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THENJIWE NIKI NKOSI

Born 1980, New York, USA
Lives in Johannesburg

EDUCATION

2008

MFA Photo, Video and Related Media, School of Visual Arts

2004

BA (Magna Cum Laude) Visual and Environmental Studies and Certificate in African Studies Harvard University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

Injury: Thirteen Studies, TriStar Arts, Candoro Marble Building, Tennessee, USA

2024

Arena V, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA

2023

Stadium, Stevenson, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

2022

Landings, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2020

Gymnasium, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2019

Gymnasium, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Frieze, New York, USA

2017

The Beginning of Stories (Part 1 of Many), Seed Space/ Tri-Star Arts, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2018

Common Place, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, USA

2015

Territories, Commune1 Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2014

Survey, Brundyn+ Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2013

Space Station All-Stars, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Before Being Asked by the Machine, ROOM Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026

Playing Field. Sport & Art, Museum Freiburg, Germany

2025

When Works Meet Again, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting, BOZAR, Brussels, Belgium

2024

Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Reflections: on Black girlhood, The Market Photo Workshop

When Works Meet, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Movements, Museum Hilversum, the Netherlands

In Terms of Sports, New Taipei City Art Museum, Taiwan

When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting, Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland

Power Plays, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, USA

Sowing Watermelon Seeds, 16/16 Maker space, Lagos, Nigeria

The Purpose is Discourse: Disappearing Bodies, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2023

The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Africa Supernova, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, the Netherlands

Fix Your Pony, Naughton Gallery, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland

CHAMPS, Granville Centre Art Gallery, Cumberland, Australia

Thinking Historically in the Present, 15th Sharjah Biennale, UAE

Stevenson at Kiang Malingue, Hong Kong, China

2022

When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting, Zeitz MoCAA, Cape Town, South Africa

THE GYM, Soho Studios, Vienna, Austria

New Formations, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Massachusetts, USA

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

2021

Works on Paper, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Stevenson and Chill, Stevenson, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

How to Make a Country, FRAC Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême, France

Mixed Company, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

2020

FIVE, We Buy Gold, New York, USA

2019

That's What She Said, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
Lost Lover, Rampa, Porto, Portugal

2018

About Face, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
NIEPODLEGŁE, Women, Independence and National Discourse, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland
Five Propositions, Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, USA
Moving Stills – Affective Archives, Mumok Cinema, Vienna, Austria

2017

A Painting Today, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa
Disclosure, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Being There – Art Afrique, Le Nouvel Atelier, Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France

2016

Kabbo ka Muwala (The Girl's Basket), National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
Transforming Provocations, The Flaherty NYC, New York, USA

2015

Forum, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, Somerset House, London, England
The Film Will Always Be You, Tate Modern, London, England
Post-African Futures, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Johannesburg Pavilion, Venice, Italy

2014

A Beautiful Rebellion, DUMBO, New York, USA
Disrupters: This is Disrupter X, Schokofabrik, Bayreuth, Germany
Commute, Brundyn+, Cape Town, South Africa
Public/Private, Spring/Break Art Show, New York, USA

2013

The Space Between Us, Ifa Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Spectacular, Frac des Pays de la Loire, Carquefou, France
IF YOU DO IT RIGHT, Honolulu Performance Space, Nantes, France
VAIVEM, SESC Pinheiros, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Working Title, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Making Way: Contemporary Art from China and South Africa, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

Shoe Shop, Goethe-Institut & Shoe Shop Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa

2011

Gulbenkian Next Future Program, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal
Two Thousand and Ten Reasons to Live in a Small Town, GoetheonMain, Johannesburg, South Africa
(Re)constructions: Contemporary Art in South Africa, Museum of Contemporary Art, Niterói, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
Contemporary Africa on Screen Film Festival, South London Gallery, London, England

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2026

Suspension, Sound programme, Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto, Canada

2022

Equations for a body at rest, Eastside Projects and various locations, Birmingham, UK

2018

The Reading Room, Goethe-Institut, Co-curated with Alphabet Zoo, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015

African Futures Festival, Multiplier, Goethe-Institut, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014

COMPENDIUM, Ithuba Arts Gallery, Co-curated with Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum Johannesburg, South Africa

2010

Made in Musina, Collaborative networking project with youth in Musina, Musina, South Africa

2009

Border Farm Project, Multi-media collaborative project on the South Africa/Zimbabwe border

PUBLIC LECTURES

2018

Studio VU, Visiting Artist Program, Department of Art, Vanderbilt University, Part of the 'Africa At a Crossroads TIPS' Program, Nashville, Tennessee, USA

2017

The Creative Arts and the Role of 'Creatives' in Disrupting Society, The Independent Philanthropy Association South Africa, University of Johannesburg [LECTURE AND PANEL CHAIRPERSON]

2015

Knowledge Production and Radical Sharing, African Futures Festival, Goethe-Institut, Johannesburg, South Africa, [KEYNOTE LECTURE]

Camera Obscura: The promise and the perils of collaborative filmmaking, The Migration and Diaspora Studies Initiative, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada

2011

The Ethics of 'Collaborative' Art, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa, [ORGANISER AND PARTICIPANT]

Johannesburg's 1st Public Art Conference, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, [PANELIST]

5th Annual Conference of the African Borderlands Research Network, Lisbon, Portugal

Visual Arts Network of South Africa's 2010 Ways to do Public Art Forum, Goethe Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa, [PANELIST]

On Belonging, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa, [PANELIST]

Wide Angle Forum: Photography as Public Practice, Johannesburg, South Africa

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

2023

Artist founded and run mentorship program, focusing on painting and professional practice development, Johannesburg, South Africa

2022 – 2023

Mentor to South African artist Motlhoki Nono

2018

Adjunct Faculty, African Modernisms Module, School of the Arts, University of the Witwatersrand

2010 – 2017

Adjunct Faculty, Video and Photography Module, School of the Arts, University of the Witwatersrand

2011 – 2012

Adjunct Faculty, Faculty of Fine Arts, Design and Architecture, University of Johannesburg

2011 – 2012

Lecturer, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

2004 – 2005

Facilitator and Curriculum designer, Artist Proof Studio, Johannesburg, South Africa

AWARDS, GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

2023

Helgaard Steyn Prize in Painting, South Africa

2022

Arts Council England, UK National Lottery Heritage Fund

2019

Gymnasium, The Africa Center, New York, USA

Tollman Award for the Visual Arts

Pro-Helvetia, Ant Mobility Funding

2018

Pala Lab, Berlin, Germany, Funded by the Goethe-Institut, Johannesburg

2015

Pro-Helvetia Research Grant

National Arts Council of South Africa Grant Recipient

2014

Mashup The Archive, Iwalewahaus Archive, Bayreuth, Germany

2013

National Arts Council of South Africa Grant Recipient

XXVIIes Aterliers Internationaux Residency/Exhibition, FRAC des Pays de la Loire, France

VAIVEM Residency/Exhibition, Sao Paulo, Brazil

2012

Vanilla Facts Residency, Berlin, Germany

2011

Cruces International Residency, Montevideo, Uruguay

2010

2010 Reasons to live in a Small Town Project Grant, VANSA, Johannesburg

Goethe-Institut Grant Recipient

Africa Centre for Migration and Society Grant

2009

Bag Factory Artists' Residency, Johannesburg, South Africa
National Arts Council of South Africa Grant Recipient

2008

Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation Grant for Filmmaking

2006

School of Visual Arts Alumni Award Fellowship

2004

Pforzheimer Foundation Public Service Fellowship
Philippe Wamba Prize in African Studies

2002

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship