

Artist Statement

My artwork explores the relationship between people and the environments they inhabit and how these experiences shape their worldviews, through the lenses of culture and heritage. Cultivating conversations about history, livelihood, spirituality, and sociopolitical or economic realities, all rooted in the textures of lived experience. Charcoal and fire are a constant theme in my work, as materials and metaphors. The artworks incorporate remnants of wood collected after village fires, noting the resourcefulness of a community in times of energy scarcity. Growing up in a township and frequenting the village, I witnessed how firewood and coal became more than just fuel; they were a means of survival, a gathering point, where the community found refuge. Not to be viewed from a negative light, but one of resilience — a testament to how the natural environment sustains people.

Biography

Given Muronga, born May 2001, is a talented emerging South African artist.

Education

Given Muronga attended Burgher Right Primary School and he attended high school at Pro Arte Alphen Park, matriculating in 2019.

Accomplishments

2015-2019 - Top Visual art and Design learner of the year, Pro Arte Alphen Park High School.

2021 State of the Art Gallery award, finalist top 10

2024 - 3rd Annual Umsizi Nopende top 20 finalist

2024 - RMB Talent Unlocked alumni

2025 - Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize (BNAP) Finalist

Exhibitions

2021 ‘*On the Brink: Visualizing Climate Change*’, group exhibition, State Of The Art Gallery

2023 - ‘*Been Down so Long it Looks Up to Me*’, alumni showcase, Pretoria State Theatre

2024 - ‘Qoqiqiniso’ for the Umsizi Nopende Finals, group exhibition, Springs Art Gallery

2024 - RMB Talent Unlocked, group exhibition, Art and About Gallery

2024 - The Art Room Summer Salon, group exhibition

2025 - ‘*Floral Reflections on Current Affairs*’, The Viewing Room Gallery

2025 - ‘*The Cartography of Dreams*’, group exhibition, Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)

2025 - Latitudes Art Fair, RMB Talent Unlocked

2025 - ‘*The Cartography of Dreams II*’, group exhibition, The National Arts Festival, Monument Gallery

Commissions

2022-2023 - Commission from the National Museum: Artbank Museum

2024 - Commission from the National Museum: Artbank Museum

Collections and Acquisitions

- South African National Museum (Artbank National Museum)
- Blessing Ngobeni (artist)
- Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)
- Rand Merchant Bank (RMB)

Mentorship Programs

- 2024 Isthuli-Sasengweni finalist - ‘Funda Mentorship Program
- 2024 Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) - ‘Talent Unlocked’ Mentorship Program

Broadcasting:

2025 - TV broadcast SABC channel 404