
Gift Dlamini – Artist Profile & Artist Statement

Artist Profile

Name: Gift Dlamini

Date of Birth: 27/11/1991

Gender: Male

Nationality: South African

Education & Training

- Fine Art (Durban University of Technology) – 2013
- Art & Design (eThekweni College) – 2014
- Velobala Art Classes (African Art Center) – 2015
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Professional Experience & Exhibitions

- Artist, Mzansi Art Development Assemble (2018)
- NAC Exhibition (2018)
- Auction (ItNotAboutMe) (2019)
- eThekweni Mural Project (2019)
- Mzansi Art Development Assemble (2020/2021)
- Mangosuthu University of Technology (2022)
- Africa Day Art Exhibition
- Yori Oki Mural, Japanese Restaurant, Ballito Lifestyle Centre (2022)
- TheGallery Art Exhibitions (2021/2022/2023)
- Art Demonstration, North Coast (2023)
- Teaching and lecturing young and old artists
- Art in the Country Exhibition, Harcourt Hilton (2023)
- Flow Exhibition @ The Gallery (2023)
- KZNSA Annual Members Award Exhibition (2023)
- Vibrations Exhibition @ The Gallery (2023)
- Impression Expression Exhibition @ The Gallery (2023)
- Humanity Exhibition @ The Gallery (2023)
- Perspective Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- Coastal Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- A Palette of Possibilities @ The Gallery (2024)
- RISE Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- Nature Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- In the Minds Eye Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- Coffee Painting Workshop with Gift Dlamini (2024)
- UNWRAPPED Exhibition @ The Gallery (2024)
- Periphery Exhibition @ The Gallery (2025)
- Coffee Demonstration @ North Coast Artists (2025)
- Sasol Signature Competition Finalist (2025)

Artist Statement

Gift Dlamini is a South African fine artist, born and raised in KwaMashu, north of Durban. A proud descendant of the Zulu clan, Gift discovered his passion for art at the age of 14 while attending Mzuvele High School and later continued his creative journey at eThekweni College.

“I believe art is a gift, something passed down by both God and my ancestors. It is the one thing that has always come naturally to me.”

Gift's early experiences growing up as a young Zulu man in a vibrant yet complex environment shaped the foundation of his artistic voice. Deeply influenced by nature, community and the social fabric of black society, his work reflects the realities, struggles and spirit of his people. Over time, his artistic focus has evolved to center on the lived experiences of women and the pressing issues they face in contemporary society.

Gift works primarily in acrylic paint and has developed a distinctive technique of painting on newspaper. What began as a practical solution when traditional materials were unaffordable has become a defining characteristic of his work, symbolizing resilience, resourcefulness and storytelling.

“I want my art to speak to people, to move them. My dream is for my work to be seen and appreciated not only in South African galleries but also on international platforms.”