

**Mfundo Mthiyane**

ARTISTS' STATEMENT

Mfundo Mthiyane creates multivalent surreal paintings that intertwine his inner and outer worlds, offering reflections on the human condition. Using himself as a model, he incorporates objects and elements of nature as simulacra to articulate personal experiences, while observing and questioning the nature of reality.

His work functions as a visual diary of thoughts expressed through poetic imagery, guided by Stéphane Mallarmé's principle: "Paint, not the thing, but the effects it produces." Through psychology, psychoanalysis, semiotics, and metaphor,

Mthiyane explores the interplay of absence and presence. He has coined the term Mythaphorical Realism, a portmanteau of myth and metaphor to describe his distinctive approach, which draws from Surrealism and Magical Realism. Key influences include René Magritte, Salvador Dalí, and Johannes Phokela.

**Artist CV**

MFUNDO MTHIYANE (B. 1991-) Durban, South Africa

**EDUCATION**

2012 - Multimedia Diploma, Centre for Fine Arts, Animation and Design experience

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2022 - A Book – Studio Nxumalo (SA)

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2021 - A Cloud – Studio Nxumalo & Gallery2 (SA)

2021 - In Your Shadow | Masking Realities – SMAC gallery Cape Town (SA)

2021 - In Search (Alliance Française Johannesburg in partnership with SAFFCA)

2021 - Portrait Show – Everard Read Gallery (SA)

2019 - Emerge – The Station House DSTP (USA, Florida)

2026 – The Space between, Artyli Gallery (SA)

2014 - Emerging Artists – Africa Art Centre (SA)

2012 - Spaces and Places – Africa Art Centre (SA)

### **ACCOLADES**

2021 - SAFFCA Artist of The Month September

### **RESIDENCIES**

2021- Entabeni Farm Knysna (SAFFCA)