



Dathini Mzayiya

Born in 1979 in Queenstown, he lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mzayiya is an artist-in-residence at Factory of the Arts, formerly known as the Community Arts Project (CAP), now known as the Lydia Williams Memorial in Woodstock, Cape Town. After studying advertising and marketing in 1999 at the Advertising College of South Africa, Cape Town, he enrolled in 2000 at the Peninsula Technikon (Pentech), in Bellville, Cape Town, where he studied graphic design and advertising. In 2001, he registered for the Advanced Programme in Visual Arts at the Community Arts Project (CAP), Cape Town. Since then, he has shown his work nationally and internationally, notably in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Ethiopia. He has also participated in assorted international projects, including a project for the South African Human Rights Media Centre and Khulumani in South Africa, Liberia and Kenya, where he worked with survivors of torture, violence and war. Using oil paint and charcoal, Mzayiya's critical art depicts the socio-political landscape of post-apartheid South Africa, and focuses particularly on racialised structural

violence and the plight of the poor and downtrodden. His expressive paintings and drawings generally reflect disillusionment with contemporary South Africa described by some as the 'rainbow nation,' and his subjects range from bosses, landlords, the police and security guards to the homeless, beggars and job seekers. Mzayiya is a founding member of the Western Cape branch of the Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA); Africa South Arts Initiative (ASAI); City Skin, a public space design firm; and Gugulective, an arts, culture and open education collective intent on making "the history and legacy of apartheid visible again and to combat it with artistic methods."

Artist's Statement

"My work draws on my experiences and surroundings in South Africa and also on the experiences of others in the everyday. Political circumstances affect all of us, directly or indirectly, and I view my work as a way of interacting with, and intervening in, social and political life, and as a way of making sense of what is happening around me. The art market has very particular tastes and doesn't take too kindly to political art. Justice, peace, development – I question these in my work. For me, making art is a way for me to think about, and to come to term with, these issues. My painting and drawings are outcomes and translations of my thinking and grappling with these matters."

Collected Exhibitions

- 2014** Gugulective Arts Collective exhibition during Creative Week 2014, Kwalamli's Place, Gugulethu, Cape Town, ZA
- 2013** 'Under the Rainbow Rays', Greatmore Studios, Woodstock, Cape Town, ZA
- 2009** Untitled exhibition, Glenfidich Distillery, Dufftown, Scotland, UK
- 2009** 'Subversion', Gugulective Arts Collective exhibition, Harbour, Hamburg, DE
- 2007** 'Akuchanywa Apha' (No 'pissing'), group exhibition by Gugulective Arts Collective, KwaMlamli's Place, Gugulethu, Cape Town, ZA
- 2006** 'Nine South African Artists', Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (initiated by the South African National Heritage Council)
- 2005** Pop-up exhibition, BBK Gallery, Aachen, DE