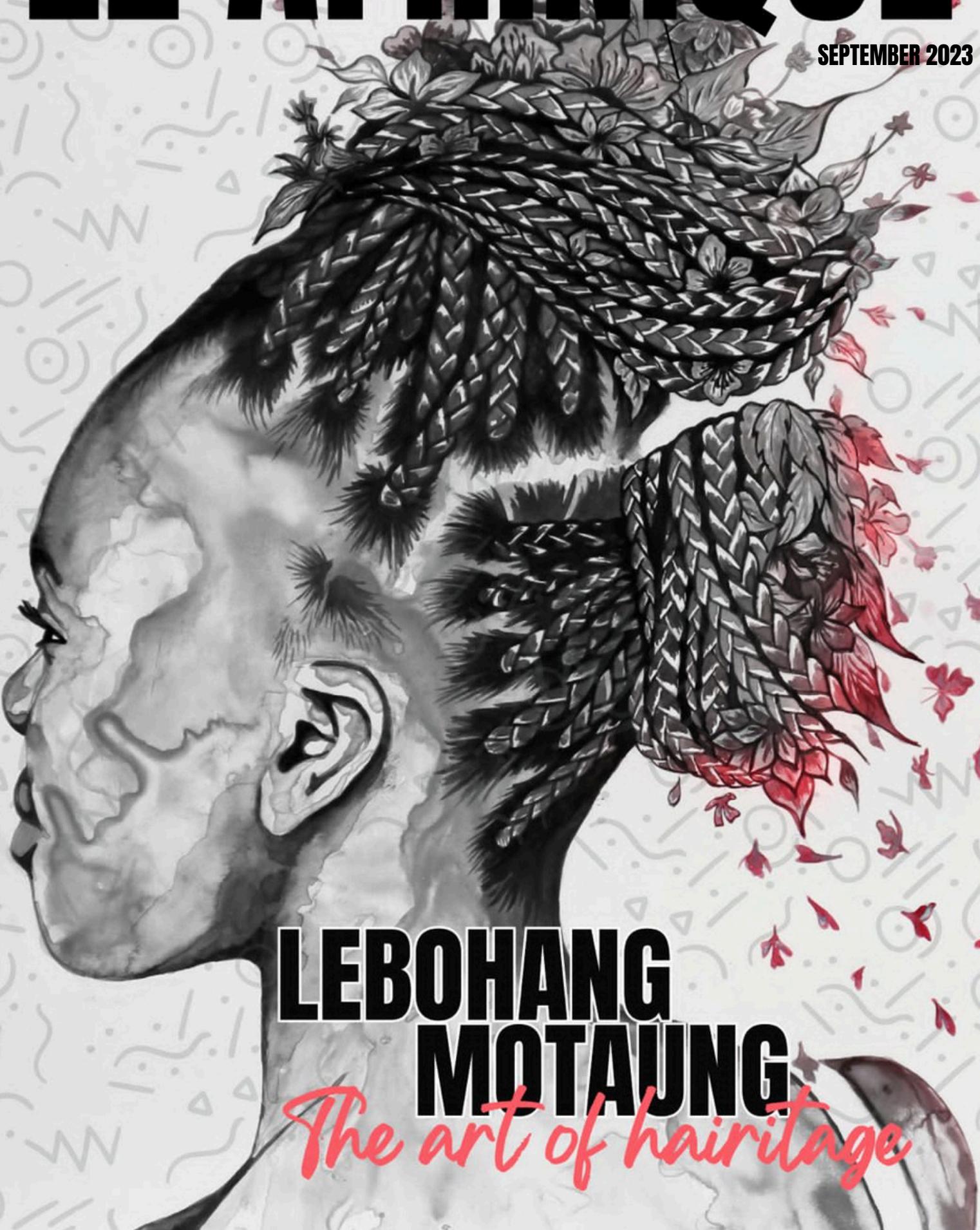


LE AFRINIQUE

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2023



LEBOHANG
MOTAUNG

The art of hairitage

EDITOR'S NOTE

BY SELLOANE MALETSATSI MOLELI

I've been an advocate for black hair since intentionally embracing my natural hair as a teenager. I've continued this journey through various projects on my byMaletsatsi blog and the virtual parade "Black Hair Is Royalty."

The love-hate relationship I've had with my hair over the years has highlighted how this God-given crown can affect one's mood and self-perception, but it also invites others to form opinions based on how you wear your crown. These sentiments are echoed in songs like "I Am Not My Hair" by India Arie, "Whip My Hair" by Willow Smith, and "Don't Touch My Hair" by Solange.

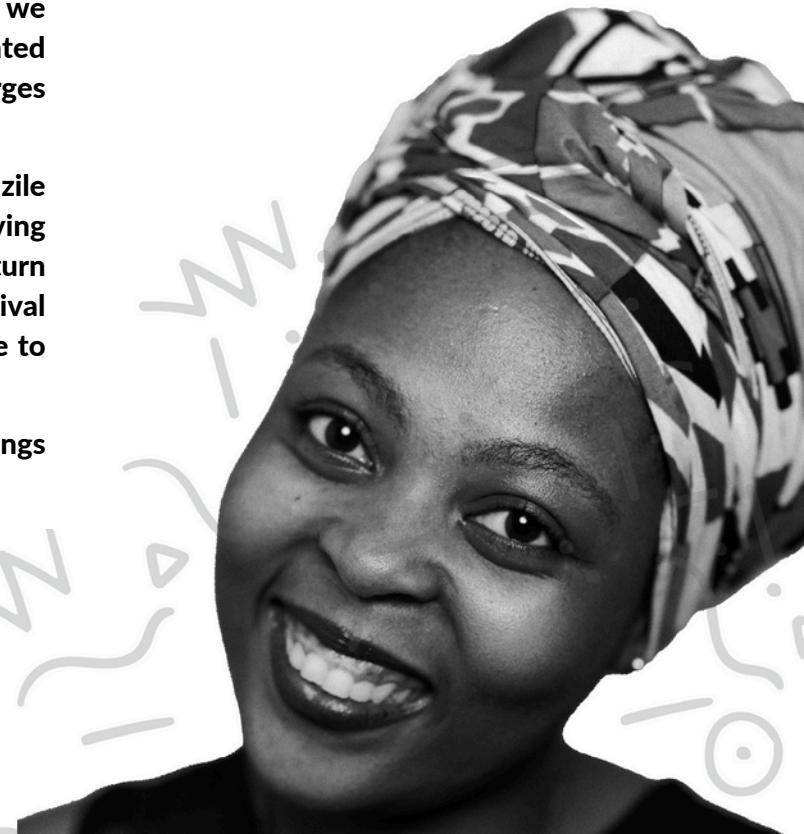
This issue offers a different perspective on hair, one that sees it as art. It celebrates the crown we are born with and allows us to appreciate and truly love it. To kick off this issue, Ntswaki provides a brief history lesson on hair combs - handy knowledge for when you're on your travels, especially to Mexico. Then, we dive into our cover story featuring the talented Lebohang Motaung, whose work beautifully merges art and hair. I greatly admire her creative vision.

We also welcome guest contributor Phumzile Kunene, founder of Zile Tours, who has been giving me major Bushfire Festival FOMO since her return from Swaziland this year. She rates the festival experience a solid 5 stars, so check out the article to find out why.

Finally, we wrap it up with my favorite guide to things you should check out - ho busy mahn!

@kennamaletsatsi

“ This issue takes us on a journey into our **hairitage** by a visionary hairartist and celebrates art. ”

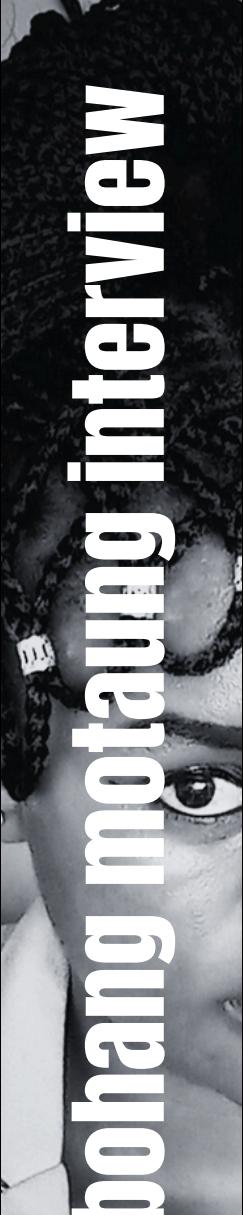




the power of hair combs

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ON THE COVER

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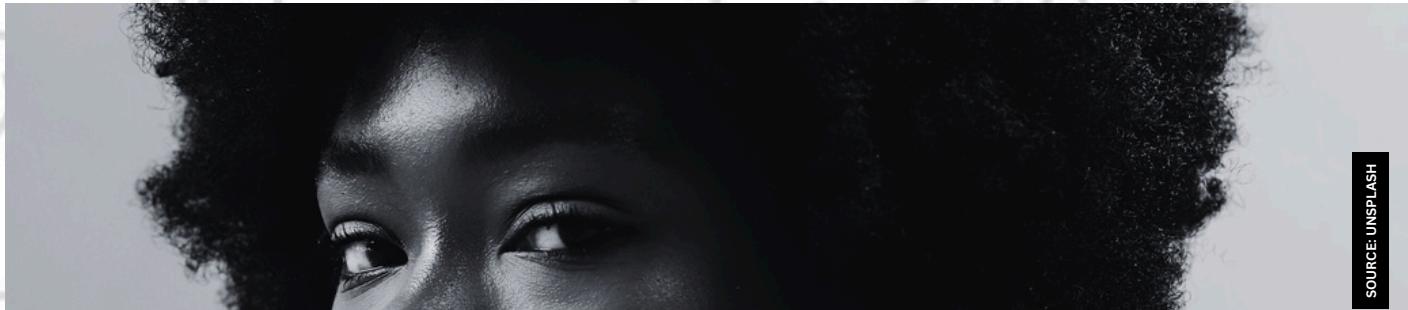
Production Assistant: Gabby Mathibe

CONTENTS

THE POWER OF HAIR COMBS

A Black Hair Is Royalty Collaborative Article

@tilsetso_darkie



SOURCE: UNSPLASH

Lack of knowledge (or acknowledgement) about black hair and its accessories got Trevor Noah in a comb situation in Mexico earlier this year. Combs have been used to both tame and decorate the hair for centuries. The basic design evolved from the fingers of the human hand. The earliest known comb, made from animal bone and found in Syria, is said to date from 8000 BC and is fundamentally the same form as the mass-produced plastic comb of today.

Generally, there are three types of combs; hair combs, decorative combs and flea combs. Hair combs are used to style and maintain hair. Decorative combs are simple accessories meant to dress up the hair and serve no purpose in taking care of your hair. Flea combs, although used on the hair sometimes, are used to search for incredibly tiny parasites like lice, fleas or crabs. Running a flea comb over the infected area will damage the parasites, effectively killing them.

In Ghana, the dua'afe (wooden comb) is used and linked to femininity and beauty. In more modern times the African comb has become politicised. The 1960s African-American human rights struggles led to seeking strength and pride in self. Embracing natural hair became the norm in some circles. The Black Power Fist comb was first produced in 1972, and was immediately reminiscent of the 1968 Black Power salute. Other types of combs include the

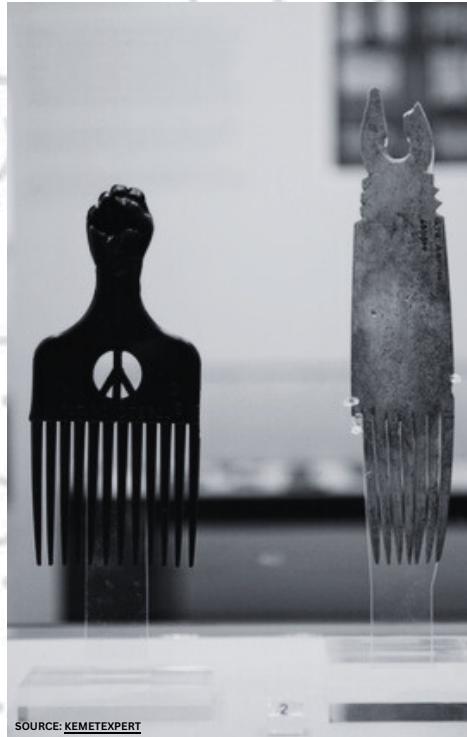
ide tooth comb. This kind of comb has enough space between the rows to allow for hair to glide through easily, without breaking off the ends; a Denman Brush, its bristles are made to separate and detangle knots from the hair effectively; and a Rat- tail comb, the tail of the comb is used for separating, straightening, and sectioning the hair for different styling processes.

Questlove, the drummer and leader of the iconic hip-hop/soul band The Roots, is known for his signature look: a big, Afro-style comb placed prominently in his hair. But why does he wear this comb? It's not just a fashion choice; the comb has a deeper, more meaningful significance. It's a tribute to Questlove's family history and a reminder of the importance of self-care. By wearing the comb, Questlove is honoring his ancestors, as well as reminding himself to take care of his body, mind, and spirit. Through his hairstyle, Questlove is making a powerful statement about his identity, his heritage, and his commitment to self-love.

Combs for styling hair have been used since ancient times, the decorative combs were invented to create the enormous hairdos. Ornamental back combs with long teeth and decorative headings to project above an elaborate hairdo. In Predynastic Kemet and ancient China, combs were worn as hair accessories that reflected one's social status.

HAIR COMBS IN HISTORY

...continued



SOURCE: KEMETEXPERT



SOURCE: EBAY



SOURCE: MFA

The iconic 'fist' comb from the 1970s and a 5500 year old comb from Abydos Egypt. Taken at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Art African tribal Ethnic - Comb Ornamental Ashanti

Nineteenth-century American decorative hair comb. Courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.

COMB-CARING TIPS

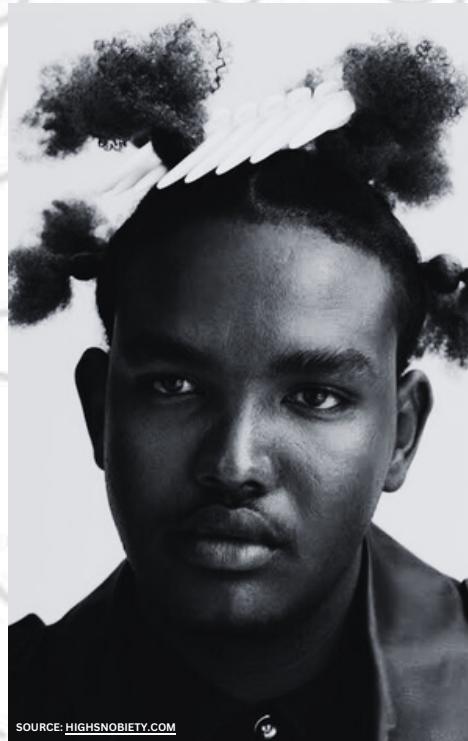
*Combs are an essential part of the natural hair journey.
Here are some easy tips to take of them:*

1. Comb/ brush hair gently starting at the tip/ ends of your hair and work your way to the roots to avoid snagging off your hair.
2. Don't use combs with broken teeth because it leads to split ends, damage, and overall unhealthy looking hair.
3. Don't share combs and wash your combs with shampoo.

HAIR COMBS IN ART & MUSIC

Here are some artists who's used combs to make statements

Simon Skinner



SOURCE: [HIGHSNOBIEITY.COM](https://www.highsnobiety.com)

Fred Martins



SOURCE: [DESIGNINDABA.COM](https://www.designindaba.com)

AfroPick



SOURCE: [BLKOCEANS.COM](https://www.blkoceans.com)

Hank Willis Thomas



SOURCE: [NOLA.COM](https://www.nola.com)

Questlove



SOURCE: [DOSE MAGAZINE.COM](https://www.dosagemagazine.com)

Yahw Arts



SOURCE: [MISBEE.BLOGSPOT.COM](https://misbee.blogspot.com)

LEAFRINIQUE

ISSUE 2



LEBOHANG MOTAUNG
VISUAL ARTIST AND HAIRSTYLIST

GET TO KNOW LEBOHANG

Lebohang Motaung: From Sebokeng to International Artistic Acclaim

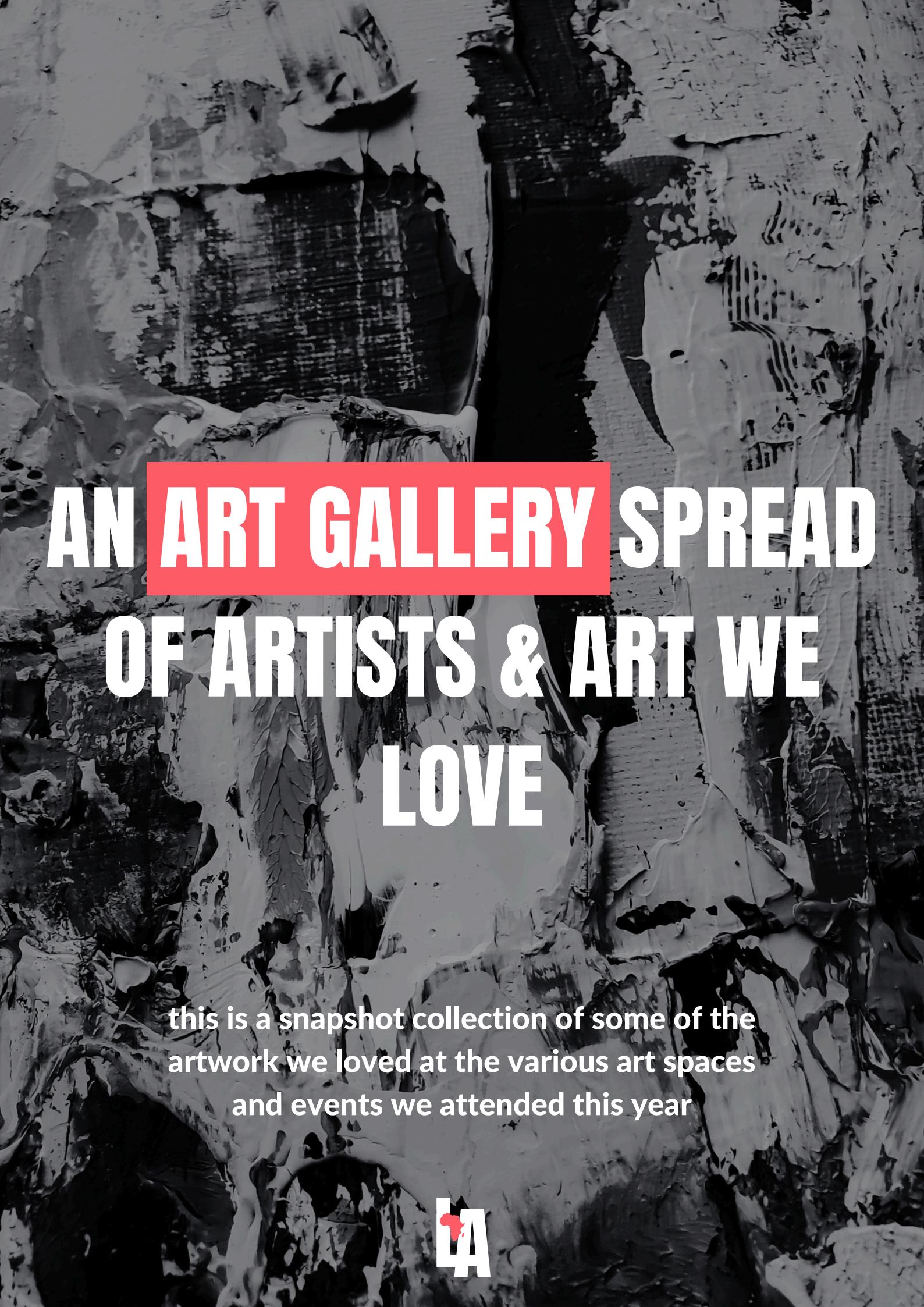
Lebohang Motaung's artistic journey began in Sebokeng but gained momentum at the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), where she earned a Diploma and B-Tech degree in Fine Art with a focus on Printmaking. A turning point came in 2015 when she received a Certificate of Excellence in Printmaking from Artist Proof Studios in Johannesburg, setting her on a path to global recognition. Motaung's talent has been showcased in prestigious exhibitions worldwide, including the "Twenty: Art in Times of Democracy" exhibition in North Carolina and the SMFA Art Sale in Boston, USA. She has also graced local exhibitions like the Trubine Art Fair, FNB Joburg Art Fair and "Black Hair Matters" in Soweto.

Beyond exhibitions, Motaung has been commissioned for various projects, including a Human Rights Mural and the Zazi Campaign Billboard. In 2015, she completed a transformative residency at The School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where she mastered advanced intaglio techniques and shared her knowledge as an assistant teacher. Currently, Motaung is in the midst of an eight-month residency at The Project Space in Johannesburg, continuing to leave her mark on the art world with each stroke of her brush. Her journey from Sebokeng to international acclaim is a testament to the power of creativity to inspire and challenge.

Our content director and art contributor Sne Mdiya had a chat with Lebohang to find out more about her unique artistic journey and more!



[**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL INTERVIEW**](#)



AN ART GALLERY SPREAD OF ARTISTS & ART WE LOVE

this is a snapshot collection of some of the
artwork we loved at the various art spaces
and events we attended this year



TURBINE ART FAIR



LEBOHANG MOTAUNG

@lebohanglang

Lebohang Motaung, a South African printmaking artist, gained global recognition in 2015. Her work centers on empowering women through hair symbolism and challenging stereotypes. Motaung's career includes human rights murals, social campaigns, and art residencies. Her art is showcased in museums, like the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, cementing her as a prominent artist and advocate for change.

TURBINE ART FAIR



MUOFHE MANAVHELA

@muofhemanavhela

Muofhe Manavhela, a dynamic young artist, explores contemporary Black womanhood in South Africa. Influenced by artists like Lady Skollie and Andy Warhol, she offers a nuanced perspective on daily Black women's lives. Using mediums like paint, printmaking, and embroidery, she challenges harmful narratives and redefines perceptions of Black femmes and womanhood. Her candid art positions her as a social commentator in a society that often underestimates Black women.

TURBINE ART FAIR



ZHI ZULU

@zhi_zulu

Zhi Zulu earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Visual Communication from The Open Window Institute and is currently pursuing a Masters in the same field. She's the founder of Zuluvisual and received a Gold Craft Loerie Award in 2018. Zulu's art explores her Zulu culture, aiming to inspire cultural discovery and enhance education. She has collaborated with David Krut Projects and Workshop, creating a series called 'The Curious Five,' humorously challenging stereotypes in African stories.

TURBINE ART FAIR



FUMANI MALULEKE

@fumani_maluleke

Limpopo-born artist Walter Maluleke, once an unruly child drawing on schoolbooks and walls, has evolved into an art teacher. His work pays tribute to his humble beginnings, using traditional elements like three-legged pots to symbolize his mother's nurturing and wisdom. He frequently references Limpopo in his art, showcasing authentic African experiences on grass mats, a unique canvas.

TURBINE ART FAIR

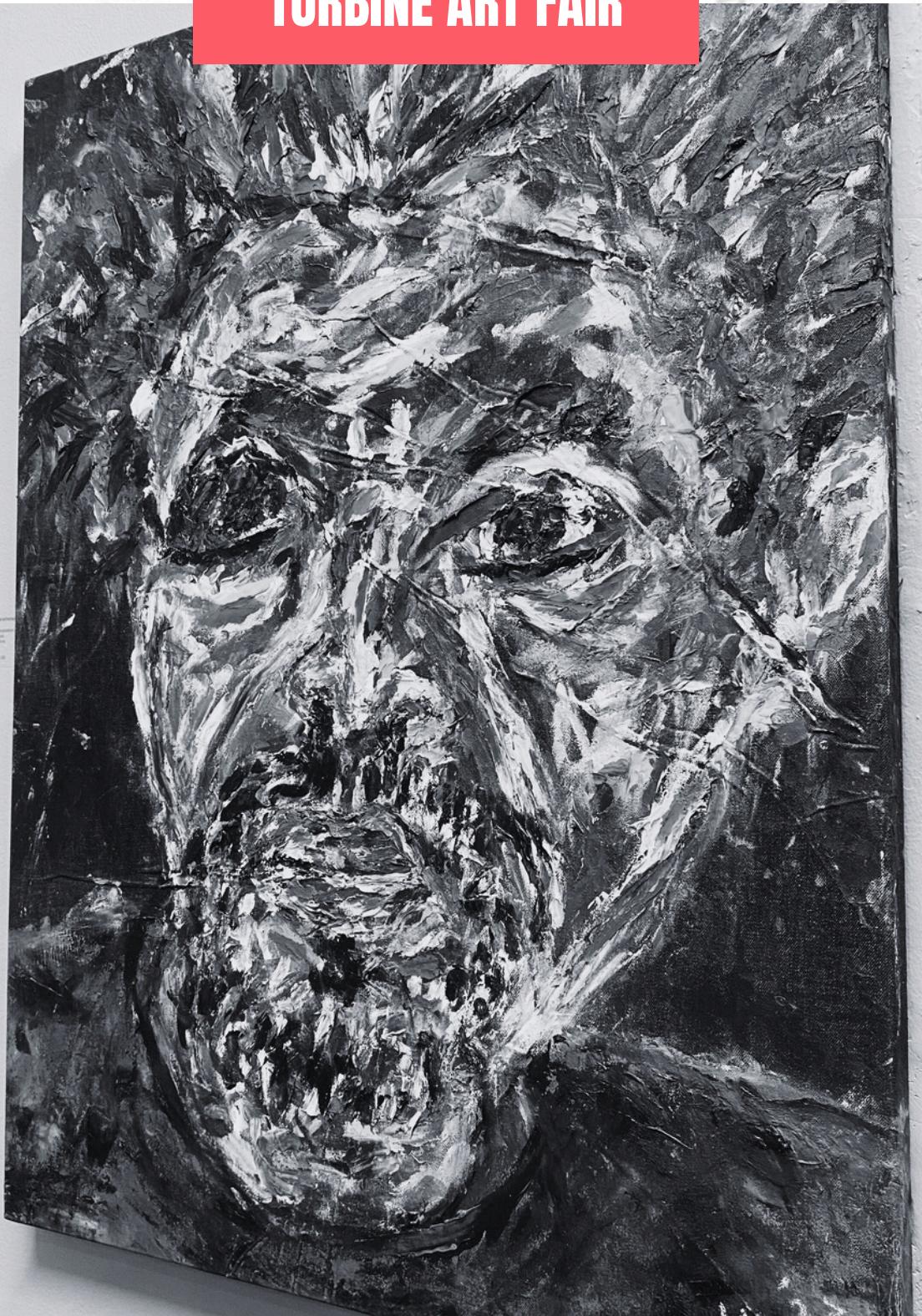


ALEXANDRA KHAZIN

@alexandra_khazin_art

Each artwork in Alexandra's portfolio carries its own unique story, ranging from the joyful to the tragic. Her creative style is characterized by playfulness, eclecticism, and a fearless exploration of various approaches. While studying Law briefly interrupted her artistic pursuits, embarking on an art therapy journey rekindled her passion and led her to a fulfilling professional path.

TURBINE ART FAIR



THOKOZANI MTHIYANE

@thokozani_iv

Thokozani Madonsela is a South African artist specializing in mural art, painting, and printmaking. He graduated from Artist Proof Studio with a certificate in Printmaking. Madonsela excels in diverse mediums like charcoal drawings, painting, and mosaics. He has showcased his work in exhibitions like the SA Taxi Foundation Art Awards and Absa L'Atelier and has undertaken special projects and commissions.

TURBINE ART FAIR

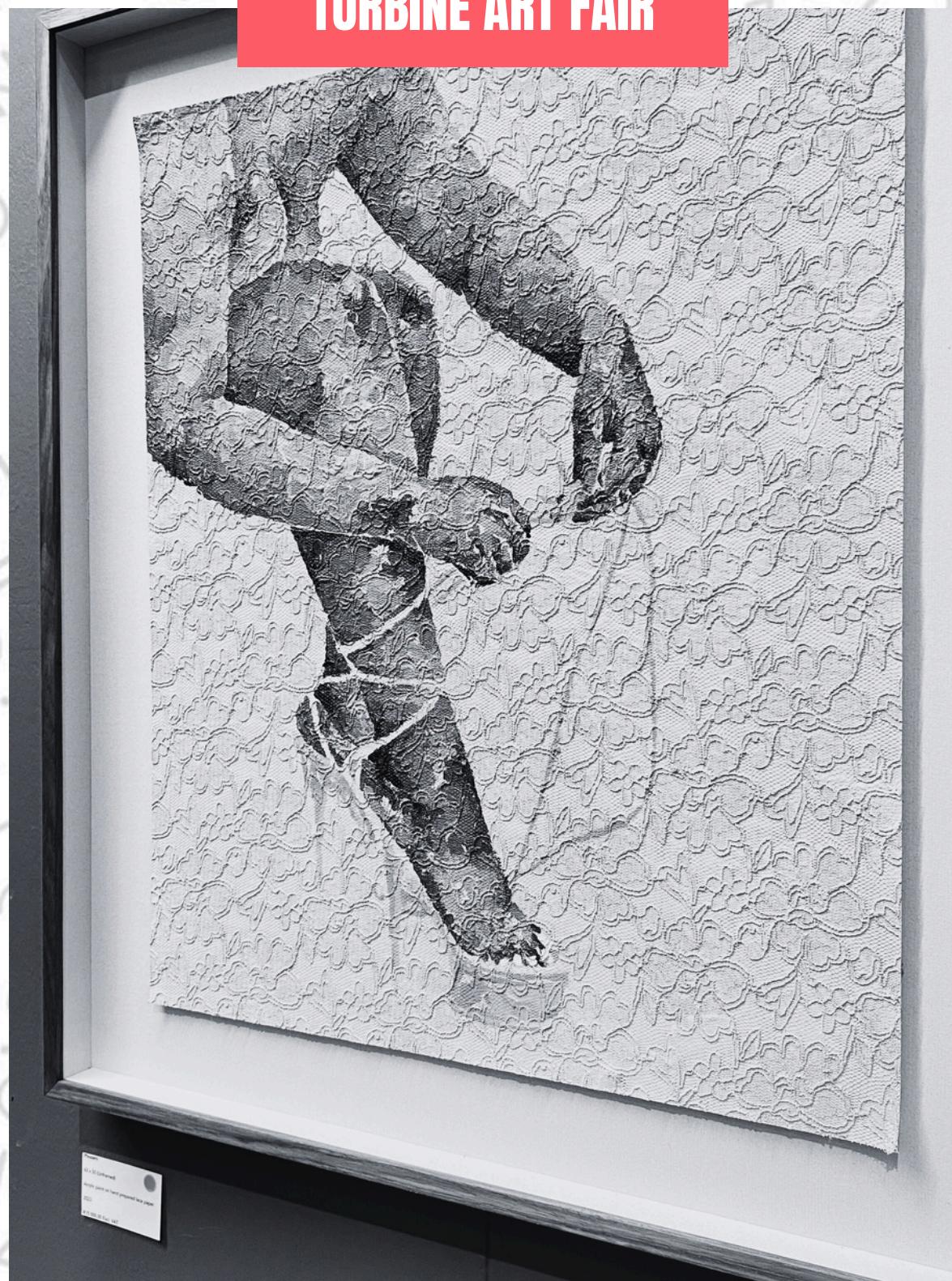


MOHINI PILLAY

@mohinipillayart

Johannesburg-based visual artist Mohini Pillay holds a 2020 Fine Arts degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. Her multidisciplinary work spans oil painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation. Inspired by her environment and personal growth, her art has shifted from critiquing her role in the diamond industry to exploring art as a form of manifestation. Pillay's work prompts introspection and encourages viewers to explore their connection to the world through memories and vulnerability.

TURBINE ART FAIR

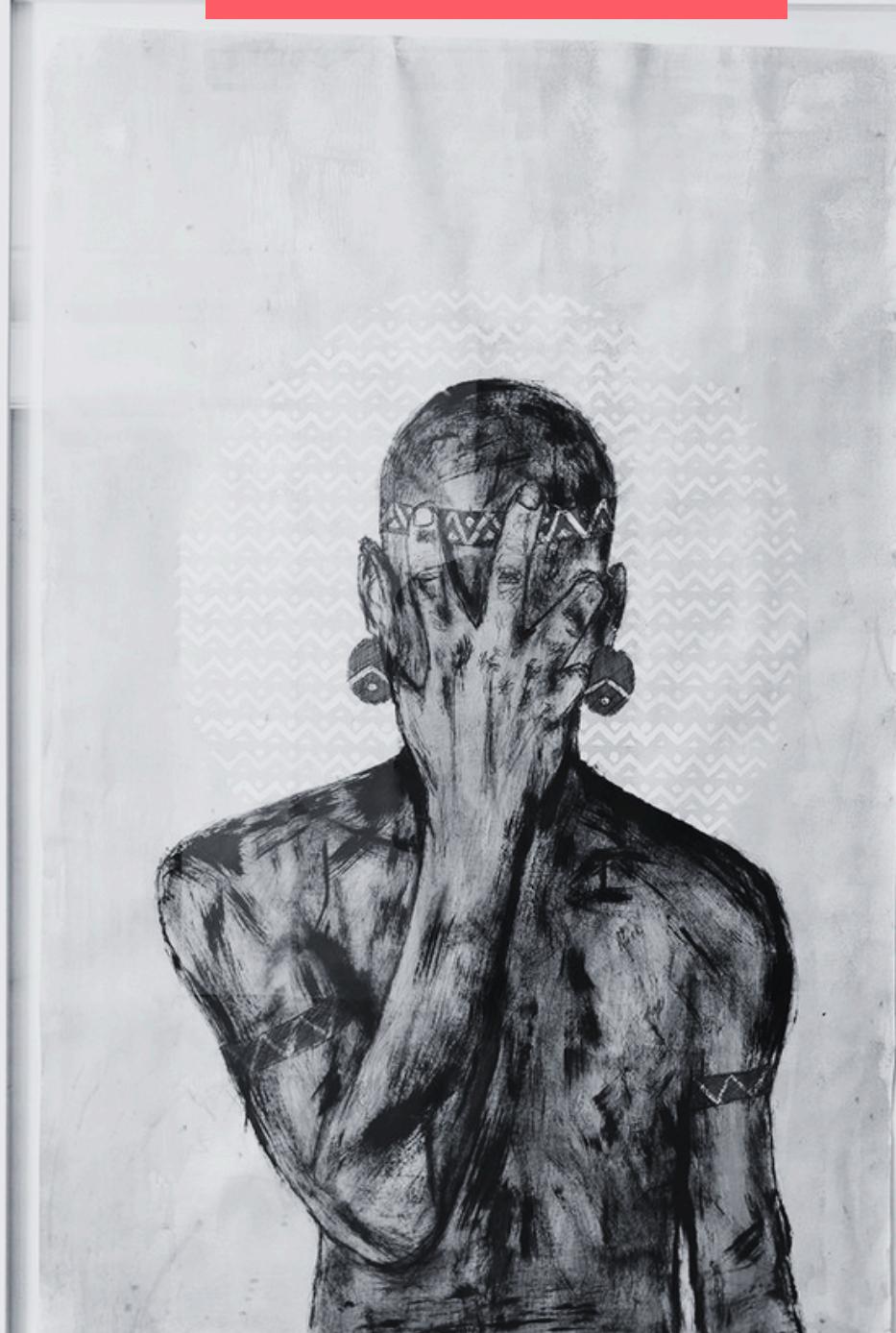


BUQAQAWULI NOBAKADA

@buqaqawuliart

Buqaqawuli Nobakada is an emerging mixed-media artist from the Western Cape, blending acrylics with lace paper and custom clay or gold jewelry. She celebrates border crossings in imagination and life. Currently a third-year Fine Arts student at the University of the Witwatersrand, Nobakada exhibits with Affinity art gallery in Lagos, Nigeria, and has showcased her work at various international exhibitions, including "Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt" and SOMA in France.

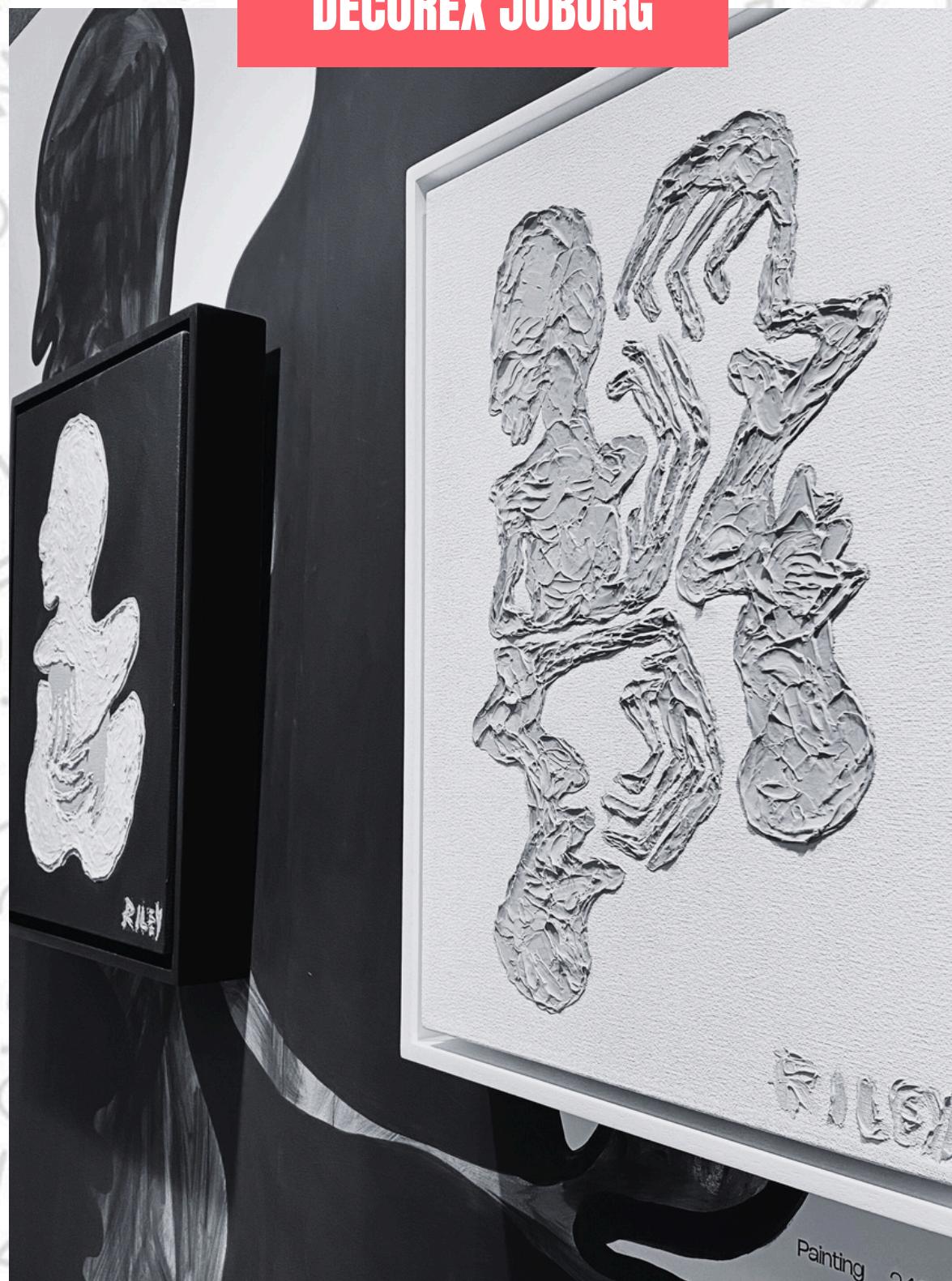
ILISO LOMOYA



MASONWABE NTLOKO

@masonwabentloko

Masonwabe Ntloko is a visual artist and textile design graduate, renowned for his modern heritage-style designs. Influenced by Engwane village and Xhosa culture, his art blends the past with contemporary elements. He delves into Xhosa culture, including rituals and matriarchs, and celebrates South Africa's diversity. With museum exhibitions, brand collaborations, and music partnerships, Masonwabe is also dedicated to mentoring young creatives and is known for his sought-after collaborations.



RILEY AXON

@riley.axon

Riley Axon (They/Them) is a Cape Town-based multidisciplinary artist, skilled in fine-art painting, graphic design, mural artistry, and textile art. They employ abstract gender-neutral figures to craft safe, utopian spaces for LGBTQI+ individuals to freely express themselves through their work.

DECOREX JOBURG

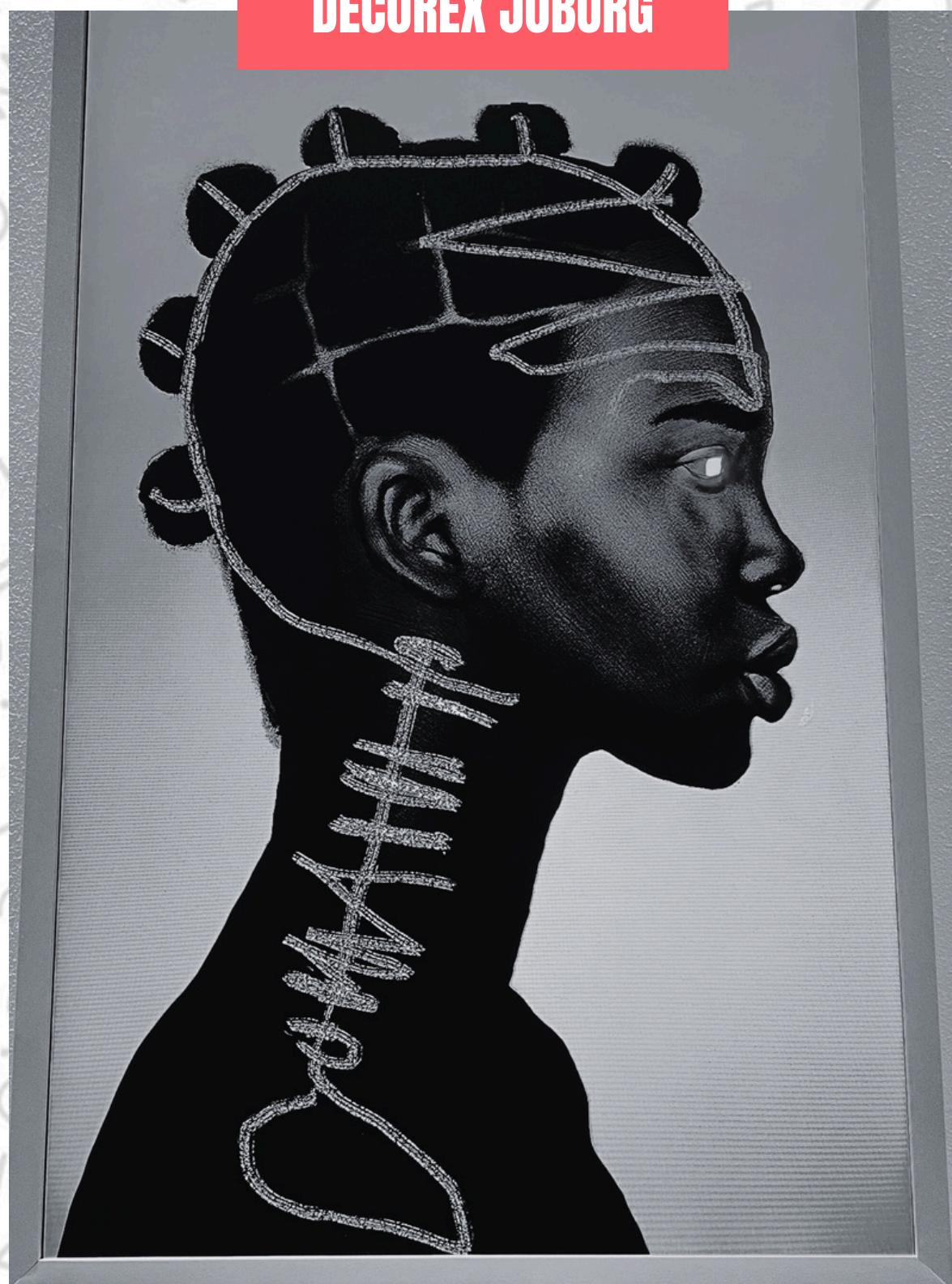


GARDENBERRY

@gardenberry_studio

Gardenberry is a manufacturer of quirky, modern and artistic items ranging from furniture to art.

DECOREX JOBURG



SETH PIMENTEL

@african_ginger

Seth Pimentel is an innovative illustrator, painter, and experimental visual artist based in Johannesburg. He blends painting, digital illustration, and drawing to redefine contemporary portraiture. Exploring themes of identity, mental health, and modern life, Pimentel draws from his experiences in post-colonial South Africa. He collaborates with brands and artists globally, including Netflix, Converse, Redbull, SneakerLab, Jameson, and Adobe.

DECOREX JOBURG



TEBOGO SELEPE

@sloppy.iz

Tebogo Selepe, also known as Sloppy Iz, is a contemporary digital artist from Soweto, drawing inspiration from pop art, surrealism, and high fashion. The 2023 Design Indaba Emerging Creative's work delves into surreal, dystopian themes around excess, media, and identity.

DECOREX JOBURG



ZANELE MONTLE

@zanele_montle_

Zanele Montle's journey began with excellence in Art during her matriculation. She earned a National Diploma in Visual Arts from UJ and a BTech Degree in Applied Arts from Tshwane University of Technology. Passionate about art education, she obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with an Art specialization in 2019. Her current work boldly explores black identity through acrylics, marked by strong design elements and repetition, showcasing her evolving artistic practice.

BLACK, TRANS & BOLD



YAYA MAVUNDLA

@yayarsa

Yaya Mavundla, an award-winning transgender activist, fashion entrepreneur, reality TV star, and multidisciplinary artist, is celebrated for her unwavering commitment to transgender rights. Her work has gained international recognition, appearing on Swiss billboards in Zanele Muholi's exhibition. She has recently come back to her homeland to make her debut as a visual artist.

HMC FAIR JOBURG



KGANYA MOGASHOA

@koranges_art

Kganya Mogashoa, an Interior Design graduate from the University of Johannesburg, founded Koranges Art (Pty) Ltd. Based in Randburg, Johannesburg, she left her full-time job in 2019 to pursue a passion for mixed media and oil paintings. Her work focuses on portraiture, drawing inspiration from personal experiences, faith, and addressing women's mental health issues. Koranges Art is expanding into stationery and corporate gifting with an emphasis on promoting mental health education.

NEDBANK CAPE WINEMAKERS GUILD



THE ART OF WINE SHOWCASE

@cape_winemakers_guild

At this year's Nedbank Cape Winemakers Guild Auction Showcase, AI-generated art brought to life the tasting notes, environmental factors, and the winemaking process of South Africa's finest wines. Each piece embodies "The Art of Wine," revealing the profound connection between wine and art.

AN UNFORGETTABLE BUSHFIRE

Phumzile Kunene tells us about her favourite African trip experienced this year

@zile_tours



When you're jet-setting almost every other week, traveling becomes your second nature, and every adventure turns into a remarkable memory. So, for a moment to truly shine and become THE most unforgettable, you know it has to be out-of-this-world extraordinary. And for me, that extraordinary experience was undoubtedly the Bushfire 2023 escapade with Zile Tours.

So for context, Zile Tours is this cool boutique agency with a mission to make travel accessible to the township economy. We firmly believe that the world is like an epic book, and every place you visit is a new chapter waiting to be explored.

Now, back to Bushfire and why it was the bee's knees! First off, it was the incredible people I met. Besides the fantastic Zile Tours team, which included yours truly and Sihle, our operator, the group featured a dynamic duo (abo Mzala, the real stars of the show), an adorable couple (Thato & Thabang), and three delightful friends (Thato, the gal; Busi, the big sis; and Thuli, AKA Bhobhodlwane, LOL). In my three years of Zile Tours adventures, I've never seen a group click and bond so effortlessly within minutes, if not seconds, of meeting each other. They were an absolute blast to host.

Now, imagine setting off on a journey to Swaziland with such wonderful souls on board - talk about a vibe! Our trip started with

introductions, where everyone had to share their favorite songs to create the ultimate weekend playlist. This playlist was a fantastic mix of old-school classics and the latest jams, representing the diverse tastes of our group.

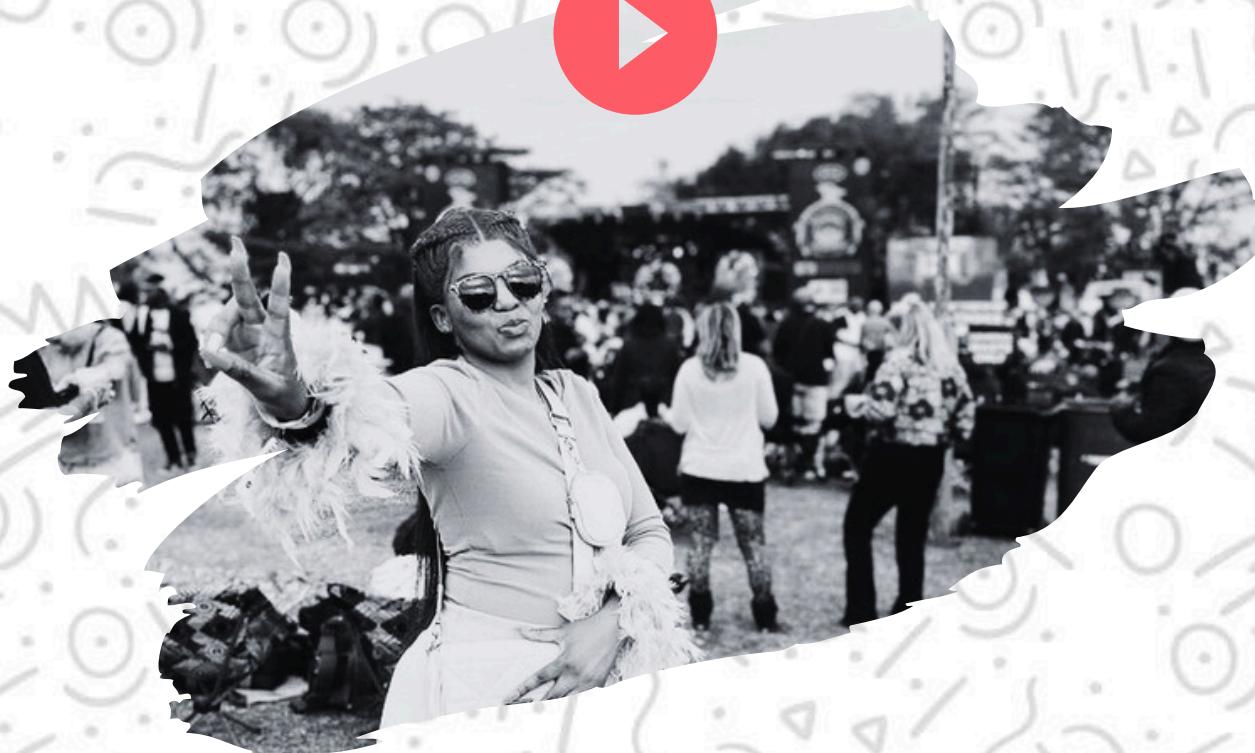
We arrived in Swaziland a day before the festival, giving us ample time to find the perfect camping spot and explore this beautiful country. Don't forget to check out the Swazi Candle Factory if you ever find yourself there. But the real highlight? It was undeniably the festival itself. With electrifying performances by Short Madjozi, Morda, and Nomfundo Mo stealing the spotlight, plus the captivating traditional Swazi performances, I was completely enchanted. And to top it off, our campsite turned into a mini-festival, with up-and-coming artists delivering mind-blowing shows at their designated tents.

The fashion scene was another treat for the eyes. People dressed up as characters or animals, and their outfits were some of the most fabulous I've ever seen. All in all, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, one of the most impeccably organized events I've ever had the pleasure of attending. I'm already counting down the days until the next one - it's going to be epic!

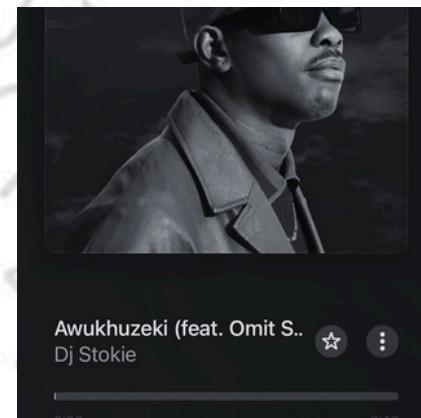
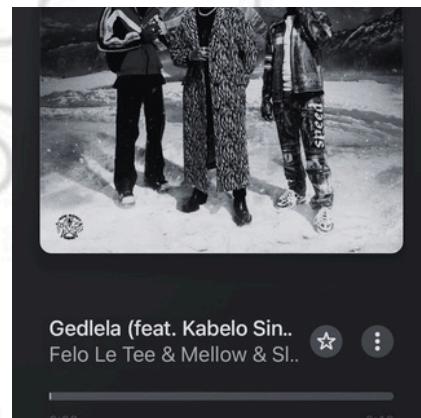
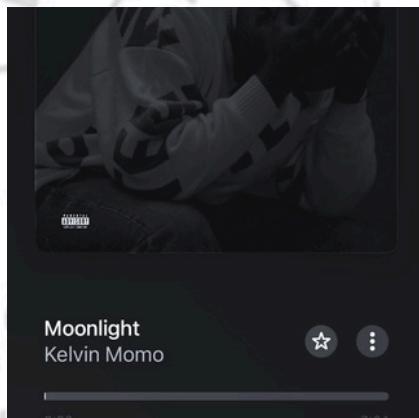
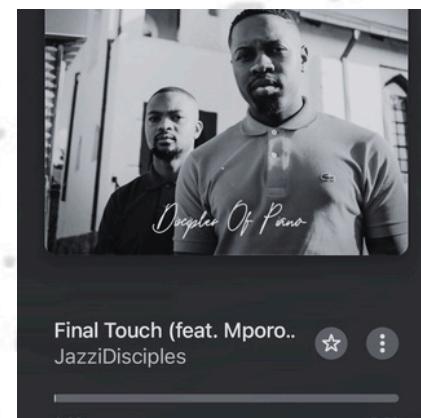
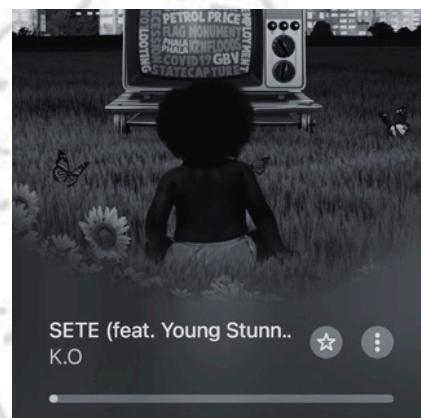
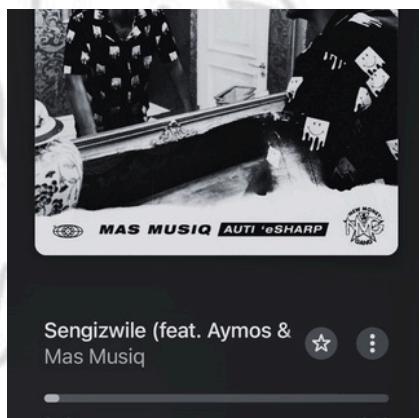
Thinking about travelling soon? Check Zile Tours Facebook & Instagram pages for upcoming trips!

ZILE TOURS TRAVEL PLAYLIST

Check out this *playlist* on Apple Music to keep you entertained while you travel to your next event experience!



This playlist includes some of our faves like:



LA

GUIDE TO COOL

LISTEN TO

COP IT

Chuck Taylor All Star Cruise



Cassper Nyovest "Solomon"

ROCK UP



Cassper Nyovest & Nasty C "African Tour" THRON World Tour

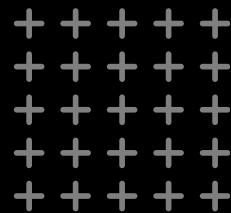
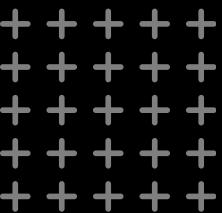
Hey Neighbour Festival



Galaxy Z Flip 5 and Galaxy Z Fold 5



Spring Fiesta



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