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6 THINGS WE LEARNED FROM TUMI MORAKE'S BOOK

Tumi Morake reveals all about her life, her childhood, her career and the turning points in a colourful existence in her debut book *And then Mama Said*, published by Penguin Random House.

GENDER



NICOLE MAINES

Increase in LGBTQ characters lauded

JILL SERJEANT

LOS ANGELES: Drama series *Pose* and a new transgender superhero in *Supergirl* helped boost the number of LGBTQ characters to an all-time high on television, according to a report released this week that said diversity programming was a crucial bulwark around attempts to undermine gay rights.

GLAAD, a media advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning people, said TV shows featuring LGBTQ themes and actors not only helped increase

ART

Paintings bring Breytenbach joy

Poet and novelist holds the latest solo exhibition of his artwork

LUKE FOLB | luke.folb@ioli.co.za

PEOPLE are far more familiar with artist Breyten Breytenbach's literary work, but the novelist and poet has painting pursuits, which he describes as "more satisfying and relaxing than writing".

He initially studied at the Michaelis School of Art at UCT, where he remembers Lippy Lipschitz as a particular influence.

Breytenbach held his first solo exhibition of paintings in 1964, the same year he published his first volume of poems.

His latest exhibition, *The 81 ways of letting go a late self*, is his first solo exhibition with the Stevenson Gallery in Woodstock. It comes as a result of a conversation that started more than five years ago and has unfolded across Cape Town, where Breytenbach spends a few months each year, the Spanish countryside, his primary residence, and Paris, the city his wife calls home.

The 81 ways of letting go a late self, consists largely of works on canvas painted over the past few years, in addition to a few earlier paintings of similar scale and subject matter, such as *Autoportrait masqué*, which combines a self-portrait with the recurring



Autoportrait masqué

motifs of the window and the bird.

Breytenbach said the immediacy of satisfaction from a finished painting draws him to the medium over writing.

"It's physical, you can smell it and feel it. And when you accomplish something, it is immediate. You have

something to build on the next day.

"That is harder to do with a poem, those belong to a particular moment.

"Writing poetry is intense and poets tend to burn up early.

"You are building a labyrinth that often leads to illusions, disturbances and pathological dead-ends.

"If you only write poetry, you go mad sooner or later. Painting has kept me from that madness," he said.

Gallery director Joost Bosland worked closely with Breytenbach on the exhibition.

"A real highlight is *Light Dream*, the newest painting in the exhibition, painted over a few hot months in the Spanish summer of 2018. The picture brings together all the motifs that have been recurring in Breyten's work for the past half-century," said Bosland.

"It also contains a portrait of Yolande, his wife and lifelong support system. Their relationship is special."

The exhibition includes a selection of five Gongshi drawings, named after the Chinese tradition of scholar's rocks, as well as a selection of smaller works ranging from 1970 to 2012.

The 81 ways of letting go a late self is on at the Stevenson Gallery until November 24.

PERFORMANCE

City to come alive with street buskers

LUKE FOLB

STREET performers will harness their talents and play to the crowd when the Cape Town Buskers Festival begins this week with a local and international line-up keen to show off their repertoire.

Coming in at just under 40 acts across 269 performances, it's the biggest Cape Town Buskers Festival to date.

Local South African talents set for this year's festival include Andrew "Magic Man" Eland, Cape Town Freestylers and Owen Bravo.

Eland brings his special brand of magic that has seen him travel the world while soccer skill champs Cape

Town Freestylers will inspire children to work on their ball skills, and Bravo will be balancing and juggling with his mouth in a one-man show.

Festival chief executive Tony Lankester says busking is an excellent opportunity to show how the performing arts can become a realistic and sustainable self-employment option.

All busking performances are free of charge, with performers relying solely on crowd donations, an age-old tradition that sustains busking the world over.

In its third year, the annual festival at the V&A Waterfront starts on Thursday and runs until November 11.

For a full programme, see www.ctbuskersfestival.co.za



Local artist Al Petersen.