

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.



Turiya Magadlela, Vuka Luka Mfondini Sambe, (dawn, is the time to wake up, before the sun is out, we have to work), 2024.

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

2024

'Uchazwa yini', THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

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 uFeela', blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa

Group exhibitions

2024

'Light + Space II', THK Gallery, Cape Town

'Our Barren Womb Boys Weep', Kates Ferri Projects, New York

'SAFCA, SEED III,' Latitudes Online, Johannesburg, South Africa

'Signifying the impossible song', Southern Guild, Los Angeles, United States of America

'Refuse the given world', Kalashnikov Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Art Dubai, AKKA Projects, Dubai

'Materialistic', 1-54 New York, Kates Ferri Projects, New York

Gallery 1957, Unlimited, Accra/London

Art Paris Art Fair, Bredin Prat Endowment Fund, Paris, France

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Kalashnikov Gallery, Cape Town
 Art Brussels, Kalashnikov Gallery, Belgium
 'Gather II', Smac Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
 Expo Chicago, Kalashnikov Gallery, Chicago, United States of America
 Spark Art Fair Vienna, Kates Ferri Projects, Austria

2023

'Africa Supernova', Collection Carla and Pieter Schulting, Kunstal Kade Amersfoort, Netherlands
 Untitled Miami Beach Art Fair, Kalashnikov Gallery, Miami, United States of America
 '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, United 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

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

2002
Top 100 Best National Artists, ABSA L'Atelier, Johannesburg, South Africa

Residencies

2005
Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten

Press

2022
Planet B: Climate Change and the New Sublime, Nicola Bourriaud
The seventh BMW Art Guide, BMW Group Independent Collectors

2021
African Artists, From 1882 > Now, Phaidon Press Inc

2019

Vitamin T: Threads and Textile in Contemporary Art, Phaidon Editors Janelle Porter, Phaidon Press Inc
How to Attend an Art Fair' by Charles Desmarais, Datebook
Pantyhose That make you think, New York Times
My Top 5 Gems at EXPO Chicago by Caira Moreira-Brown, FAD magazine
Light as Air, Tough as boots pantyhose in art by Charlotte Jansen, Financial Times
16th Istanbul Biennial Announcement by E-FLUX

2018

Future Greats by Sue Williamson, Art Review
Turiya Magadlela 2016-2017, Blank Projects
Contemporary & 2018 The Same As Ever, But More
So., Braunsfelder, Art Viewer

2017

Turiya Magadlela selected by Sue Williamson

2015

In Conversation with Turiya Magadlela by Chad Roussouw, Art Throb
Art born of shared pain and pantyhose by Stefanie Jason, Mail & Guardian
Artist Showcase: Remaking the Material World by Mary Corrigall, The Times