

THILOO

BONGANI NKOSI

ART

2020 – 2022 ART

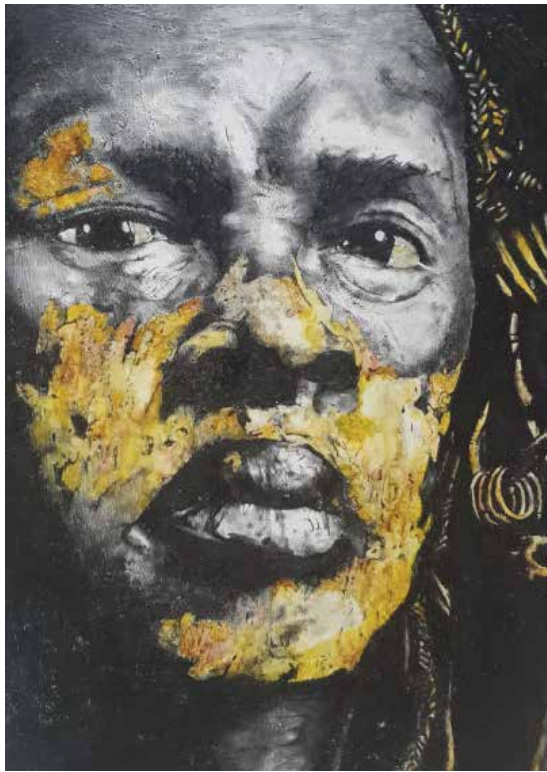


BONGANI NKOSI

I was born in Mpumalanga and grew up in Johannesburg. I am 34 years old and consider myself an emerging Afrofuturist portrait artist. The composition of my drawings is crucial - they are based on the law of proportion known as the "golden ratio" which was an aesthetic principle of the ancient Greeks. This is because I focus on the subtle and insignificant features of a person's face. My experience has taught me that "what you leave out is just as important as what you add" and that "accidents are also part of the process." This led to a new style of portraying African identity that is not limited to Black Africans. The people portrayed are a range of different races and genders that fall under the term "African" (residents/citizens of Africa)

My preferred medium of drawing is pencil and pastel, but I take great pleasure in mixing media and using mediums such as wax and paint to enhance features and add vibrancy and life to the works. After a decade of drawing with pencil and pastel, I have grown to love drawing with pen. This highly underrated medium is considered the most difficult among artists. You can not afford to make mistakes with pen, because once it's on the paper, it's almost impossible to remove it. That's why I work carefully and accurately. I am not trying to reproduce reality, but to create a reinterpretation of reality through an African lens - that's why I want to work quite loosely.

It's important that the viewer can see the artist's signature and also the journey on the page. I try to avoid making the drawings look too photorealistic - not a slick look - but I want to make sure that the truth of the subject shines through alongside my pre-determined intention and message.



SERIES: RUST

Total No. of pieces: 20

Medium: Pencil, Pastel, Acrylic Paint

IM NOT SAD, IM BACK BEAUTY THAT LIES BEYOND THE DOOM SCROLLING

The Rust series is my coming out party series. To make a long story short: I had not touched a pencil or drawn in over 5 years because I had given up on art at some point and the idea that it did not serve or help me in any way made it useless to me. Rust is a self-discovery, an introspective journey, a reflection and self-education. I had to relearn how to draw - I had to relearn how to draw, but more importantly what and why. So I started and was hooked (again), I fell in love (again), but it still felt new, different this time - my work had become the main character in the story of my life. The Rust series evolved, it began as a self-indulgent process to heal pain and grew into a series that entertained the idealistic idea that we are all beautiful - The Rust series portrays beauty in a broken world. Things may seem corroded and used up, but when we look beneath the rust, we see the true beauty of the world. Pain had endowed me with a great appreciation for beauty.



SERIES: DAWN

Total No. of pieces: 40
Medium: Pencil, Pastel, Acrylic Paint, newspaper

IMAGINING [IM]POSSIBLE FUTURES

THROUGH A BLACK CULTURAL LENS

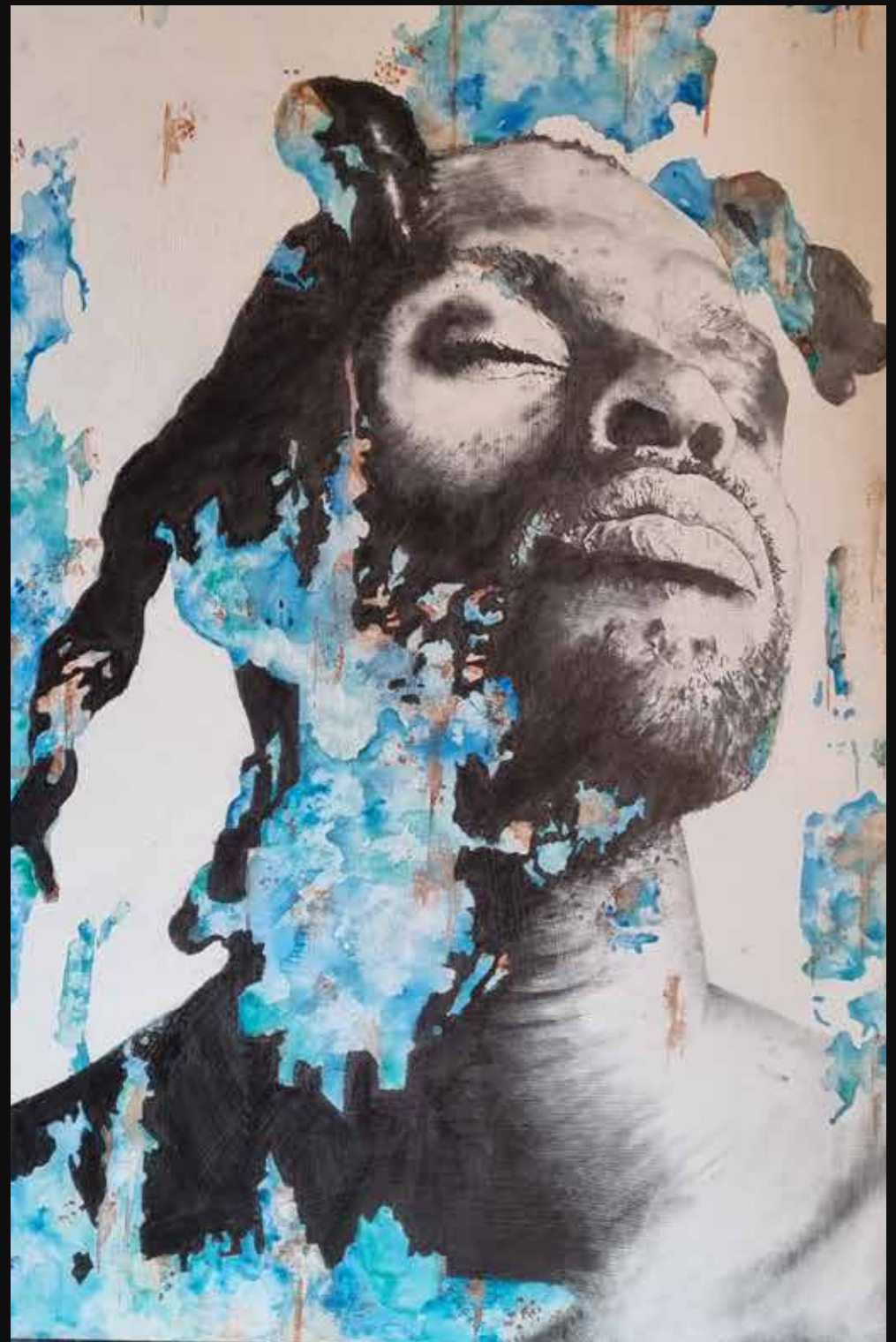
The Dawn Series heavily embraces Afro-futuristic concepts by reflecting on the past and reimagining a united, Neo-Nubian Africa à la Wakanda. I'm not viewing the influence of western fashion in any way negatively; rather, I'm picturing an Africa free of these notions and forging ahead with African styles, with the rest of the globe being influenced by African tribal looks. a world with contemporary people

Different races, cultures, and genders wearing headdresses, horns, and beads from Africa are not engaging in cultural appropriation; rather, this movement is a form of cultural re-appropriation.

The flashes of insight, the creative epiphany that "sees" a world [at least an African] that embraces the tribal African styles (jewelry, headdresses, beadwork)



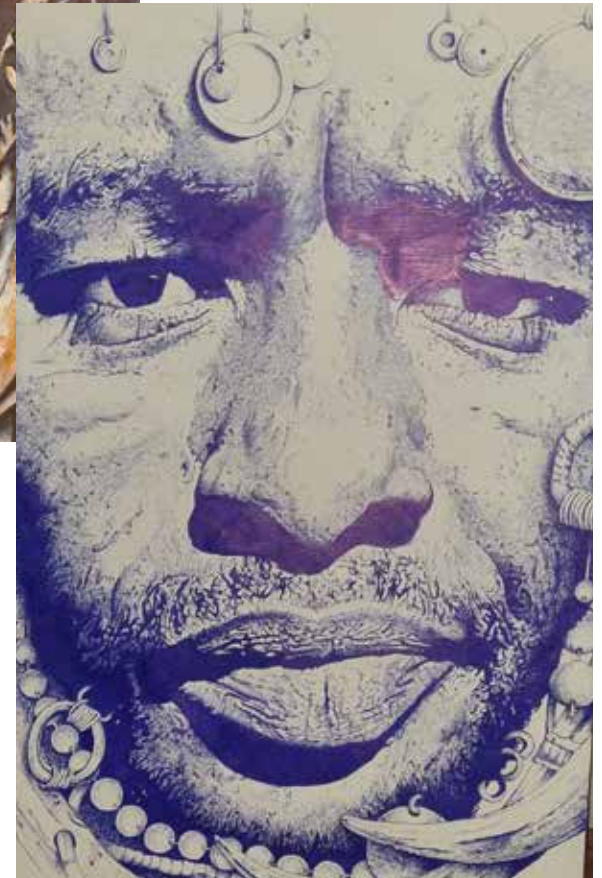






MISCELLANEOUS

COMPETITION PIECES





THANK YOU

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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