

About Turiya Magadlela

Turiya Magadlela (b.1978) is a South African artist who employs a unique exploration of textiles to address issues that shape a gendered and racialized society. She sews and embroiders nylon pantyhose, correctional service uniforms, prison sheets, and other conceptually loaded fabrics to address societal issues through conceptual investigation, exploring profound themes of racial and sexual discrimination, femininity, and eroticism. Her use of tights serves not only as a medium for creativity but also as a powerful symbol, drawing attention to skin colour and the complex social landscape of South Africa, employing art-making techniques traditionally associated with femininity and craft. Magadlela's art goes beyond mere visual representation. In live performances within the exhibition space, she sews tights on a sewing machine, offering a poignant commentary on labor conditions, gender disparities, and the enduring legacies of sexual and racial violence and abuse. In her latest series, Magadlela creates awe-inspiring tapestries from tights, transforming exhibition spaces into immersive environments reminiscent of cave-like structures. Through these monumental works, she invites viewers to contemplate the deeper implications of race, gender, and identity. These tapestries, akin to square keyholes of voyeurism, are stretched on wooden frames, inviting viewers to peer into a world fraught with historical and contemporary struggles. Prepare to be transported as Turiya Magadlela's artistry challenges and inspires.



Magadlela studied at the University of Johannesburg and Rijksakademie, Amsterdam. Since winning the FNB Art Prize in 2015, and shortlisted for the Prix D' Prat Prize, she has shown at the 2016 Armory Show and exhibited in Berlin, USA and Ghana. Her work was included in the acclaimed group show "Blue Black," curated by artist Glenn Ligon at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in St. Louis. Magadlela cuts, stitches, and folds her materials across wooden frames to create multilayered abstract compositions. Drawing from her experiences as a Black woman and a mother as well as from Black South African history, Magadlela's works serve as vibrant celebrations of Black womanhood while simultaneously suggesting the implicit eroticization of and violence against the body.



CV

Education

2004

Postgraduate Research Study, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Netherlands

2001

National Diploma of Fine Arts, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

1998

Certificate in Fine Arts, Funda Community College, Johannesburg, South Africa

1997

National Senior Certificate, The National School of the Arts, Johannesburg, South Africa

Solo Exhibitions

2021

Would Say II, Ubuntu un rêve lucide, curated by Marie-Ann Yemsi, Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France
A Few Good Friends, Motho Fela, LatchKey Gallery, New York City, United States of America

2020

Mandisa, Nil Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019

Mashadi WouldSay... , MSGSU Resim ve Heykel Muzesi, Santiyesi, Istanbul, Turkey

2017

The Armory Show, Solo Exhibit for the Armory Show Presents, / New York City, United States of America
Wabona lapho isifebe, wangena kuso, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

Impilo ka Lova, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
Kaffersheet, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Imihuzuko (for the FNB Art Prize), FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

Everybody knows u Feels, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

Group exhibitions

2023

Dark Matters, Kates-Ferri, NYC, United States of America
Kates Ferri Projects, NYC, USA
A woman's work, Jac Forbes Contemporary, Malibu, United States of America
Lean On Me, Ko Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
He Said She Said, 1:54 New York Kates-Ferri Projects, New York, United States of America
Contemporary African Art Survey, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, Netherlands

2022

A Collection of African Portraits, Kunsthalle Krems, Vienna, Austria
We Paint, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Paris, curated by Christiano Raimondi, 10 years by Jean-François Prat Prize, Paris, France
(De) Framing Identity and the body, I know you are, but what am I? UMOCA, Utah, United States of America
Mama, PRIOR Art Space, Berlin

4000+years of African Art +Ans D'art African, curated by Destinee Ross-Sutton, Musee Wallhouse, Saint Barthélemy Foundation, La Fondation Gandur pour L'Art Geneve
 Shades of human nature: Storytelling, through resilient colour, curated by Katherine Finerty, BloomGallery, Geneva, Switzerland
 Home Strange Home, curated by Reservoir, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Whatiftheworld Gallery and Krone Cap Classique, Tulbagh, South Africa
 Water is not for sale, curated by Cassandra Bowes, Bloom Gallery Saint Tropez, France
 When Yonic, Becomes Phallic, Editions, Artthrob in association with DGI Studio and Latitudes
 Untitled Art Fair, Kates Ferri Projects, South Beach Miami, Florida, United States of America
 Artissima, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Italy
 Quantity of Movements, AKAA Fair, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Paris, France
 Planet B. Climate Change and the new sublime II, Charles Darwin and the coral reef, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, Palazzo Bollani, Venice, Italy

2022

Planet B. Part III, The Tragic Death of Nauru Island, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, Palazzo Bollani, Venice Art Now
 FNB Art Joburg, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
 African Galleries Now, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa and Artsy
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Kalashnikovv Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Dirurubela, 1:54 London, Kalashnikovv Gallery Johannesburg, South Africa
 Current Identities, BODE Projects and Bloom Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2021

L' aventure ambiguë, BISO
 The International Biennial of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
 West Bund Art and Design, Bloom Gallery and HdM Gallery, Beijing, China
 Last Supper curated by Tamecca Seril, LatchKey Gallery, in special partnership at Industry City, New York, Unites States of America
 KUGARISANA - Group show of artists from the Continent of Africa Presented by Simchowitz - Beverly Hills, California, United States of America
 Hello And Goodbye - Kalashnikovv Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2020

Against Interpretation - Everard Read, London, United Kingdom
 Courage is as Contagious as Fear - Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
 BLACK VOICES/BLACK MICROCOSM, curated by Destinee Ross, CFHILL official, Sweden
 Colours of the African Di-as-po-ra {noun} LACK

2019

King of the Hill - Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, United States of America
 Material Insanity, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL) Marrakech, Morocco
 New Conversations - Malibu Art Walk, Malibu, California, United States of America
 Gossamer - Curated by Zoe Bedeaux, Carl Freedman Gallery, Margate, Kent, United Kingdom
 Speculative Inquiry, on abstraction curated by Nkule Mabaso Michaelis Galleries, South Africa
 Frieze Art Fair, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Brooklyn and San Francisco, United States of America
 UNTITLED, San Francisco, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, United States of America
 Open Agenda - blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

Blank Projects & Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin, Germany
 More for less, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
 The Same As Ever, But More So - Braunsfelder, Cologne, Germany
 UNTITLED, Miami, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Miami, United States of America
 EXPO Chicago, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Chicago, United States of America
 Jean François Prat Prize, Bredin Prat Foundation, Paris, France

2017

Looking Back, Moving Forward, Constitutional Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
Blue Black curated by Glenn Ligon, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St Louis, United States of America
MO Simple Passion, Complex Vision: The Darryl Atwell Collection, Gantt Centre, Charlotte, United States of America
Les jour qui vient, curated by Marie-Ann Yemsi, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France
A Painting Today, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
MO Simple Passion, Complex Vision: The Darryl Atwell Collection, Gantt Centre, Charlotte, United States of America
The Past is Present, Jack Shainman Gallery, New York City, New York

2016

Blackness in Abstraction, Pace Gallery, New York, United States of America
The Quiet Violence of Dreams, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa
3 881 days, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
Figure, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

Furniture: A Sculpture Exhibition, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
Back to the Future II: Abstract Art in South Africa, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2014

The Poetry In Between: South-South, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
half- devil and half- child, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2013

This is the thing, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
Blank projects in Johannesburg, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

When Form Becomes Attitude, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

De Grote Oversteek, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2004

Rijksakademie Open Ateliers, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2001-2002

Activate Architects, Johannesburg, South Africa
ABSA L 'Atelier Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa Museum Africa, South Africa

Collections

Foundation Bredin Prat Studio Museum
Harlem Brooklyn Museum
Iziko Museums
Foundation Gander pour L'Art Schussing Art Collection
Jac Forbes Gallery
Scott Newman Collection
Superior Collection
Collection Société Générale
Creative Art Partners
Jack Shainman Gallery
Natalie Kates
Pace Gallery
Nich McCree
Stefan Simchowitz
Destinee Ross-Sutton
Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation
Olm Collection
Leridon Collection
Collection UHODA
Cuperior Collection
Tiroche DeLeon Collection
Hoosein Mahomed Collection

Awards and Grants

2018

Jean-Francois Prat Prize, Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, Paris, France

2015

FNB Joburg Art Prize, Johannesburg, South Africa

2004

National Arts Council of South Africa
Dutch Ministry of Arts and Culture, Amsterdam, Netherlands
National Ministry of Arts Culture, Science and Technology, South Africa

2003

Goethe Institut and Johannesburg Art Gallery Young Artist Award, Johannesburg, South Africa

2002

Top 100 Best National Artists, ABSA L'Atelier, Johannesburg, South Africa

Residencies

2005

Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten