

Artist Statement

My work is deeply influenced by my surroundings and experiences. My art often reflects the vibrancy and struggles of workers in Johannesburg, juxtaposed with a nostalgic longing for my homeland in Chimio, Mozambique. Through a unique blend of mediums and techniques, I capture the essence of my dual identity, creating pieces that resonate with themes of migration, memory, and the complexities of urban life.

I have showcased my work in numerous group exhibitions and art fairs in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, continually contributing to the rich tapestry of contemporary African art. I remain dedicated to my craft, using my art to tell powerful stories and connect with audiences across diverse contexts.

Biography

Mario Soares is a Mozambican artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Soares moved from Chimio, Mozambique to Johannesburg in 2008. Soares initially worked as an artist and embroiderer for Boitumelo in Hillbrow, and in 2010 he began his studies at Artist Proof Studio. Soares graduated in 2013 and proceeded to develop his skills in etching. Soares' medium is printmaking, spray painting and collage. Soares now works as a full-time independent artist from his studio in Johannesburg.

Education

2010-2013 - Artist Proof Studio - printmaking development program and structure program on printmaking.



Exhibitions

2008-2013 - Boitumelo Program - Structure program working with textile and mosaic craft and artworks

2013 - 2019 - Artist Proof Studio - Co-Publication program in collaboration with Artist Proof Studio (APS)

2019-2024 - Izathu Studio - Artist in Residence working in painting, collage and photography