

## Artist Statement

“I found myself drawn to the social realists and became interested in Hogarth’s social allegories, Goya’s *“Disasters of War”* as well as Diane Victor’s *“Disasters of Peace.”* Encouraged by my patron Clive H. Viveiros, and my teachers, I was urged to find subjects that were more familiar and hopeful in their outlook. Thereafter I began to etch poignant compositions based on what I saw in my local community. My figures, drawn from photographs I had taken, show how families survive in poverty. My subsequent themes, based loosely on the experiences of my mother, led to a series concerning single mothers as heads of their households. Many of my prints depict mothers as the central and most elevated figure in my compositions, conveying the message that despite hardship and unemployment, women still manage to find ways to feed their families, nurture and protect their children and keep their families in relative security. I became the head of a household of women when my father left the family. I grew up in a culture of alcoholism, amidst the breakdown of my own family structure. Many of the men in my community spent their time and income drinking in shebeens. In a more recent body of work my focus shifted to migrant communities.”

## Biography

Bambolwami Sibiya was born in KwaThema, Springs, near Johannesburg. Sibiya interned as the assistant gallery curator for the APS Gallery during his third and fourth year. Sibiya gained experience in handling the artwork of professional artists during the internship. Sibiya worked on the large-scale linocuts of several leading artists such as William Kentridge, Diane Victor, Norman Catherine and Colbert Mashile. Sibiya was moved by the scale and depth of these weeks to such an extent that he extended his own work on a larger scale as he tackled more ambitious images with added confidence.

## **Education**

During his high school years he trained at Mbira School of Music and Art under the late Paul Madi Phala, who recommended that he should apply to Artist Proof Studio (APS) to attend printmaking classes in the Saturday programme while continuing to support himself. When he completed his schooling, he attended Benoni Technical College and studied graphic design and art. His determination to succeed and his natural talent convinced Lucas Ngweng, a teacher at APS, to recommend him as a full-time student, where Sibiya caught “the printmaking bug”. In 2008 he was offered a full bursary to enter his second year as a full-time student. While he was always a strong draftsman, in his second year at APS his work started showing social content and engagement with his community. As a student he was encouraged to develop his own voice through cultural and art-historical research and by participating in social advocacy programmes.

## **Art Competitions**

Bambo Sibiya has fared exceptionally well in various art competitions over the years. In 2008 he was a finalist in the Ekurhuleni Art Award. In 2009, Sibiya won the ‘top student of the year’ award at Artist Proof Studio and he was a semifinalist in the Thami Mnyeale Awards. In 2010 Sibiya received the Merit Award at Thami Mnyeale Awards for the ‘art on paper’ category, receiving a Merit Award. In 2011 he was in the top ten nominees for this award. In 2012 he was a finalist in the Absa L’Atelier awards and the winner of the prestigious Gerard Sekoto Award, which provided him with a three-month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2013. In 2012 he was recognized by the Arts and Culture Trust (ACT) awards for the most promising visual artist for 2012, an award given to him by the Johannesburg art community.

## Exhibition History

### Local and International Solo Exhibitions

**2013** - '*Khumbula Ekhaya*' (*Home Sick*), Gallery2

**2013** - '*Human Spirit*', ABSA Gallery

**2015** - '*Umlambo Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', traveling exhibition, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg

**2015** - '*Umlambo Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', traveling exhibition, Port Elizabeth

**2015** - '*Umlambo Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', traveling exhibition, Durban,

**2015** - '*Umlambo Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', traveling exhibition, Cape Town

**2015** - '*Umlambo Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', traveling exhibition, Pretoria

**2016** - '*Image Copyright: Saki Zamaxaba I*'

**2017** - '*Tales of Migration*', Red Room Art Gallery 2017

**2018** - '*Freedom Did Not Just Come, It Was Invited*', Everard Read Circa, Johannesburg

**2020** - '*What Now*', META foundation, 2020

**2020** - '*Slow Down Tiger*', Everard Read, 2020

**2011** - International Group Exhibition in Abu Dhabi, Middle East

**2013** - '*Khumbula Ekhaya (Home Sick) II*', Seychelles Kenyan House Gallery

**2015** - '*Uzwiwa Ngedondolo*', Botswana

**2017** - ‘*Ubuntu Ngabantu*’, London, United Kingdom, Jack Bell Art Gallery

**2018** - ‘*Izikhali Ze Mpilo (The Weapons of Life)*’, Jack Bell, United Kingdom

**2019** - ‘*Umdlalo Wamaphepha (Township Casino)*’, Jack Bell, United Kingdom

### **Group Exhibitions**

**2008** - “*Ekasi*”, Spring Art Gallery

**2009** - ‘*30/30*’, Springs Art Gallery

**2009** - “*Unfolding*”, Artist Proof Studio

**2010** - ‘*Seeking*’, Artist Proof Studio

**2010** - ‘*People and Spaces*’, Gallery 2, Johannesburg

**2010** - Thami Mnye Award exhibition at the Art Centre, Ekurhuleni

**2011** - FNB JHB Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Sandton

**2011** - David Brown exhibition, Sandton Art Gallery

**2011** - Arts on Main Canteen, Arts on Main Gallery, Johannesburg

**2011** - Belledewar Advertising Exhibition, Belle Dewar National offices, Sandton

**2011** - IStore Art Exhibition, Apple Mac National Offices, Sandton

**2011** - Gray Advertising Exhibition, Sandton

**2011** - Sharon Sampson Studio Exhibition, Illovo



**2012** - '*Coming of Age*' exhibition, Johannesburg Art Gallery with Artist Proof Studio

**2012** - '*Coming of Age II*' exhibition, Gallery 2

**2012** - FNB JHB Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Sandton

**2012** - '*Art Child*' exhibition, Design Indaba with Absa Gallery

**2012** - 'David Brown' exhibition, Sandton Art Gallery in 2012

**2014** - Guns and Rains

**2014** - Arts and Culture Trust

**2015** - Turbine Art Fair

**2015** - KKNK Absa

**2016** - '*Jazzuary*' art exhibition in collaboration with Khaya FM, RES gallery

**2019** - Red Room Gallery

**2020** - '*Staring Straight into the Future*', Everard Read

## **International Art Fairs**

**2017** - 154 London Art Fair 2017

**2018** - 154 New York Art Fair

**2018** - 154 London Art Fair AKAA



## **Commissions and Public Art**

**2011** - Johannesburg Development Agency 2010 BRT Public Art Consortium

**2012** - Anglo American Gold Ashanti

**2013** - BASA ( Business and Art South Africa ), Springs

**2013** - Art Gallery Art

**2013** - Ogilvy & Mather

## **Biennales**

**2015:** Beijing Biennale

## **Collections**

- Pinpoint one Human resources
- PPC LTD
- Bidvest Group
- Johannesburg Development Agency
- Ukhozi FM
- Sasol Limited
- Rand Merchant Bank
- Artist Proof Studio



- Business and Art South Africa
- ABSA Bank
- Spier South Africa
- Sasol Corporate Collection in Mozambique
- Johannesburg Art Gallery
- Millennium Hotel in Abhu Dabi
- Khaya Fm