

About Lulama Wolf

Lulama Wolf (b. 1993) is a visual artist who lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At the intersection of Neo-Expressionism and Modern African Art, Lulama Wolf interrogates the pre-colonial African experience through the contemporary mind by using smearing, scraping, and deep pigment techniques that were used in vernacular architecture, and the patterns created largely by women to decorate traditional African homes.

“My work carries my spirit, before it carries a message. My intuition plays a vital role in the direction I go and then I compartmentalise with what I prioritise. I represent different parts of myself including abstraction, curiosity, mythology, spirituality and introspection. Blackness is vital in my work because it is created by a black woman despite the medium or language it speaks, it is vital because proof of existence is rare in the black community, information is shared but isn't sustained in ways that are knowledgeable to us right now. I express my yearning for answers and clarity in ways that make my blackness clear even when the work is abstract. My practice embodies subtlety in a form of texture and expression, a curious mix of ambiguity and curiosity. I experiment with different textures and mold that are formed from the earth.”

At only 31 years of age, Wolf's work is featured in collections around the world. She was the finalist of the The Emergence Art Prize (2020), and a featured artist at ArtXLagos 2022, as part of their Artists Across Borders Programme, and of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in New York in May 2023. Notable exhibitions include Reflect, Reimagine, Reset, THK Gallery, Cape Town (2020) 1-54 at Christies, Paris (2021), Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt, FNB Art Joburg, Johannesburg (2021) The Right To Ease, The Breeder Gallery, Athens (2022) Ayakha: Indlela Yokuxola / Rebuilding: The Path to Forgiveness (2023) THK Gallery, Cape Town, and Common Efforts, Eighteen Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark, (2023). Her work has caught the attention of not only collectors, but designers - she designed a range of homeware for H&M worldwide in 2023 and collaborated with Bang & Olufsen in 2024.



Lulama Wolf, Amawele Amathathu, 2024

CV

Solo Exhibitions

2023
Ayakha Indlela Yokuxola, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2022
The Right to Ease, The Breeder Athens

Group exhibitions

2022
Africa Now: Contemporary Painters, THK Cologne
de.code, THK Gallery, Cape Town
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town
ArtXLagos, THK Gallery, Lagos Nigeria

2021
Embodied Cognition, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
ArtXLagos, THK Gallery
Open City: Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt, FNB Art Joburg, South Africa
1-54 London 2021, THK Gallery
A Vernacular Homage to Architecture and Design, Affinity Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria
1-54 Paris, THK Gallery
Nature of women, Art She Says, New York
Ndoimadzi, Botho Project Space, Johannesburg

2020
Reflect. Reimagine. Reset., THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Boulevard D'Aguillon, Undiscovered Canvas, Antibes
Apartment Vol 2, THEFOURTH, Cape Town

2018
Her group exhibitions Rendezvous 2, SMITH Gallery, Cape Town

Art Fairs

2023
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair : THK Gallery, New York
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair : THK Gallery, London
Enter art Fair: THK Gallery; Copenhagen

Prizes and Awards

2024

Named Artist of the year by House & Garden, in partnership with Norval Foundation

2021

Named as one of Business Day's Wanted 21 Young and Vital Artists, South Africa

2020

Finalist of the Emergence Art Prize hosted by THK gallery

Residencies

2021

Villa Fontaine, Antibes, France

Collaborations

2023

H&M Home, For the Love Of Art

2021

Featured in Introducing Black campaign by Loro Piana

Press

2021

Featured in Glamour magazine, Spring Edition, South Africa

Featured on Artists to watch at this year's 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, NewAfrican

Featured on Artnet's, five artist that the Artnet Gallery is looking out for

Interviewed by Daily Maverick