

LIZETTE CHIRRIME

Lizette Chirime was born in 1973 in Maputo, Mozambique, where she grew up and attended commercial school until the age of seventeen. Creating artworks using paint and sewing has always been an important pastime for her and she never received a formal arts education. In 2004 she was invited to participate in her first solo exhibition in Mozambique and in 2005 she accepted a three-month residency at Greatmore Studios in Cape Town, South Africa. Chirime now lives and works in Cape Town. She creates large-scale textile-driven works on canvas. It consists of abstract forms rendered in a collage of printed fabrics from Tshwe-tshwe to other so-called African prints associated with dress on the continent. "These abstract forms evoke the human body and my identity-responsive practice where I refashion my self-image and transcend a painful upbringing that left me shattered and broken. I literally 're-stitched' myself together. These liberated 'souls' are depicted 'dancing' on the canvas, bringing to mind, well-dressed African women celebrating" says Chirime. The interplay between textiles, abstraction and art as a therapeutic and spiritual tool all make Chirime's art unique and distinctively African. "I grew up under very harsh conditions, angry and afraid of life and with no self-esteem. I was a wounded person. I started gardening and drawing and this became my therapy. As a young adult I found myself on an island off the coast of Nyambane in Mozambique where I lived on my own for months. Here I started facing nature and understanding that I am part of nature and that I could conquer my fears feeding off the strength of this very nature that I am part of. I kept myself busy during the days creating artworks out of found materials. This is where the healing process started. I eventually returned to Maputo and started making and selling unique clothing items. These became sought-after and I was invited to participate in group exhibitions and related events. My work is guided and influenced by water, the female and a combination of happiness and sadness," she says.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Mothers Gift, GUS Stellenbosch University
- 2018 The Forms of the Invisible Demand, WORLDART, Cape Town
- 2016 A Sinfonia da Alma Liberta II (Sounds of a Free Soul) at WORLDART, Cape Town.
- 2012 A Sinfonia da Alma Liberta at the Centro Cultural Franco-Moçambicano (CCFM), Maputo
- 2004 Metamorfoza de saco at the Associação Moçambicano de Fotografia (MMF), Maputo

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Knoop/Knot exhibition with Louis Jansen van Vuuren
- 2020 Woordfees festival, Stellenbosh Cape Town

- 2020 Fyne art festival, Hermanus, Western Cape
- 2020 Perve Gallery 20th anniversary, Portugal
- 2019 Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium Museum, Norway
- 2019 Constitution Hill Cape Town
- 2018 Reinventing Materiality, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2018 Gates of Horn and Ivory, Kristin Hjelleglerde Gallery, Berlin
- 2017 35, Lizamore and Associates, Johannesburg
- 2017 City lights...and shadows, Stephen Welz, Johannesburg
- 2017 Dress code, Gallery MoMo, Cape Town
- 2013 Roots at Instituto Cam?es, Maputo
- 2012 Sombres Movimentos e Senhos at Centro Cultural Americano, Maputo
- 2007 Africa South at the Association of Visual Arts (AVA), Cape Town
- 2006 Face(in) at the Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town
- 2005 Colour me at Greatmore studios, Cape Town
- 2004 Women who make art at the Museu Nacional de Arte (MUSART), Maputo

PERFORMANCES

- 2018 Gates of Horn and Ivory, Kristin Hjelleglerde Gallery, Berlin
- 2017 South South, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town
- 2017 (Don't) look back, Gallery MoMo, Cape Town
- 2017 Wattle Daub, Gallery MoMo, Cape Town
- 2017 Essence Festival, Durban

ART FAIRS

- 2017 Cape Town Art Fair
- 2017 Art Africa Fair, Cape Town
- 2016 1:54 Contemporary Art Fair, London

SPECIAL HONOURS

- 2017 Bright Young Things Award (finalist)