

About Vusumzi Nkomo

Vusumzi Nkomo (b. 1993) is an artist, musician, writer, cultural theorist and educator living and working in Cape Town, South Africa.

His work, situated in the intersection between art and politics, investigates notions of invention and residue as means to make sense of how we are positioned as modern subjects. Nkomo asks how systems, structures and practices persist long after they have been pronounced 'dead'. His practice spans across installation, sculpture, video, drawing, performance and sound. Nkomo's work probes hegemonic semiotic systems while critiquing and interrogating racial violence, knowledge production, language, power, history and memory.

Working with a range of materials such as concrete, glass and mirrors, shoe and floor polish, sea salt, soil, ash, and various found objects, Nkomo stages speculative encounters between objects to expose the operations of structural violence and paradigmatic precarity in the longue durée of South Africa's history of racial slavery, colonialism and their afterlives. Often drawing from conceptualist and minimalist strategies, Nkomo is interested in seriality, repetition, fragmentation, movement and multiplicity, as modes of unveiling and demystifying the pervasiveness and ubiquity of anti-blackness as structuring modality of Black life.

In 2024, Nkomo presented his debut solo exhibition *Ityala aliboli* at Association for Visual Arts (AVA) Gallery, and his second solo exhibition titled *Propositions for dis-order* at THK Gallery in September 2024.

Nkomo recently presented work in a number of group shows including *SENSES* (2024) at Michaelis Gallery curated by Kamogelo Walaza; *over/under* (2024) at Lemkus Gallery curated by Jared Leite and Jade Nair; *Fullhouse* (2023) at blank projects curated by FEDE and Under Projects; *TEXT* (2023) organised by artists Kamyar Bineshtarigh and Brett Seiler; *Occupation* (2022) at the Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), curated by Thuli Gamedze, Zen Marie, and Gilles Furtwängler; *PILOT* (2022), and a durational performance (2022) with his sound collective *DEAD SYMBOLS* with artists and composers Rowan Smith and Fernando Damon, both at Under Projects; a sonic lecture titled *Sagrili and The Coming of Western Schools* (2022) in dialogue with Portuguese artist Grada Kilomba's "A World of Illusions" at Norval Foundation. He has also produced work as part of sound collective *Blackness and Dance* with American writer Kim Reynolds and sound artist and composer Dani Kyengo O'Neill / BUJIN.



Vusumzi Nkomo, uSamson, 2024

CV

Education

2023

BA Contemporary Arts, Cape Town Creative Academy

Solo exhibitions

2024

'Propositions for dis-order', THK Gallery, Cape Town

'Ityala aliboli', Association for Visual Arts (AVA), Cape Town

Group exhibitions

2024

'Little Life', Everard Read, Cape Town

'Grammars', Lemkus Gallery, Cape Town

'SENSE', curated by Kamogelo, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town

'under/over', curated by Jared Leite and Jade Nair, Lemkus Gallery, Cape Town

'To be Fair', Demo Projects, Cape Town

2023

'Fullhouse', curated by Under Projects and FEDE, blank projects

'TEXT', organised by artists Kamyar Bineshtarigh and Brett Seiler, Cape Town

2022

'Sagrili and The Coming of Western Schools', a sonic lecture in dialogue with Grada Kilomba's "A World of Illusions", Norval Foundation, Cape Town

'OCCUPATION', Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg

'PILOT', Under Projects, Cape Town

Writing

A strange diaspora: Thania Petersen's Rampies Sny [ESPACE art actuel]

On the Structure(s) of Abstraction: Mongezi Ncaphayi's 'Standard of Language' [ArtThrob]

How Berni Searle Contemplates the Weight of Loss [Contemporary And]

Bonding Over Blacks: Mario Moore's A Student's Dream [The Thinker]

Debt [iLiso Magazine]

Exhibition Texts

A Dance with Death: Blessing Ngobeni [catalogue essay forthcoming with Evarard Read]

Catalogue essay for 'A World of Illusions: Grada Kilomba' [Norval Foundation]

'The Long View': A Group Exhibition featuring works by painters Rentia Retief and Larita

Engelbrecht [EBONY/ CURATED]