

# ZIZIPHO POSWA

b. 1979 in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa; Lives and Works in Cape Town, South Africa

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Zizipho Poswa is a Cape-Town-based ceramic artist whose large-scale, hand-coiled sculptures are bold declarations of African womanhood. She is inspired by the daily Xhosa rituals she witnessed as a young girl growing up in the Eastern Cape Town province of South Africa and the life-sustaining roles that Xhosa women play in traditional and contemporary life.

Poswa's work for Southern Guild explores her personal experience and heritage in monumental sculptural pieces. Her first major series paid tribute to the practice of "Umthwalo" (load), in which rural women carry heavy bundles of wood, buckets of water, or parcels on their heads, often walking long distances on foot, her second series, Magodi, looked to the sculptural forms of traditional African hairstyles, such as the Bantu knot and dreadlock, and the central role that the hair salons play as a meeting place for women. Each work is named after a family member or close friend, giving vivid, physical form to the artists' own support network.

Poswa's work has been acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the LOEWE Foundation, as well as important private and corporate collections around the world. In 2021, she was featured artists with Andile Dyalvane in the inaugural Indian Ocean Craft Triennial in Perth, Australia, and was included in a self-addressed curated by Kehinde Wiley at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery in Los Angeles. She has taken part in group exhibitions in New York, Paris, Hamburg, and Liverpool and has presented her work through Southern Guild at Design Miami, The Salon Art + Design New York, and PAD London.

## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *uBuhle boKhokho*, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa  
2021 *iLobola*, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 *Terra Recognita: A Ceramics Story*, Mariane Ibrahim, Chicago IL  
2021 *Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA (ongoing)  
*Exceptions d'Afrique*, Maison Artcurial, Paris, France  
*Ceramics Now*, Galerie Italienne, Paris, France  
*iZilo*, Indian Ocean Craft Triennial, John Curtin Gallery, Perth, Australia  
*Self-Addressed*, Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*Before Yesterday We Could Fly: An Afrofuturist Period Room*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA (ongoing)  
2020 *Shaping Things*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
2019 *Deeper than Text: Redefining the Message*, 1stdibs Gallery, New York, USA  
*Communion*, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa  
Indlovukazi, Toyota Woordfees, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
2018 *Colour Field*, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Ideas in Transit*, Akademie der Kunste, Hamburg, Germany  
2017 *Extra Ordinary*, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa  
2011 *Ekapa*, Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool, UK

## FAIRS

2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair  
2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair

---

### MARIANE IBRAHIM

Chicago | Paris | Mexico City  
marianeibrahim.com

2021 Design Miami  
Design Miami  
2020 Investec Cape Town Art Fair  
2019 Design Miami  
PAD London  
2018 The Salon Art + Design, New York, USA Design Miami

## COLLECTIONS

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
Iziko National Museum, Cape Town, South Africa  
Loewe Foundation, Barcelona, Spain  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA

## AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

2023 Centre for Contemporary Ceramics, California State University, Long Beach, USA  
2020 Most Beautiful Object in South Africa, VISI Magazine Awards, South Africa  
2019 Finalist, Innibos National Craft Awards  
2017 Fellowship Award, Ceramics Southern Africa Association, Western Cape  
Mbokodo Award, Carol Bower Productions, South Africa  
Fellowship Award, Ceramics Southern Africa Association, Western Cape  
2009 Finalist, VISI Magazine Awards, South Africa  
2009 Finalist, City of Cape Town Woman in Tourism Awards, Arts and Culture Category

## EDUCATION

2009 National Diploma in Textile Design, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

## PUBLICATIONS

2023 Ceramics: An Atlas of Forms by Glenn Barkley, published by Thames & Hudson  
2021 Zizipho Poswa: uBuhle boKhokho, published by Southern Guild  
Black Artists Shaping the World by Sharna Jackson, published by Thames & Hudson