

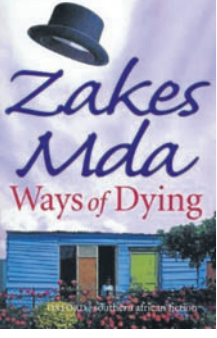
Who excites you on the creative front?

I'm inspired by many artists of different disciplines. I enjoyed watching Nambitha Ben-Mazwi's character in the Netflix series *Diamond City*. I like following the career of Atandwa Kani — he's an actor and the son of John Kani. I enjoy the different roles he plays. In terms of art, I love the late nate David Koloane.



David Koloane in studio. Picture: Tseliso Monaheng

To me, he's the father of South African art and the co-founder of the Bag Factory Artist Studios. Musically, I find myself listening to a lot of Brenda Fassie, Peta Teanet and Shaka Bundu Girls. I love Bolobedu music. It brings me closer to home and the tracks are sung in Sepedi dialect.



Are you reading any interesting books?

I'm into Jackie Phamotse, Fred Khumalo and Zakes Mda. I recently read *Ways of Dying* and now I'm reading *Bare* and *Talk of the Town* simultaneously. When I read a book I put images to the words; that's how I understand some of the literature — imagining what the scene is through reading about it.

When you're at home, is there a local spot you like visiting?

The Market Theatre. Actually, anywhere to do with theatre. The last time I was home, I was at the Joburg Theatre, not to watch anything — just to pass by and look at the architecture.



By Sanet Oberholzer

South African artist Neo Matloga was recently announced as the winner of the 10th edition of the ABN AMRO Art Award. Awarded by Dutch bank ABN AMRO, it recognises artists who are working in the Netherlands. Since undertaking a residency there in 2016, Matloga has been spending time between Amsterdam and his studio in Limpopo. As part of the award, Matloga will hold an exhibition at Hermitage Amsterdam later this year. We caught up with the artist to find out what's on his radar

Interesting places you'd recommend to people travelling to the Netherlands?

Because I'm an artist, I'd recommend the museums. There are museums showcasing absolutely everything in the Netherlands. One is called the Bonnefantenmuseum [a historical and archaeological museum of the Dutch province of Limburg] in Maastricht. I'd recommend it for the wonderful experience of Dutch architecture. If you want to look at old masters, I'd suggest the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. For cultural activities, go to the NDSM neighbourhood of Amsterdam. It's quiet now because of Covid, but there are institutions that offer interesting programmes — film, theatre, music and delicious food. I'd also recommend hiring a bike to experience the city by cycling through the streets.



S.M.A.K. Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art.

PICTURE: © STAD GENT DIENST TOERISME

What can art lovers look forward to from you this year?

I opened a show this week in Ghent, Belgium. It's a small, intimate presentation at the SMAK Museum in the Friends of the Museum space. I'm also in a duo-show opening on October 24 at the MARTa Herford Museum in Germany, which I'm really excited about. We're working on putting the exhibitions online, too.

The beachfront muse

Sculptures made of wood and enamel on industrial wheels dot the floor at Kalashnikov Gallery in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, where artist Kylie Wentzel's exhibition SALT has been on show since the beginning of May.

One is a massive heart with the words "I Love You", another is a lion named *Lion of Judah*, and another looks like a curled-up dragon. On the walls, the artist has mounted massive acrylic on canvas paintings that are colourful and delightfully playful. One, pictured at right, depicts a woman taking a public shower; the background mimics the granite or marble mosaics you'd see at a public swimming pool or beach.

SALT stands for "sweat, sea, slap chips", according to the Michaelis Arts School graduate now based in Durban, her hometown. "When I moved back from Cape Town, I was pressing linocuts into paper in my parents' kitchen with my elbows, feet and some cooking utensils. I had this urge to loosen up the process, make bigger works and explore a new way of creating that I had no formal training in."

Natural and constructed environments inspire her work. This is abundantly clear in SALT, a body of work she describes as "a mirage-meets-documentary style painting exhibition that explores Durban's beachfront."

"It's a place I've been connected to since my first days. It holds many elements," she says, referring to the way she turns to her surroundings for inspiration, focusing on space, personal connections, observations, stories, objects, structures and reflection. The beachfront, both serene and chaotic at any given time of day, is many things to a lot of people. Wentzel finds the diversity fascinating. "It's a public space for performance, healing, tradition, fitness, shelter, leisure and income. It's a world of its own within the urban cosmos."

"I live close by, so I go there a few times a week. It's great to go before you start your day, or to end it off, or when you're feeling



happy, or sad, or when you're craving a cream soda float. When I'm there, I go for a walk on the promenade and find a spot to sit at the end of the pier between small fish carcasses and dried bubblegum, taking in the colours that set behind the cityscape."

Describing her work, Wentzel says: "My work *Dogs and Fitness* references panting dogs and their humans that venture out of the suburbs in their packs to break a sweat... *I Love You* and *Lion of Judah* both reference the sand sculptures that border the promenade — their visuals of wild beasts, love letters, motor vehicles and advertisements are important details in the experience of the space."

What would she miss most if she had to leave Durban again? "The people. The humidity on your skin; Panaji's veg korma; the sun that hits different palm trees; monkeys feeling at home in your kitchen; lusty over woven furniture on the side of the road; that iconic, worn-down muscular rugby player mural on Umgeni Road; taxi vibrations," among a long list, and, of course, long walks on the beachfront. Sandiso Ngunane

Skinfluencers on the rise



The 10 NIVEA Skinfluencers are (from left to right): Ofentse Lekwane, Dineo Mapoma, Sue Mokoena, Katleho Motaung, Simone Kruger, Anarzade Omar, Lesego Mogonediva, Khwezi Madlala, Ofentse Molefe & Eshile Ndleleni.

Uplifting and empowering young women into a career as an influencer is the objective of Skinfluencer. This is the latest campaign by global skincare brand, NIVEA, who has recognised the need for a fulfilling and self-sustainable vocation for young women. Ten women who showed promise as influencers in the skincare industry, have been given the wings to fly.

The 10 winners have the chance to build their own business and career as influencers through a year-long support programme from NIVEA.

This learning experience includes skills development, hands-on work experience and invaluable industry

exposure. Each finalist also received prizes valued at R70 000 each to help grow their natural social media flair into a reliable business.

"There is a need for digital influencers as our consumers are actively online. We work with influencers because we want to connect authentically with our consumers, in a personal way. NIVEA Skinfluencer is our way of finding and uplifting the next generation of talent," says Mpume Ngwenya, NIVEA Marketing Manager.

Follow @NIVEASouthAfrica on Instagram and @NIVEASA on Facebook for updates. #NIVEASkinfluencer