

## About Gillian Rosselli

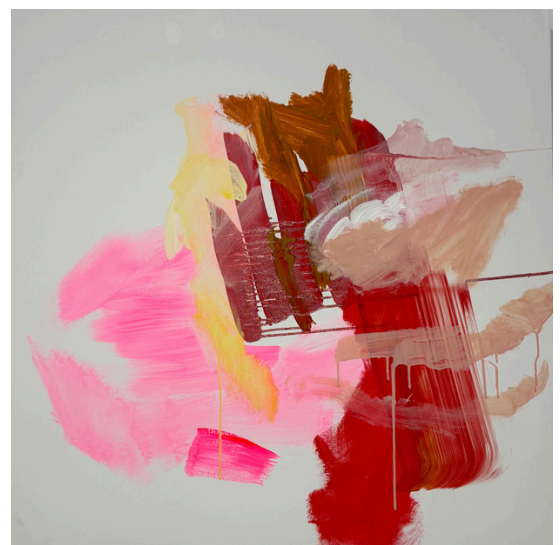
Gillian Rosselli (b. 1962) is an artist whose painting practice — spanning both figuration and abstraction — is shaped by a vivid inner life and a keen sensitivity to the socio-political currents of our time.

Based between Vienna and Harare, Rosselli continues to refine her impulse-led approach to abstraction, where colour, atmosphere, and rhythm serve as vessels for memory and place. Her latest body of work, *Episodes of the Whole*, marks a more expansive and contemplative turn — drawing on themes of birth and rebirth through recurring nest-like forms, and aligning her practice with a broader journey of transformation through evocative references to Homer's *Odyssey*.

Rosselli uses her unique visual language as a tool to connect her work to the global contemporary discourse and themes of identity, queerness, narratives and memory. Rosselli is strongly committed to seeing and spiritual connections, embedding meaning through the layering of paint, sensitive use of colour, and mark-marking. Rosselli obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Michaelis School of Fine Arts in Cape Town in 1984 and has since developed her complex visual language. With 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), Cottco Zimbabwe, Anglo American and Mobil Oil.

In 2024 Rosselli represented Zimbabwe at the Venice Biennale. Other noteworthy exhibitions include *Five Bhobh - Painting At the End of an Era* at the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa in 2018. She has won many awards throughout her career, including the overall award of distinction for painting in Zimbabwe in 1995.

Parallel to her solo exhibition at THK Gallery, Rosselli's work features in the group presentation *Hunyanzvi (Mastery)* at Grisebach, Zurich.



Gillian Rosselli. *Alchemy of Joy*, 2025.

## CV

### Education

1981 - 1984

University of Cape Town, Michaelis School of Fine Art (BAFA), 1981 - 1984

### Solo exhibitions

2025

Episodes of the Whole, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

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

2025

Hunyanzvi (Mastery), artHARARE x Grisebach, Zurich, Switzerland

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 Bhobh' – 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

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)