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PORTIA ZVAVAHERA

Born 1985 in Harare, Zimbabwe; lives in Harare

EDUCATION

2006

Diploma in Fine Art, Harare Polytechnic College, Zimbabwe

2004

Certificate in Art, BAT Visual Art Studios, National Gallery of Zimbabwe (now National Gallery School of Visual Art and Design), Harare

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026

Tanda rima, Norval Foundation, Los Angeles, USA

2025

Zvibereko zvemweya wangu, David Zwirner, Los Angeles, USA

Portia Zvavahera, Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany

Hidden Battles/Hondo dzakavanzika, ICA Boston, Massachusetts, USA

2024

Zvakazarurwa, Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, and Fruitmarket, Edinburgh

Imba Yerumbidzo, Open Space #15, Fondation Louis Vuitton, France

2023

Pane rima rakakomba, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

Ndakaoneswa murima, David Zwirner, New York, USA

2020

Walk of Life, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius

Ndichasvika rinhi ndionekwe, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Ndakavata pasi ndikamutswa nekuti anonditsigira, David Zwirner, London, UK

2019

Portia Zvavahera and Gustav Klimt: A Dialogue, De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium [two-person exhibition]

Talitha Cumi, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

Take Me Deeper, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

I'm with You, Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2016

What I See Beyond Feeling, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015

I Can Feel It in My Eyes, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2014

Wayfinding, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

Mavambo Erwendo, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2012

Duo: Virginia Chihota and Portia Zvavahera, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe [two-person exhibition]

2010

Under My Skin, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Magical Women, Draiflessen Collection, Mettingen, Germany

Good Mom/Bad Mom, Centraal Museum Utrecht, The Netherlands

2024

When Works Meet, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Forbidden Territories: 100 Years of Surreal Landscapes, Hepworth Wakefield, UK,

David Zwirner: 30 Years, David Zwirner, Los Angeles, USA

Mirror of the Mind: Figuration in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA

My Last Will, Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain, Germany

Revered and Feared. Feminine Power in Art and Belief, CaixaForum Madrid and Barcelona

2023

My Last Will, Kunstsammlung Chemnitz, Germany

Making Their Mark, Shah Garg Foundation, New York

Brave New World: 16 Painters for the 21st Century, Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, the Netherlands

If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Contemporary South African Art from the Nando's Art Collection, African Art Museum, Dallas, Texas, USA

The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2022

The Milk of Dreams, 59th Venice Biennale, Italy

Where do I begin, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Vessels, David Zwirner, London, UK

I See You, Tiwani Contemporary, Lagos, Nigeria

2021

The Power of My Hands, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

my whole body changed into something else, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2020

Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M Pérez Collection, Pérez Art Museum Miami, USA
Psychic Wounds: On Art & Trauma, The Warehouse, Dallas, USA
Witness: Afro Perspectives from the Jorge M Pérez Collection, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA
This Corrosion, Modern Art, Helmet Row, London, UK

2019

Future Genealogies: Stories from the Equatorial Line, 6th Lubumbashi Biennale, Democratic Republic of Congo
Moshekwa Langa, Viviane Sassen, and Portia Zvavahera, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, USA
Crossing Boundaries, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
State Your Intentions: New Works in the WAM Collection, Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

2018

We don't need another hero, 10th Berlin Biennale, Germany
Five Bhoobh – Painting at the End of an Era, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
Hacer Noche/Crossing Night, Centro Cultural Santo Domingo, Oaxaca, Mexico
The Fabric of Felicity, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
The Assassination of Leon Trotsky, David Lewis Gallery, New York, USA
9 More Weeks, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa
Talisman in the Age of Difference, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
Both, and, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

The Contested Body, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, USA
A Painting Today, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Identity, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2016

Body Luggage: Migration of Gestures, Steirischer Herbst Festival, Graz, Austria
I Love You Sugar Kane, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius
The Quiet Violence of Dreams, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Exchange, Galerie Hans Mayer, Düsseldorf, Germany
Gallery Delta Benefit/Collector's Exhibition, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
What About Us?, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2015

African Odysseys, Le Brass, Brussels, Belgium
Liberated Subjects: Present Tense, De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium

2014

Shifting Africa: What the Future Holds, Mediations Biennale, Kunsthalle Faust, Hannover, Germany
Dudziro: Interrogating the Visions of Religious Beliefs, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Faces of Mankind, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Flashback, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2013

Dudziro: Interrogating the Visions of Religious Beliefs, Zimbabwean Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennale, Italy
Variations, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
You and I, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2012

Idea of Self, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

Duo, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
The Annual Summer Exhibition 2012, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2011

Zviro zviyedzwa, Dzimbanhete Arts Interactions, Harare
Beyond Borders, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Landscape, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
International Women's Day, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Hope and Despair, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Three Thoughts: Helen Lieros, Virginia Chihota and Portia Zvavahera, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Art Zimbabwe Today, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Colour Africa 2011, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
The Landscape in All Seasons, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Past and Present, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Small works, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Still Life/Objects, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2010

Another Perspective, Gallery 23, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
35 Years, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
The Annual Summer Exhibition 2010, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Live and Direct, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Small Works 2010, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2009

Ubuntu, National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare
Strength, National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo
Unity, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Expressions of Zimbabwe, University of Avignon, France
Tri-Lingual, Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa
Structures, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
The Annual Summer Exhibition 2009, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
34 Years Plus – The Gallery Delta Benefit Exhibition, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2008

Drawings and Graphics, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Enriching Women, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe
Post Election Selection, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2007

Peace Through Unity in Diversity, Gallery Delta, Harare, Zimbabwe

2006

Persistence, National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe, Mutare

AWARDS

2014

FNB Art Prize, Joburg Art Fair, South Africa

2013

Tollman Award for the Visual Arts, South Africa

RESIDENCIES

2022

Guest Artists Space (GAS), Lagos, Nigeria

2019

Lubumbashi Biennale artist residency, DR Congo

2018

1 Shanthi Road Studio Gallery, Bangalore, India

2017

Gasworks, London, England

2012

History/Matters, Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), Lagos, Nigeria

2009

Greatmore Studios, Cape Town, South Africa

2008

National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

Dzimbahete Arts Interactions, Harare, Zimbabwe

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota

National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)

Tate, London

University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis