

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, Wolf explores the pre-colonial African experience through a contemporary lens. Her process involves smearing, scraping, and employing deep pigment techniques inspired by vernacular architecture. These techniques often incorporate patterns traditionally created by women to decorate traditional African homes.

History and the proof of life are the core concepts in her work. Where there has rarely prior been reference of life in black spirituality, she counters that narrative by creating two dimensional paintings to embody the simplicity and deep spiritual power of the native eye. Her motivation is both tender and protective of her imaginary world, and her symbolic view of how her world looks into an alternate universe. She is set on creating both a photographic and graphic experience, that morphs and shapeshifts into a higher dimensional plane.

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, Wolf was awarded the "Artist of the Year" prize by House & Garden in partnership with Norval Foundation.



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