

Keonah Nyembe

Hi, my name is Keonah Nyembe (b. 2003, Johannesburg) and I am a Visual Artist. I have always been curious about the world around me and passion about questioning the concept of self in relation to our environment. With my growing foundation in various artistic mediums, I aim to continuously push the boundaries of my artist expression.

Experiences

Contra Fair Johannesburg - Shifting Grounds

August House
Residency Show
31 August 2025

With friends like these: Group Exhibition

NO END Contemporary
9 August - 29 August 2025

Women of Substance: Gratitude is Served

The Arts Company Soweto
A print portfolio exchange honoring women who hold us
9 August 2025

Duo Exhibition - Shifting Grounds

Ellis House Art Building
Residency Show
5 July - 5 August 2025

National Arts Festival: Cartography of Dreams II

26 June - 6 July 2025

Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize: Cartography of Dreams

Johannesburg Stock Exchange Building
6 - 31 May 2025

Latitudes Art Fair 2025

Everard Read Johannesburg Gallery Booth
23 - 25 May 2025

Top 6 Finalist Ellis House 2nd Annual Art Competition

1st Runner Up
-Winner of Two Month Residency
31 March 2025

Keyes Art Mile Group Exhibition- The Kids These Days Vol.3

6 February 2025 - 31st March
Participated in a Group exhibition alongside recent visual art graduates

Group Exhibition - At the Threshold

UJ FADA Gallery
2 November 2024
Collaboration between UJ and APS On 30 years Of democracy

Group Exhibition - Metamorphose

JSH Building at Wits University
20 November 2024
Participated in the SAIIA 90th Anniversary group exhibition

Education

University of Johannesburg FADA

Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Visual Arts
2025 - Present

University of Johannesburg FADA

Bachelor of Arts (Visual Art)
2022 - 2024

Seminar Committee Member Led by Dr. Ruth Sacku and the
Viad Research Centre

2024 - Present

Responsibilities included

– Planning and inviting renowned artists and industry professionals (e.g., Tracey Rose, MADEYOULOOK, Banele Khoza) as guest speakers
– Developing insightful interview questions to delve into their artistic processes, inspirations, and career paths

Exchange Programme UJ & University of Cologne, Germany

2024-2025

- Participated in an international exchange program with students from Cologne, Germany, promoting intercultural understanding and developing global communication skills through
- Exploring creative public commons and
- Responding to our findings through art-making in groups

The National School of the Arts, 2017 - 2021

Grade 12 Matric Bachelor (Major Visual Art)
RCL 2019 - 2021

Awards + Achievements

- Top 6 Finalist Ellis House 2nd annual Art Competition 2025
- Top 11 Finalist- Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize 2025

The National School of the Arts

Top Achiever in Art 2018
Silver Achievement in Art 2019
Distinction in Visual Arts (Matric) 2021

Professional Practice and Research

Work Placement Internship:

with Visual Identities in Art and Design Research Center (VIAD),
University of Johannesburg

Project Assistant / Researcher | 2025 (Specific Dates: June-October
2025)

Environmental Justice & Systemic Issues:

Contributed to the "Refuse-ability" exhibition, an initiative directly engaging with post-humanist paradigms, alternative environments, and the collaboration of artists with ecological systems

Conducted daily and weekly protocol checks for the installation, A 'garden for Fanon', by Nolan Oswald Dennis, involving monitoring temperature/humidity, watering, and reading to the worms

Assisted with the theoretical framework for the Dean Hutton Bio-art residency proposal, gathering information and connections for a project focused on Bio-art and ecological research

Facilitation & Public Engagement:

Conducted a student-led walkabout for the Refuse ability exhibition, designing it to be deeply engaging and conversational, moving beyond mere observation to encourage audience reflection on Bio-art and its relation to their lives

Acted as a General Events Assistant for the exhibition, providing logistical support and preparation

Research & Documentation:

Developed a theoretical framework, document spreadsheet, and dossier for the "Radical Planetaries" project, which focuses on artists and authors engaged in planetary thinking and making

Gained practical experience in arts research and project management in an academic setting

Conference & Exhibition Support

Programme and Logistics Assistant | 2024

Conference Programme - Thought Dialogues (Volume III)

Provided technical assistance by ensuring videos were working correctly for different academics, professors, and associates

Managed logistics for a multi-location event, sorting out missing items and supplies needed at the second location (The Forge)

Executed tasks for performers, including going around town to purchase needed items

Programme involved engagements on the themes of Confronting Violence and Catastrophe, Power, Grief and Hope