
ARTIST STATEMENT

“My art explores the fluidity of time, memory, and consciousness, immersing the viewer in dreamlike landscapes where identity and existence dissolve into metaphysical realms. I often envision myself within a surreal forest, surrounded by luminous purple foliage, unfamiliar songs, and a language communicated through melody rather than words. My work suggests a meta-human consciousness — one that transcends the physical and taps into the ethereal.

Symbolism plays a vital role in my artistic language. The cross, a recurring motif, serves as a meditative focal point, akin to a compass guiding one's journey. The upward-facing triangle symbolizes masculinity and the pursuit of enlightenment, while its downward counterpart represents femininity, receptivity, and balance. Water, depicted as a horizontal zigzag, and vertical lines signifying light, highlight the interplay between natural and spiritual elements. Dots function as markers of gratitude and affirmation, much like musical notes in a chant, while the circle—painted in a single, calligraphic stroke — represents healing and introspection, drawing inspiration from the yin-yang dynamic.

My artistic practice is deeply rooted in memory, experience, and the conscious embrace of vulnerability. My process is transformative—an alchemical journey of self-exploration that questions the psychology of existence. Through layering paint, I capture the complexities of human identity, creating visual poetry that resonates beyond the mundane. Each brushstroke is a meditation on what it means to be alive.”

BIOGRAPHY

Thokozani Mthiyane is a Johannesburg-based multidisciplinary artist and co-founder of The Enso Circle. Raised in Clermont Township near Durban, his artistic journey was shaped by time spent in the studios of renowned painters Sfiso KaMkame and Thami Jali. Their mentorship influenced his early creative development, setting the foundation for his expressive and philosophical approach to art. Mthiyane's work spans painting, poetry, music, and dance, reflecting his deep engagement with artistic storytelling. He gained early experience in children's theatre with the Madcaps Educational Theatre Company and held his first solo exhibition at the Flat Gallery in Durban. His journey as a trilingual poet and performer has taken him across the world, including performing French poetry translated into Zulu at Cave Poésie in Toulouse and touring with the Inzalo dance company in Holland. In 2001 and 2004, he returned to France to perform the works of Jacques Prévert in Hérouville, near Normandy.

EXHIBITION HISTORY

Solo Exhibitions

2024 – *'Masquerade and Rituals'*, Tanya Weddemire Gallery, Johannesburg

2024 – *'Dreamscape Beyond Limits'*, Ishkadesigns & Tanya Weddemire, New York

2023 – *'The Interpretation of Poetry'*, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg (Blaque Inq Contemporary)

2017 – *'Soul Songs: The Shape of My Head'*, Art Eye Gallery, Johannesburg

2015 – *'Wetin Dey Happen Lagos/Jozi'*, Mzansi Gallery, Johannesburg

Group Exhibitions

2025 - *'Kindreds in Abstraction'*, Group Exhibition, Artyli Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

2024 – *'Dreamscape Beyond Limits'*, Tanya Weddemire Gallery, Johannesburg
(Curated by Ishkadesigns & Tanya Weddemire)

2024 – *'Sierra's Gold: The Resilience of the Spirit'*, Group Exhibition, New York
(Curated by Tanya Weddemire & Ishkadesigns)

2024 – The Pencil Club, Durban (Curated by Zinhle Khumalo)

2024 – ‘*Synchronized Perspectives*’, Vinosity, 44 Stanley, Johannesburg (Curated by Amanda Plaatjie)

2024 – Latitudes Art Fair (Presented by Curate A Space)

2023 – Latitudes Art Fair, Johannesburg (Curated by Blaque Inq Contemporary)

2024 – Tanya Weddemire Gallery, Group Exhibition

2024 – Group Show at The Pencil Club, Durban (Curated by Zinhle Khumalo)

2023 – ‘*Footprints: A Legacy in Motion*’, Tanya Weddemire Gallery, Johannesburg

2023 – ‘*Footprints: The Essence of African Artistry*’, Tanya Weddemire Gallery, Johannesburg

2023 – ‘*Soulful Expressions: Celebrating African Identity*’, Parktown, Johannesburg

2023 – ‘*Footnotes*’, Latitudes Art Fair (Curated by Blaque Inq Contemporary)

2023 – ‘*People & Places: A Collective Perspective*’, Tanya Weddemire Gallery

2021 – Turbine Art Fair 2021, Group Show with Candice Berman

2021 – Colour and Form: Autumn Group Show, Worldart Gallery

2021 – ‘*Visual Conversations*’, Tanya Weddemire Gallery

2019 – Wearable Art, Julian Art Fashion Collection, Johannesburg

2018 – Autumn Group Show, Worldart Gallery

Publications & Features

2020 – An Encounter with Thokozani Mthiyane, Artist of the Month – Bontle Tau, SAFFCA Newsletter

2020 – Joburg-Based Multidisciplinary Visual Artist Thokozani Mthiyane is a Gifted Storyteller – Edward Tsumele, City Life

2018 – Thokozani Mthiyane: Pushing Boundaries Through Art – Edward Tsumele, Mail & Guardian

2015 – ‘*Wetin Dey Happen Lagos/Jozi: A Dialogue Through Art*’ – Mzansi Gallery, Johannesburg Collections

2022 – Art Bank Collection

2021 – Riboville Collection

Video & Interviews

2024 – Featured in the film Sierra’s Gold, directed by Adze Ugah

2023 – Guest Interview, The Morning Show, eTV

2019 – Short Documentary: Thokozani Mthiyane by Ellis & King

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=filYmgYbNDU>)

2017 – Soul Songs: The Shape of My Head – Documentary, YouTube

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnX7kSgIGK0>)