

About Gillian Rosselli

Gillian Rosselli (born 1962) is a Zimbabwean artist whose figurative and abstract practice reflects a range of contemporary everyday and socio-political issues, including domestic violence - particularly against women and children -, the legacy of colonization and the refugee migration crisis. She studied a Bachelor of Fine Art from 1981 - 1984 and has since developed her complex, distinctive language.

Rosselli's work explores both personal and broader societal issues in Zimbabwe and beyond. In addition to her socio-political mission, she is an expert in using her universal artistic language as a tool to connect her work to the global contemporary agenda and their key themes of identity, gender / queerness and collective narratives / templates / memories. Rosselli is strongly committed to seeing and spiritual connections. She is embedding meaning through the layering of acrylic paint, sensitive use of color, and ambiguous contours. Rosselli has had six solo exhibitions to date. Her work is included in prestigious collections world-wide, public and private ones including the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Royal Embassy of the Netherlands (Harare), Cottoc Zimbabwe, Anglo American and Mobil Oil.

Rosselli recently represented Zimbabwe at the Venice Biennale and has been featured in several local and international exhibitions, including 'Five Bhoobh - Painting At the End of an Era' at the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town in 2018. She has won many awards throughout her career, including the overall award of distinction for painting in Zimbabwe in 1995.



The Future Is Terrain, Gillian Rosselli, 2024

CV

Education

1981 - 1984

University of Cape Town, Michaelis School of Fine Art (BAFA), 1981 - 1984

Solo exhibitions

2023

A Gathering, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

2017

A Day at Sea, Irma Stern Museum, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

Belonging, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2008

Omniscience, Rheiner and Reitbauer Studio, Harare, Zimbabwe

2003

Kupesana, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Mutare, Zimbabwe

2002

Land and Water, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

Group exhibitions

2024

UNDONE, Pavilion of Zimbabwe, Venice Biennale 2024, Venice, Italy

2023

Optimal Vibration, Graham Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa

2022

MILK - Current Affairs 2022 – Conversations about the Body, Nel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019/20

Fast Forward – The Future of Work in a Green Economy International Labour Organisation (ILO), Harare, Zimbabwe

2018/19

Five Bhoobh – Painting at the End of an Era, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Blood Relatives, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

2015

Waste no Waste: Trash is Treasure, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

2014

100 Hundred, Alliance Francaise de Harare, Harare, Zimbabwe

CV

2009
A Tribute to Luke Bezeidenhout, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

2008
Ex PreSSION of Zimbabwe, Université D'Avignon, Avignon, France

2006
Women's Film Festival, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

2003
African Colours, HIVOS, Friesland, Netherlands
crossing – knotting, transpORTale, Nordbahnhof, Berlin, Germany

2002
Transmission – Sexual Health and Art, LIME, St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, UK

2000
Zimbabwe Biennale, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

Awards

2016
Artist of the Year, Zimbabwean International Women's Award (Nominee)

2015
'Waste no Waste : Trash is Treasure', National Gallery of Zimbabwe (First Prize)

2000
Biennale, Harare, Zimbabwe (Award of Merit)

1999
F.A.C.T Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (First Prize)
Longmans Women Exhibition, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Award of Merit)

1998
Biennale, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Award of Merit)

1995
Zimbabwe Biennale, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Overall Award of Distinction)
Zimbabwe Biennale, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (Award of Merit)