

Misheck Masamvu



Biography

Oscillating between abstraction and figuration, Misheck Masamvu's (b. 1980, Mutare, Zimbabwe) works allow him to address the past while searching for a way of being in the world. As one of the most significant artists from Zimbabwe, Masamvu's work offers a renewed understanding of visual culture in Africa and the decolonial project more broadly. Rhythmic lines and layered fields of colour have become a prominent language for Masamvu to explore structures of power and how history comes to bear on the contemporary moment, but also how one can adapt to a new way of interacting with the world.

Selected solo exhibitions: *Show me how ruins make a home*, A Gentil Carioca, São Paulo (2024); *Exit Wounds*, Goodman Gallery, New York (2024); *Safety Pin*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2023); *Pivot*, Bernier/Eliades Gallery, Brussels (2023); *Talk to me while I'm eating*, Goodman Gallery, London, United Kingdom (2021); *Hata*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2019); *Still Still*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town; Misheck Masamvu, Institut Français, Paris, France (2015); *Disputed Seats*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal (2009).

Notable group exhibitions include: *Kuvhunura/Kupinda nemwenje mudziva*, Fondation Blachere Bonnioux, France (2024); *Translations: Afro-Asian Poetics*, The Institutum, Singapore (2024); *Inside Out*, Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva (2022); *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA (2020); *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami (2020); *Two Together*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town (2020); *Five Bobh: Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town (2017); *Africa 2.0 > is there a Contemporary African art?*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon (2010); *Art, Migration and Identity*, Africa Museum, Arnhem (2008); and *696*, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare (2008).

Major international exhibitions include: *The 't' is silent*, 8th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium (2022); *STILL ALIVE*, 5th Aichi Triennale, Aichi, Japan (2022); *NIRIN*, 22nd Sydney Biennale, Sydney (2020); *Incerteza Viva (Live Uncertainty)*, the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo (2016) and his international debut at Zimbabwe's inaugural Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011).

Collections include: A4 Arts Foundation (Cape Town, South Africa); Braunsfelder Family Collection (Cologne, Germany); Uieshema Collection (Tokyo, Japan); Perez Art Museum (Miami, USA); Pigozzi Collection (Geneva, Switzerland); Taguchi Art Collection (Tokyo, Japan); Fukutake Foundation (Auckland, New Zealand); COMMA Foundation (Damme, Belgium); ANA Collection (Lagos, Nigeria); Sigg Art Foundation, Le Castellet, France; Fondation Gandur pour l'Art (Geneva, Switzerland); and Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Cape Town, South Africa).

Masamvu lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021** *Carnivorous Words*, Goodman Gallery Projects, East Hampton, United States of America
- 2021** *Talk to me while I'm eating*, Goodman Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2019** *Hata*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Still / Still*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Still*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015** *Misheck Masamvu*, Institut Français, Paris, France
- 2014** *Life Sentence*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *Epitaph*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Shame*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2009** *Disputed Seats*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2006** *Relay*, Munich, Germany
- 2006** *Colour of Sweat*, Bonn, Germany
- 2003** *A Naked Mind II*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
- 2002** *A Naked Mind I*, National Gallery, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Group Exhibitions

- 2022** *STILL ALIVE*, 5th Aichi Triennale, Aichi, Japan (forthcoming)
- 2022** *The 't' is silent*, 8th Biennial of Painting, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium (forthcoming)
- 2022** *When We See Us*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa (forthcoming)
- 2022** *Inside Out*, Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2021** *The same space three times*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *XXL*, OPEN24HRS Studio and Project Space, Cape Town, South Africa

2021 *SOUTH SOUTH: Everything fits to our daily needs*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2020 *Did ever think there would come a time?*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2020 *Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA
2020 *Witness: Afro Perspectives*, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA
2020 *Alles Notwendige (Everthing Necessary)*, Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany
2020 *NIRN*, 22nd Sydney Biennale, Sydney, Australia
2019 *I've grown roses in this garden of mine*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
2019 *Borders*, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA
2019 *Two Together*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Five Bhoob Painting at the End of an Era*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *In Context: this past was waiting for me...*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Narrative Means*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2018 *Jeepers, Creepers*, Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany
2017 *All things being equal*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *When Heaven Meets the Earth*, Heong Gallery, Downing College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK
2016 *Incerteza Viva (Live Uncertainty)*, 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *Triangle*, with Tayseer Barakat and Ismail Al Rifai, curated by Mohamed Abou Elnaga, The Mojo Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
2014 *next thing you know*, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
2013 *Afroplicity*, Njelele Art Station, Harare, Zimbabwe
2013 *blank projects in Johannesburg*, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *Working Title*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *Leatherette*, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2012 *The Spirit of Two Friendship: Entre Dos Aguas / Pakati Pemugungwa*, Gabarron Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
2012 *Dekonstruiert und Geflickt*, Gallerie Françoise Heitsch, Munich, Germany
2011 *54th Venice Biennale*, Zimbabwe Pavillion, Venice, Italy
2011 São Tomé Biennale, São Tomé and Príncipe
2010 *Africa 2.0 > is there a Contemporary African art?*, Influx Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
2008 *Art, Migration and Identity*, Africa Museum, CBK, Arnhem, Netherlands
2008 *Hidden Stories*, Grote Kerk, Haarlem, Netherlands
2008 *Many Rivers to Cross*, Cafe Gallery, London, UK
2008 696, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
2007 *Paintings and Sculptures*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2006 *Relieving the Trauma*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2006 Dak'Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal
2006 *The Summer Exhibition*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2005 *Gallery Delta for 30 Years*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2004 *Legacy*, Pasinger Fabrik, Pasing, Munich
2004 *New Directions in Zimbabwean Contemporary African Painting*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2003 *Decimation, Deprivation and Decapitation*, Gallery Delta & HIFA, Harare, Zimbabwe
2003 *Artists for Zimbabwe*, Gallery 27, London, United Kingdom
2002 *Pre-Election Selection*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2001 *Colourfields Africa II*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2001 *Africa Exhibit*, Munich, Germany
2000 *Colourfields Africa*, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
2000 *Colour Africa*, Munich, Germany

Academic Record and Residencies

2015 Artist in Residence, Institut Français, Paris
2005 – 2007 *Kunste Akademie, Munich*
 1999 *Atelier Delta*

Collections

A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
 Barloworld Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Braunsfelder Family Collection, Cologne, Germany
 Danjuma Collection, London, United Kingdom
 DRAT Collection, Singapore
 El Espacio 23, Miami, USA
 Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland
 Fundacion Yannick y Ben Jakober, Mallorca, Spain
 Gabarron Foundation, Barcelona, Spain
 Igal Ahouvi Art Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel
 Institut Français, Paris, France
 National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
 Old Parliament Collection, Singapore
 Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA
 Perić Collection, Berlin, Germany
 Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
 Royal Portfolio Collection, Mutare, Zimbabwe
 Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
 Sina Jina Collection, London, United Kingdom
 Sovereign Art Foundation, Jakarta, Indonesia
 Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel
 United States National Embassies Permanent Collection, Washington DC, USA
 X Museum, Beijing, China

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa