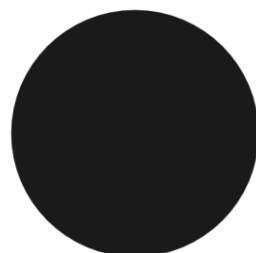


THE NEW VANGUARD

BERMAN CONTEMPORARY

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

Grace Mokalapa



THE NEW VANGUARD

NEW DISCOVERIES | NEW WORK



For **Berman Contemporary**, it's important to keep an eye out for artists with emerging practices – it's incredible how many talented visual artists, born and living in South Africa, we come across during our visits to studios, exhibitions and graduation shows. 'Making it' in the world of art is a matter of hard work, but there are also factors like luck, timing and exposure at play.

We are proud to say that, in 2020, Berman Contemporary has launched The New Vanguard, a platform for artists with emerging practices, whom we believe could do with a little support. We create possibilities for these artists to showcase their work in a professional gallery and during curated group exhibitions and art fairs. We support them in applying for competitions and residency programmes, and in developing an artist portfolio which will help them to capitalise on their talents.

The eight visual artists currently participating in The New Vanguard are: Amogelang Maepa, Odette Graskie, Natalie de Morney, Nomfundo Mkhize, Grace Mokalapa, Mbali Mthethwa and Gina van der Ploeg. As always, many of these artists honed their skills at an academy, but a fair number of The New Vanguard will be self-taught artists. From our perspective, each and every one of them deserves the exposure. This might be the first time you hear of them, but it won't be the last.

Of course, there is an element of self-interest for the gallery in creating The New Vanguard; we are sitting front-row when it comes to the development and uncovering of new artist practices. We are also hoping that some of these artists will continue developing until they can be fully represented by Berman Contemporary.

We take a loose approach to defining what an 'emerging' practise is. Broadly speaking, these artists are in the first 10 years of their career, but – above all – we are looking for artists who have a singular voice, artists who have something to say about the world we live in, or how it is represented by the medium they work in. It is not easy to stand out in today's image-saturated reality, so they must have an original voice to cut through all that visual noise. We are open to new talents who are interested in developing themselves in the area of Contemporary South African Art and being actively involved in their own professional development.

The artists are working in a large variety of media such as photography, ceramics, textiles, painting and found objects. In preparation for their first group exhibition, opening in August, they will have the opportunity to interact with each other and/or be involved in the curation of the exhibition.

GRACE MOKALAPA

Grace Mokalapa was born in Soweto (b.1992), I have been interested in art and fascinated by science. I went to Mondeor Primary school where I completed my primary education. I developed an intense passion for drawing and painting and a curiosity in astronomy and philosophy. I completed my high school education at Hoërskool die Fakkel in 2010, and in 2011 I began to study visual arts at the University of Witwatersrand. I graduated in 2015 with a BA degree in Fine Arts and later became a recipient of the Studio Bursary at Assemblage Studios funded by the African Arts Trust. I am currently working as an independent artist.

Instagram @sublimebygrace



ARTIST STATEMENT

My art practice is focussed on the subjective sublime experience(s) of physical space. I am particularly interested in the experiences of spacial voids and how we engage with the idea of an empty space and other worldly spaces. My work is centred on creating fictional spaces that evoke a sense silent uncanny mystery, infinity and yet also transcendence and ephemerality. My aim is to challenge the viewer's sense of perception and their psychological, aesthetic and physical relations to space, whilst simultaneously intercepting between notions of reality and fictional space, a non-space outside reality and beyond reason.

The process of my work is experimental and often moves between different mediums to convey/evoke experience(s) with altered spaces. The physical, psychological and perceptual experience of my work is crucial to its success, rather than the work itself which often results in shifts between different schools of thought and understanding of the universe.

ARTIST RESUME

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Mysterious Ambiguities, Granada, Spain.
- 2018 Inconceivable Space, Assemblage, Johannesburg.

Group Exhibitions

- 2020 LABYRINTHINE, curator Els van Mourik, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
- 2019 The Whole Universe is Full, Underlined, Johannesburg
- 2019 In plain sight, the Mesh Club, Johannesburg
- 2019 The Invisible Exhibition - Season 5, The Centre For The Less Good Idea, Johannesburg
- 2019 Artybollocks Exhibition, The Project Space, Johannesburg
- 2019 The Spaces In between, TMRW Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2018 Spring Art Exhibition, Mall of Africa, Midrand
- 2018 Drawn In Group Exhibition, Twilsharp Studios, Johannesburg
- 2017 The 2y2k Show, Twilsharp Studios, Johannesburg

Art Fairs

- 2019 Turbine Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg
- 2018 Latitudes Art Fair

Awards

- 2015 Received the Assemblage Studio Bursary from The African ArtsTrust

Publications

- 2019 Sunday Independent, Grace Mokalapa, Her work an invitation to explore, October 2019
- 2017 Art & Design, Grace Mokalapa, Which South African Artists to Invest in Now, July 2017

Residencies

- 2019 ARP Art Residency Project, Johannesburg

Education

- 2015 BA Fine Arts Witwatersrand University of Johannesburg



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | GRACE MOKALAPA



Grace Mokalapa
Uncanny Void Terrain 3, 2020
Monoprint of Fabriano paper
35 x 35cm
Framed Size 53 x 53cm

ZAR 8,600.00 Including VAT and Framing



Grace Mokalapa
Uncanny Void Terrain I, 2020
Monoprint of Fabriano paper
35 x 35cm
Framed Size 53 x 53cm

ZAR 8,600.00 Including VAT and Framing



Grace Mokalapa
Uncanny Void Terrain 2, 2020
Monoprint of Fabriano paper
35 x 35cm
Framed size: 53 x 53cm

ZAR 8,600.00 Including VAT and Framing



Grace Mokalapa
Abyss Monolith 2, 2020
Monoprint of Fabriano paper
60 x 60cm
Framed Size 82 x 82cm

ZAR 17,500.00 Including VAT and Framing



Grace Mokalapa
Abyss Monolith I, 2020
Monoprint of Fabriano paper
60 x 60cm
Framed size: 82 x 82cm

ZAR 17,500.00 Including VAT and Framing



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | GRACE MOKALAPA

Berman Contemporary is rooted in the growing understanding of the cultural richness and diversity of South African contemporary art. The gallery's collection centres on a vibrant group of artists living and working in South Africa.

Through studio visits, the gallery establishes connections to artists from all walks of life whose unique artistic processes celebrate their historical and cultural heritage and give voice to their complex societal realities, evoking an active and interpretative experience for the viewer.

Berman Contemporary was established to promote the work created by these local artists. The gallery further aims to establish a synergistic network between South African artists and their global contemporaries, many of whom evidently want to engage with the current South African art scene – not only as observers, but as active analysts, experimenters and contributors within this context and with this specific audience in mind.

**BERMAN
CONTEMPORARY**
SOUTH
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ART

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