

About Lerato Motaung

Lerato Motaung (b. 1991) in Katlehong, Germiston, is a visual artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. After training in drawing at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in 2008, and in sculpture at the Katlehong Art Center in 2009, he received his Diploma in Fine Arts in 2015 from the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria. For his primary means of expression, Motaung weaves the familiar with the imagined to create a personal and intuitive evocation of history. Drawing inspiration from his day to day life in metropolitan Johannesburg where he lives and works — as well as from memories of his youth in the North West Province and his coming of age in Katlehong township — he brings the viewer closer to grasping the intangible by pushing beyond the possibilities of the physical, and attempting to plot the unmappable parts of the human mind. While the intangible is present, Motaung situates his works in the corporeal world. He says, “My work is situated in an unknown time and is influenced by the past and the present”.

He was the finalist of the PPC Imaginarium Awards hosted by the University of Johannesburg Art Gallery (2019). He took part in the artist residency program In Bed with artist in Cape Town (2017), hosted by Nico Athene and sponsored by ALMA MARTHA. His group exhibition so far include: The Precarity of Spectacle, Michaelis Galleries- University of Cape Town (2020, upcoming); A memory, A story. Centurion Gallery, Tshwane (2015); For Sale, Pretoria Art Museum, Tshwane (2015); On the Table, Tshwane University of Technology (2014); Aerial Empire, Joburg Fringe - Independent Art Fair (2014); Creatures of Light, Freedom Park Heritage site & Museum, Tshwane, (2014).

In August 2020, Lerato Motaung won The Emergence Art Prize, which was organised by THK Gallery with support from Rand Merchant Bank. In Spring 2022 he will take up a two month residency at the innovative Quartier am Hafen Studio House on the banks of the Rhine in Cologne, Germany.

His work is included in In The Black Fantastic by Ekow Eshun, which will be published by Thames & Hudson in spring 2022, and will be accompanied by a major exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London. His work is included in collections around the world including two large paintings from 1- 54 Paris at Christie's, which were acquired by Foundation H (Paris, Madagascar), a large scale painting for a planned museum in Cardiff, Wales, and two paintings in the Africa First Collection.



Lerato Motaung, Black Swans, 2022

CV

Group exhibitions

2022

Flights of Fancy | THK X Boschendal X Norval, Boschendal Manor House gallery, Franschoek, South Africa
de.code, THK Gallery, Cape Town
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery

2021

Akaa Paris, THK Gallery
Art X Lagos Online, THK Gallery
1-54 London Art Fair, THK Gallery, Somerset House, United Kingdom
1-54 Paris Online, THK Gallery

2020-2021

Reflect. Reimagine. Reset, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2020

Latitudes Online, Exhibitor
The Black Dot, David Baillie Gallery, Johannesburg

2017

The Precarity of Spectacle, in Bed with Artists, Cape Town

2015

A Memory, Centurion Gallery, Pretoria Art Museum
For Sale, Pretoria Art Museum

2014

On Table, Tshwane University of Technology gallery
Ariel Empire, Johannesburg Fringe Art Fair
Creatures of Light, Freedom Park Heritage Site and Museum, Pretoria

Awards

2020

The Emergence Art Prize, Winner

2019

PPC Imaginarium Awards, University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, Runner up

Residencies

2022

Quartier am Hafen Studio House, Cologne, Germany

2017

In Bed with Artists, hosted by Nico Athene and sponsored by ALMA MARTHA, Cape Town