzaneen, South Africa. Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

EDUCATION

Artist Proof Studio in Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Frieze Los Angeles, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 Ntsumi Ya Vutomi, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022 Blessing Ngobeni: Fragility of Time, Everard Read/Circa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 Blessing Ngobeni: Skeletons at Work, Everard Read/Circa, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020 Blessing Ngobeni: Chaotic Pleasure, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 Blessing Ngobeni: A Note from Error, Everard Read London, UK
- Enemy of Foe, CIRCA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 Masked Reality, CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 The Song of the Chicotte, CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- In Unknown Space, Cleveland Foundation Creative Fusion, Cleveland, OH
- 2015 As If You Care, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 In His State of Madness, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 On This Earth, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *In Their Hands*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 Art Basel Miami Beach, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
- Cyclical Bloom, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Winter 2023, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Winter 2023, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 Transcontinental Dialogues, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Carnivals of Clouds, Janet Rady Fine Art, Online Viewing Room
- 2021 Frieze New York, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
- Oasis: 25th Anniversary Group Exhibition, Everard Read/Circa, Cape Town, South Africa
- The Absolutely Fabulous Spring Show, Everard Read/Circa. Johannesburg, South Africa
- In Conversation, Everard Read/Circa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 Summer, Everard Read/Circa, Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- Art Basel, Miami Beach: OVR, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Online Viewing Room
- Frieze London, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Online Viewing Room
- Art Basel, OVR:20c, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Online Viewing Room
- The Armory Show, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa

- The Invisible Exhibition II, The Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 UNTITLED, Miami, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, IL
Summertime... Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
AIPAD, Pier 94, New York
Winter, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
In the Forests of the Night, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 EXPO Chicago, Chicago, IL
Humanity Today, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Summer Exhibition, Everard Read London, UK
- 2016 Viewpoints, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Art Miami, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2015 Untitled Group Exhibition, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 Works On Paper Group Show, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 Made In Africa, Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Emergency Exit, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 SANNA Africa Festival, Zoo Lake, Johannesburg, South Africa
Wasted, Unity Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 Collaboration, Unity Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009 Untitled, Unity Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 Untitled, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006 Taxi Outreach Project, David Krut, Michaelis Central Library, Diepkloof Library, Johannesburg, South Africa

RESIDENCIES

- 2016 Founded the Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize
Cleveland Creative Fusion, Cleveland, OH
- 2014 Headlands Centre For Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Reinhold Cassier Award, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa

GRANTS/FELLOWS/AWARDS

- 2024 The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize
- 2019 Standard Bank Young Artist Award (2020)
- 2013 Mail & Guardian as one of the 200 Top South Africans
Art & Culture Trust, Johannesburg, South Africa, ACT Lifetime Achievement Awards
and ImpACT Awards for Young Professionals: Blessing Ngobeni for Visual Arts
- 2012 Reinhold Cassirer Art Award

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2024 "The Intersection of Traditional Art and Digital Innovation in the Metaverse", March 3rd, 2024
"Memory and Material at Frieze Los Angeles 2024", Frieze, January 23rd, 2024
The 2024 Norval Sovereign African Art Prize
"Blessing Ngobeni Art Foundation announces open call for the 2024 Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize (BNAP)", The Creatives Note, by Tunmise Afape, February 5th, 2024

- “Darlo Visual Arts Merit Award Calls for Application”, Art News South Africa, February 21st, 2024
- 2023 “Blessing Ngobeni’s latest exhibition is an exploration of history and tradition in South Africa”, Drum, by Phumlani S Langa, August 4th, 2023
 “Ntsumi Ya Vutomi exhibition challenges oppressive system Nogbeni’s art exposes plight of black people”, Entertainment, by Patience Bambalele, August 10th, 2023
 “The artist as messenger angel”, Mail & Guardian, by Lesego Chepape, August 17th, 2023
- 2022 “Prison life, slavery inspires South African artist at contemporary expo”, SABC News, September 6th, 2022
 McLean, Lindsey Jean. “Janet Rady Fine Art opens new online exhibition Carnivals of Clouds”. ArtDaily, 17 January 2022. Online.
- 2021 Halperin, Julia, Kazakina, Katya, Kinsella, Eileen. “Looking for the Newt Big Thing? Here Are 6 Rising-Star Artists to Seek Out at Frieze New York 2021”. 7 May 2021. Online.
- 2020 “Who Will Shape the Art Wordl in 2021? ArtNews Presents ‘The Deciders’ “, ArtNews, December 1st, 2020
 Rangongo, Timothy. “Emerging artists to look out for.” Finweek, 3 January, 2020. Online.
 “SA’s Picasso: Blessing Ngobeni is the Visual Artist you Need to Know About”, Business Day Wanted, by Graham Wood, March 16th, 2020
- 2019 Jacobs, Craig, “SA’s own Basquiat, Blessing Ngobeni, bequeaths award to new talent,” Sunday Times, 5 May 2019. Online.
 “Foreign buyers flock to Cape Town’s booming art scene,” Reuters, 20 March 2019. Online
- 2018 “Ngobeni’s beautiful nightmare in the exhibition A Note from Error,” Mail&Guardian, November 23, 2018
 “Discussing Blessing Ngobeni’s A Note from Error,” Rosebank Killarney Gazette, November 28, 2018
 “Blessing Ngobeni is the next big thing” Conde Nast, House and Garden. Smedy, Piet, Jan. 23, 2018
 Mongezeleli Joja A., “Ngobeni’s Beautiful Nightmare”, November 2018, Mail & Guardian
 Blessing Ngobeni, Africanah.Org, September, 9, 2018.
 Williams, Scott Eric, “Anatomy of (Collective) Apathy: Blessing Ngobeni’s Enemy of Foe, March 2, 2018
- 2017 “Black Art, White Galleries: Blessing Ngobeni’s “Masked Reality”, ARTHROB, Motlatsi Khosi, March 3, 2017
 “Blessing Ngobeni”, Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art, 2017
 Circa Gallery: Blessing Ngobeni, Business Media MAGS
- 2016 “Crosby, Ngobeni, Mokgosi: 3 Rising African painters you need to know now”, Artspace, Nov. 4, 2016
 “Meet the artist who has become one of his generation’s most sought-after painter” Sunday Times, the Paper for the People, Tymon Smith, July 2016.
 “A Sjambok to make you sing”, Robyn Sassen My View, July 9 2016
- 2015 Mongezeleli Joja A., “Art and politics: Blessing Ngobeni brings us back to the reality.” Mail & Guardian, August 2015. Online.
 Hunkin J. “Layered with Meaning: Blessing Ngobeni’s Mixed Media Collages”, Between 10 and 5, May 2015. Online.
 Jolly L., “Testament of an Afro-Picasso”, Cape Times, July 2015.
- 2014 Nkuna K. “Blessing Ngobeni explores power and destruction”, The Citizen, April 2014.
- 2013 “Blessing Ngobeni, 200 Young South Africans Archive” Mail & Guardian
 Taylor D., “Traumatic Past Fuels Work of South African Artist Blessing Ngobeni”, Voice of America.

- 2012 "Blessing's beasts of our nation", November 2012, in News 24
"Blessed by dreams", June 2012, in News 24
De Waal M. "No disguise in Blessing's work", April 2012, in Daily Maverick
Sassen R. "Artist forged by pain", April 2012, in Sunday Times
"Painting Joburg in Art", March 2012, in Joburg.org.za

FILMS

- 2014 "Blessing's Art Fair Performance", 2014, 11:39 minutes, Blessing Ngobeni
"Bless Footage 2", 2014, 5:46 minutes, Blessing Ngobeni
"100% Youth: Blessing Ngobeni", 2014, 6:14 minutes, Gallery MOMO, The Bag Factory, Rena Le Lona Creative Center, for SABC 1
2013 "Born prepared: Blessing Ngobeni for the 2013 FNB JoburgArtFair", 2013, 4:44 minutes, producer: Nicola Hellmann, for FNB TV