

THE
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ESTHER MAHLANGU

Esther Mahlangu, is one of South Africa's most globally acclaimed visual artists. Born in 1935, Mam Esther, has spent her life touring the world in her beautiful traditional Ndebele clothing touching all who meet her. She has collaborated with numerous respected museums, galleries, artists, curators, entities and brands during her illustrious career.

Mam Esther was born on a farm outside Middelburg, Mpumalanga and in the tradition of the Ndebele people, she was taught the skill of mural painting and beadwork by her mother and grandmother at a very early age.

The ladies from the Ndebele people paint the exterior of their houses and create intricate beadwork in traditional modern geometric patterns in bright primary colours and Mam Esther showed much skill at these disciplines.

She lived and worked at the open-air museum of Ndebele culture, Botshabelo Historical Village, between 1980 and 1991.

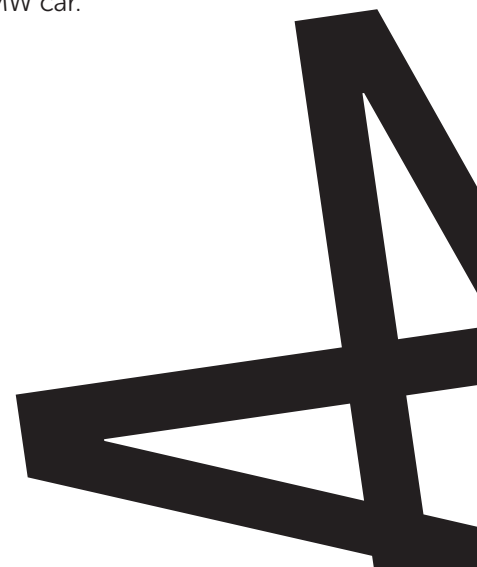
Mam Esther first gained international attention in 1989, at a European contemporary art exhibition called Magiciens de la Terre (Magicians of the World). She was invited to attend the exhibition in France and to paint a house in front of thousands of visitors.

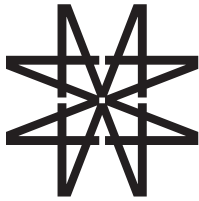
She participated in various projects during her time in France, including decorating a wall inside the Angoulême Museum of Fine Arts. By 1990 she had begun to receive invitations to paint murals in public spaces and to participate in numerous exhibitions across more than 12 countries.

In 1991, Esther became the first lady, and first African to be invited to participate in the BMW Art Car project which saw her joining artists of the likes of Andy Warhol, David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein and Frank Stella in painting a BMW car.

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Mam Esther, became the first artist to transfer the traditional modern abstract Ndebele designs that would typically decorate murals to canvases. This gave her the ability to accept invitations to participate in many more exhibitions throughout the world.

With money from the sale of her works and mural commissions Esther established an art school at her home in Mabhoko in the Province of Mpumalanga. Many young artists have learnt the traditional art of the Ndebele under her mentorship at this school. The students are taught how to mix pigments and paint the straight lines that are so important in Ndebele design by using their fingers or chicken feathers.

In 2016, she collaborated with Belvedere Vodka and John Legend, the popular U.S. musician, to design the labels for a limited-edition range of Vodka bottles to raise money for the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

In the same year, she once again collaborated with BMW by painting panels in their new 7 Series for the Frieze London Art Fair and participated in the 'SA – Art of a Nation' exhibition at the British Museum with one of her works selected to decorate the catalogue.

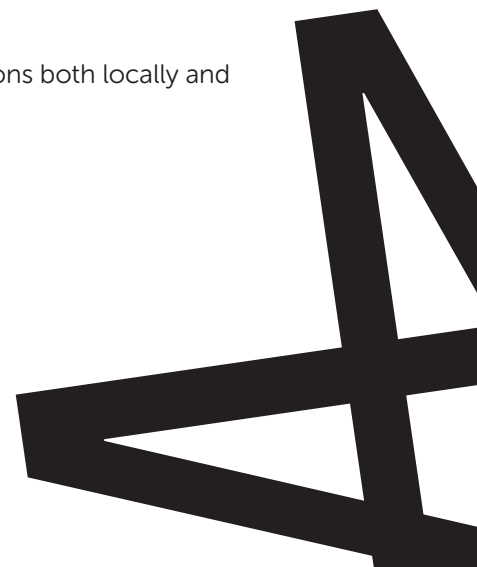
In 2017, she was joined by Dr Makaziwe Mandela, the eldest child of Mr Nelson Mandela, to unveil a series of paintings that she created in collaboration with Mr Mandela in 2004. This body of works were unveiled publicly for the first time at The Melrose Gallery in Johannesburg in front of a large VIP crowd and media contingent.

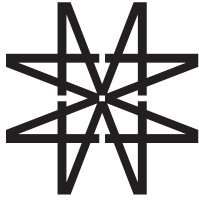
Mam Esther is passionate about conserving and promoting her Ndebele culture and is considered by many to be a South African national treasure. She has been awarded numerous awards for her contribution to the visual arts and heritage including the highest award from the President of South Africa.

Her works grace numerous important private and public collections both locally and internationally.

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Solo Exhibitions

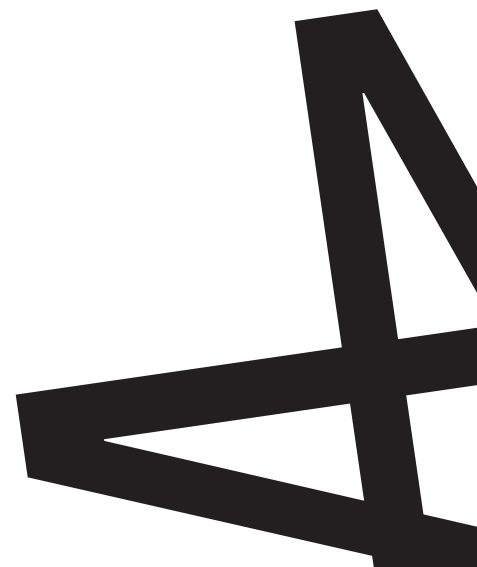
- 2017 A Tribute to Nelson Mandela, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
- 2016 BMW Lounge, FRIEZE ART FAIR, London, UK
- 2015 Esther Mahlangu 80, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA
- 2014 Esther Mahlangu: An Artistic Residency, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA
- 2012 Overlay, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2010 Centro Espositivo St. Art, Calenzano, Italy
- 2008 Esther Mahlangu: Reacquiring, The Kyle Kauffman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2007 Esther Mahlangu 2007, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA
- 2007 Why Africa?, Fiat 500, Turin, Italy
- 2005 Esther Mahlangu, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA
- 2003 Esther Mahlangu 2003, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA
- 1998 Museum of Oceanian and African Art, Paris, France

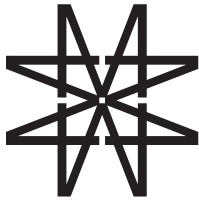
Selected Exhibitions

- 2016 South Africa the art of a nation, The British Museum, UK, 27 October 2016
- 2016 New design - Belvedere(RED), NY, USA
- 2015 Amref Health Africa Artball: Celebrating Contemporary African Art, New York, USA
- 2015 Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, SA
- 2015 Sneaker design with Swedish Company Eytys, Paris Fashion Week, France
- 2015 40 years of BMW Art Cars, BMW Museum, Munchen, Germany
- 2014 Traditional African Murals, Museum of African Art, Belgrade, Serbia
- 2014 Look Mickey!, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2014 Les Magiciens de la Terre, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2014 Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
- 2014 Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, SA
- 2013 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK

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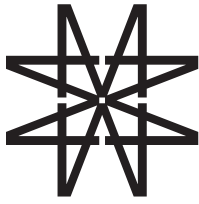
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- 2013 Urban Interpretation, Graffik Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 FourWalls, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2012 Art Drive! Exhibition, Great Eastern Street Car Park in Shoreditch, London, UK
- 2012 Urban Interpretation, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2012 Blend, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2011 Durban Tourism Indaba, Durban, SA
- 2011 Ensemble, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2011 ArtMonaco'11, Monaco
- 2011 Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
- 2010 Africa. Objetos y Sujetos, Teatro Fernan Gomez, Centro de Arte, Madrid, Spain
- 2010 ATASA Trust Southern Africa Handcraft & Ndebele Art Exhibition, Newtown, SA
- 2010 La mostra sulla Regina d'Africa Esther Mahlangu, Napoli, Italy
- 2010 Museum of Arts and Design, New York City, USA
- 2010 FIFA Official Artist, Italy
- 2009 Sortileges, Fondation pour L'art Contemporain, Claudine et Jean-Marc Salomon, Alex, France
- 2009 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia
- 2009 - 2010 Africa? Una nuova storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy
- 2008 The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2008 Denver Museum of Art, Denver, Colorado, USA
- 2008 Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, USA
- 2007 Why Africa?, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy
- 2007 Painted the New Fiat 500 - "Why Africa?", The Pigozzi Collection, Italy
- 2007 SA Art -- Signs, Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2007 Berlin and Beyond Art in Public Places, Florida, USA
- 2007 Durban Art Gallery, Durban, SA
- 2007 Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, USA
- 2007 The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- 2007 Tacoma Museum of Art, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2006 100% African; The Jean Pigozzi Contemporary African Art Collection, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

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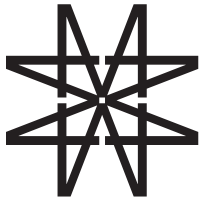
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- 2006 Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
2006 Memory Innovation Tradition, 34 LONG, Cape Town, SA
2006 Roppongi Hills Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
2006 Beyond Lilith: The Sacred Feminine, Scuderie Aldobrandini Frascati, Roma, Italy
2005 Arts of Africa, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
2005 Yokohama Triennial, Japan
2005 New Identities Contemporary Art from South Africa, Pretoria Art Museum & Johannesburg Art Gallery, SA
2005 Galleria Spacia, Italy
2005 South Africa-USA Native American Exchange Project, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, USA
2005 Project Row Houses, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
2005 African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
2005 National Museum of African Art, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA
2004 New Identities Contemporary Art from South Africa, Museum Bochum, Germany
2004 New Orleans Jazz Festival, South African Stage, New Orleans, USA
2003 Dentro e Fuori le Mura, Fabbrica Eos, Milano, Italy
2002 Passport to South Africa, Centro Culturale Trevi, Bolzano, Italy
2002 The Art of Colour, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna, SA
2001 Arte Africana Contemporanea, Galleria d'arte Spazia, Bologna, Italy
2001 Galleria Cavellini, Brescia, Italy
2001 South Africa Today, The Helsinki Fair Centre, Finland
2000 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art, Lyons, France
2000 Dialogue of Cultures, EXPO 2000, Hannover, Germany
1999 The Three Rivers Art Festival, Pittsburgh, USA
1999 <<REWIND>>FAST FORWARD.ZA, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands

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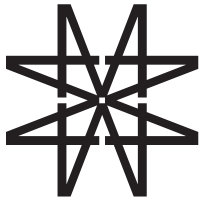
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- 1998 Solo Exhibition, Musee des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
1998 Africa Africa: Vibrant New Art from a Dynamic Continent, Tobu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
1997 BA Airways Tail wing design, UK
1997 Exhibit Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
1997 York College, Los Angeles, California, USA
1997 Mural for National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
1997 Ndebele Images - Then and Now, National Arts Club, New York, USA
1997 Oog op Zuidelijke Afrika, Het Afrika Museum, Berg en Dal, Netherlands
1997 Portal to America, Installation, Spoleto Festival, Charleston, South Carolina, USA
1997 African Immigrant Folklife Festival, Washington D.C., USA
1996 Parish Gallery, Georgetown, USA
1996 Exhibition for the Congressional Black Caucus, Washington D.C., USA
1996 Armour J. Blackburn Centre, Howard University, Washington D.C., USA
1996 World Bank, Washington D.C., USA
1996 Mural - Ministry of Finance Building, Pretoria, SA
1996 Mural - Alexandra Township Stadium, Johannesburg, SA
1995 BMW Art Cars and Paintings Exhibition, Sydney, Australia
1995 Group Exhibition, Market Theatre, Johannesburg, SA
1994 BMW Art Cars Collection, National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
1994 Mural - National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
1994 Mural - Ndebele College of Education, KwaNdebele, SA
1994 Mural - African Festival, Lisbon, Portugal
1994 Mural - European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland
1994 Out of Africa, Musee des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, France
1993 La Grande Verite, Les Astres Africains, Nantes Fine Arts Museum, Nantes, France
1993 European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Lisbon, Portugal
1993 Geneva International Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland

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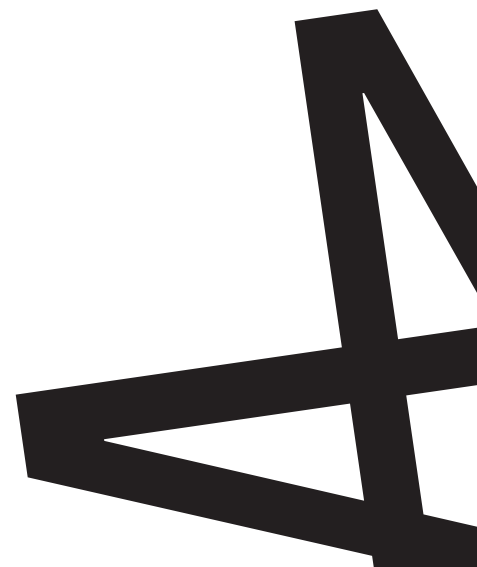
- 1992 Comme des Garçons, Tokyo, Japan; New York, USA; and Paris, France
- 1992 Out of Africa, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 1992 Fire Screen, Civic Theatre, Johannesburg, SA
- 1992 BMW Art Cars, Documenta 9, Kassel, Germany
- 1992 Africa Hoy, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands
- 1992 Africa Hoy, Cultural Centre of Contemporary Art, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1991 BMW Art Cars, Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, SA
- 1991 BMW Art Cars Commission, Germany
- 1991 Painting columns in Building, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991 Fashion Collection, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991 Ny Afrikansk Billedkunst, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1991 Africa Hoy, Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, de Gran Canaria, Spain
- 1990 Caravan Auto Show, Lavante, France
- 1990 Bordeaux Festival, Bordeaux, France
- 1990 Mural Painting, Rosebank Shopping Centre, SA
- 1990 Mural Painting, Johannesburg School, SA
- 1989 Centre de la Villette, Paris, France
- 1989 Fine Arts Museum, Angouleme, France
- 1989 Mural Painting, Musee des Beaux Arts, France
- 1989 Les Magiciens de la Terre, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

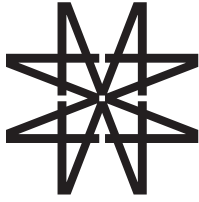
Collections

- Meulenstein Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia
- The Pigozzi Collection, Geneva, Switzerland
- Johnnic Communications Management Services Collection, Johannesburg, SA
- Museum Bochum, Bochum, Germany
- South African National Gallery, Iziko Museums, Cape Town, SA
- BROKER Art Collection, Belgium
- BOE Bank, Cape Town, SA
- Musee des Arts d'Afrique et d'Oceanie, Paris, France

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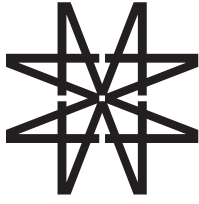
Botshabelo Museum, Botshabelo, SA
BMW Art Cars Collection, Germany
World Bank Collection, USA
Museum of Modern Art, Equatorial Guinea
BHP Billiton Collection, Johannesburg, SA
Roppongi Hills Art Museum, Japan
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA
Museum Bochum, Germany
Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, SA
RE:CM Collection, Cape Town, SA
National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Musée des Beaux Arts, France
Rupert Art Collection, Stellenbosch, SA
University of Cape Town, SA

Esther's work is also represented in numerous public and private collections.

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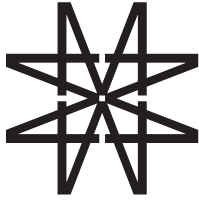
Awards

- 2016 The Lilizela Awards, Minister's Award, SA
- 2016 CAAMMPPS, South African Women Identity & Heritage Life Lessons, Discourse Honorary Award, SA
- 2015 Lilizela Tourism Awards, Best Roots and Culture Exhibition, SA
- 2015 The Lilizela Tourism Award, Roots and culture, SA
- 2015 South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards, Life Time Achievement Award, SA
- 2013 1st Mbokodo Award, SA
- 2012 1st Mbokodo Award, South African Women in the Arts, SA
- 2010 Increasing Access to the Arts Award - 13th annual BASA Awards, SA
- 2007 The Heritage Award for Preservation and Promotion of South African Heritage and Culture, The Premier of KZN, SA
- 2006 The Order of Ikhamanga (Silver) , Government of South Africa, SA
- 2006 National Arts and Culture Trust, Lifetime Achievement Award, SA
- 2001 Arts and Culture Award, Art Promotion, SA
- 2001 Pan African Broadcasting, Heritage and Achievement Award (PABHA) , SA
- 2001 Radio Ndebele Award, SA
- 1999 Mpumalanga Arts and Culture Award, SA
- 1997 Nassau County Commendation, New York, USA
- 1997 Incorporated Village of Hempstead Citation, Hempstead, New York, USA
- 1997 Ministry of Culture and Communication, Centre de la Villette, France
- 1996 Mpumalanga Sport Premier's Culture Award, SA
- 1988 Radio Ndebele Award, SA

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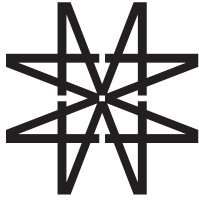


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