

About Gillian Rosselli

Gillian Rosselli (b. 1962) is a Zimbabwean artist whose painting practice — encompassing both figuration and abstraction — reflects on a range of contemporary questions and socio-political issues. Her latest body of work titled 'After the Rain' considers the profound, and life-giving importance of rain, and translates Rosselli's elemental sensations and experiences during the first rains of the season in Zimbabwe into to vivid, impulse-lead compositions. Rosselli obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Michaelis School of Fine Arts in Cape Town in 1984 and has since developed her complex, distinctive language.

Rosselli's work explores both personal and broader societal issues. In addition to her socio-political mission, she uses her unique visual language as a tool to connect her work to the global contemporary agenda and the key themes of identity, queerness, collective narratives and memories. Rosselli is strongly committed to seeing and spiritual connections, 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 public and private collections world-wide, including the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Royal Embassy of the Netherlands (Harare), Cottoc Zimbabwe, Anglo American and Mobil Oil.

In 2024 Rosselli represented Zimbabwe at the Venice Biennale. Other noteworthy exhibitions include 'Five Bhozh - 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)