

**Dr Esther Nostokana Nagiyana Nikwambi Mahlangu**

**South African Visual Artist | Cultural Ambassador | Officially represented worldwide by The Melrose Gallery**



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Dr Esther Mahlangu (b. 11 November 1935) is a multi-award-winning visual artist and beloved cultural ambassador whose bold Ndebele-inspired artworks are regarded as essential to major collections in contemporary global art. Born in Middelburg, Mpumalanga, she began painting at the age of ten under the guidance of her mother and grandmother who passed down traditional Ndebele mural techniques and patterns.

Although deeply rooted in her rural community, Dr Mahlangu emerged as a revolutionary force in global visual culture. She is widely hailed as the first person to repurpose traditional Ndebele design into contemporary formats; spanning canvases, ceramics, sneakers, vehicles, murals, and urban installations.

Her international breakthrough came in 1989, with her inclusion in the landmark exhibition **Les Magiciens de la Terre** at the **Centre Pompidou** and Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris. Selected by curator Jean-Hubert Martin, she travelled to Paris to recreate her family home as a painted installation, garnering widespread attention and affirming her voice on the world stage



In 1991, Dr Mahlangu became the first African and the first woman to be commissioned by BMW to paint a **525i Art Car**, turning it into a dynamic vehicle of cultural expression. This opened the door to further collaborations, including hand-painted interior panels for a BMW 7 Series in 2016, and the **'Nostokana' i5 Flow** in 2024, a futuristic, colour-shifting BMW unveiled at Frieze Los Angeles and Contemporary Istanbul. In 2020, Rolls-Royce invited her to design **'The Mahlangu'**, a bespoke interior for their Phantom 'Gallery' series; honouring her legacy through Ndebele abstraction and craftsmanship. These projects demonstrate her unique ability to blend heritage with high technology and refined design.

Dr Mahlangu has also partnered with global cultural institutions and brands, including a prominent campaign with **Belvedere (RED)** and **John Legend**, raising HIV/AIDS awareness through a limited-edition bottle design and art activism.

Her work has been celebrated in key exhibitions including:

- *Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting*, a major **retrospective** at the **Iziko South African National Gallery** (2024) and **Wits National Arts Museum**, showcasing over 100 works, including her iconic BMW Art Car
- *Giants*, at the **Brooklyn Museum's Alicia Keys & Swizz Beatz Collection**, highlighting her as a preeminent artist in the Pan-African contemporary visual landscape

In October 2024, Dr Mahlangu largest public artwork to date, **Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu**, was unveiled at **Serpentine North** in London. Comprising sixteen painted wooden panels, this monumental mural, her first in the UK, celebrates unity through Ndebele geometric forms. Serpentine Artistic Director **Hans Ulrich Obrist** described Mahlangu as “*one of the most important artists of our time*,” noting “painting is in her heart and in her blood” as she translated village motifs into global artistic language.

Her contributions have earned numerous accolades, including the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver, Government of South Africa (2006), Officer of Arts and Letters, France's highest decoration for artistic contribution (2019), UN (UNHCR) South Africa Multi-Stakeholder Award (2019) in addition to several lifetime achievement awards and four honorary doctorates from the University of Johannesburg and Durban University of Technology (2018), Tshwane University of Technology (2022), and UNISA (2024).

Dr Mahlangu is **officially represented internationally by The Melrose Gallery**, ensuring that her work is honoured with integrity and made available to institutions, collectors, and curators worldwide.

As a visionary bridging cultural continuity and innovation, Dr Esther Mahlangu continues to mentor, invent, and inspire; elevating Ndebele visual language into a universal symbol of unity, strength, and artistic brilliance.



## **COLLECTIONS**

The Dean Collection, Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz  
Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia  
The Jean Pigozzi African Collection, Geneva, Switzerland  
Sovereign Art Foundation, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany  
BMW Art Cars Collection, Germany  
Kunstmuseum Den Haag, The Hague, Netherlands  
BROKER Art Collection, Belgium  
Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France  
Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France  
Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac, Paris, France  
Musée d'Angoulême, Angoulême, France  
Centre national d'art et de culture Georges-Pompidou, Paris, France  
Museum of Modern Art, Equatorial Guinea  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA  
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA  
Pérez Art Museum, Miami, USA  
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, USA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA  
The High Museum, Atlanta, USA  
The De Young Museum, San Francisco, USA  
Johnnic Communications Management services Collection, Johannesburg, SA  
South African National Gallery, Iziko Museums, Cape Town, SA  
BOE Bank, Cape Town, SA  
Botshabelo Museum, Botshabelo, SA  
BHP Billiton Collection, Johannesburg, SA  
Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, SA  
RE:CM Collection, Cape Town, SA  
Rupert Art Collection, Stellenbosch, SA  
University of Cape Town Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA  
Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, SA  
William Humphrey Art Gallery, Kimberley, SA  
Wits Art Museum Collection, Johannesburg, SA  
The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg; Cape Town, SA  
The Gorgeous George Collection, Cape Town, SA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1994** Esther Mahlangu, South African Muralist: The BMW Art Car and Related Works, National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA
- 1995** United States Tour in Tribute to Esther Mahlangu, South African Muralist, USA.
- 1996** Recent Oil paintings: Esther Mahlangu, Parish Gallery, Georgetown, USA
- 1997** Esther Mahlangu and the Art of the Ndebele, York College, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1998** Esther Mahlangu, Musée des Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie, Paris, France
- 2003** Esther Mahlangu 2003, Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA
- 2005** Esther Mahlangu, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA
- 2008** Esther Mahlangu: Reacquiring, The Kyle Kauffman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2009** Esther Mahlangu, La regina d'Africa (The African Queen), Artetivù Exhibition Center, Marcon, Italy  
Esther Mahlangu, Un Artiste Ndebele Ai Colonos, Villacaccia di Lestizza, Udine, Italy
- 2010** L'Africa Nei Loro Occhi, Vitarte, Viterbo, Italy  
I Colori Della Mia Tribù, Centro Espositivo St.Art, Calenzano, Italy  
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa, Palazzo Samone, Cuneo, Italy  
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa / African Dreams, Villa Genovese, Messina, Italy  
Esther Mahlangu - La Regina d'Africa, Museo Magi '900, Bologna, Italy  
Regina d'Africa, Galleria Franco Riccardo Artivisive, Naples, Italy
- 2012** Overlay, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2014** Esther Mahlangu: An Artistic Residency, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Virginia, USA
- 2015** Esther Mahlangu 80, UCT Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, SA
- 2016** Esther Mahlangu: Ex Africa Semper Aliquid Novi, Kyo Noir Studio, Viterbo, Italy
- 2019** Timeless - Between Matter and Spirit by The Melrose Gallery, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, SA  
Timeless - Between Matter and Spirit by The Melrose Gallery, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, SA  
Esther Mahlangu, Arena Studio d'Arte, Verona, Italy
- 2020** Esther Mahlangu 85, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, SA  
Abstractions of a Culture: Towards a Retrospective, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Post Modern Section, The Melrose Gallery, SA  
Disrupting Patterns, The Melrose Gallery at the One&Only, Cape Town, SA
- 2021** Dr. Esther Mahlangu, Almine Rech, Paris, France
- 2023** Dr. Esther Mahlangu: The Breath of Calligraphy, Galerie Enrico Navarra, Paris, France  
Dr. Esther Mahlangu: Where Two Rivers Meet, Almine Rech, London, UK; Paris, France
- 2024** Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting: Esther Mahlangu, A **Retrospective**, Iziko South African National Gallery, SA and Wits Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa  
1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, The Melrose Gallery, New York, USA
- 2024** When Heart and Mind Agree, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, USA

- 2024** Solo Frieze New York, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, USA  
**2024** Kabinett at Art Basel, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, Switzerland

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1989** Les Magiciens de la Terre, Grande Halle de la Villette, Paris, France  
**1990** Les arts au Soleil: La Caravane des Caravanes, France  
**1991** BMW Art Cars Tour, Johannesburg; Durban; Cape Town, SA  
 Ny Afrikansk Billedkunst, Rundetårn, Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Africa Hoy, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain  
**1992** Out of Africa, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK  
 BMW Art Cars Collection at Documenta IX, Kassel, Germany  
 Africa Hoy, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; Cultural Centre of Contemporary Art, Mexico City, Mexico  
**1993** La Grande Vérité, Les Astres Africains, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, Nantes, France  
 European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Lisbon, Portugal  
 Geneva International Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland  
**1995** BMW Art Cars and Paintings Exhibition, Sydney, Australia  
 Africus, 1st Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Eight From South Africa, Yerba Buena Centre for the Arts, San Francisco, USA  
**1996** Esther Mahlangu: South African Muralist, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference Washington D.C., USA  
 Armour J. Blackburn Centre, Howard University, Washington D.C., USA  
 World bank, Washington D.C, USA  
**1997** Ndebele Images - Then and Now, National Arts Club, New York, USA  
 Oog op Zuidelijke Afrika, Het Afrika Museum, Berg en Dal, Netherlands  
 African Immigrant Folklife Festival, Washington D.C., USA  
**1998** Africa Africa: Vibrant New Art from a Dynamic Continent, Tobu Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan  
 Art of the Ndebele - Evolution of a Cultural Identity, Atlanta International Museum, Georgia, USA  
**1999** <<Rewind>>Fast Forward.ZA, Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands  
**2000** Partage d'Exotismes: 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art, Halle Tony Garnier, Lyons, France  
 Dialogue of Cultures, EXPO 2000, Hanover, Germany  
**2001** Arte Africana Contemporanea, Galleria d'arte Spazia, Bologna, Italy  
 Festafrica, Galleria Cavellini, Brescia, Italy  
 South Africa Today, The Helsinki Fair Centre, Helsinki, Finland  
**2002** Passport to South Africa, Centro Culturale Trevi, Bolzano, Italy  
 The Art of Colour, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna, SA  
**2003** Dentro e Fuori le Mura, Fabbrica Eos, Milano, Italy

- 2004** New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Bochum, Germany  
South African Freedom and Congo Square Stage, New Orleans Jazz Festival, New Orleans, USA  
A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994-2004, Iziko: South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
- 2005** New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria; Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, SA  
African Art Now: Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Smithsonian Institution: National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA  
I Walk with Ndebele, A Visual Journey with Women, Transformed and Self-Defined in Post Apartheid South Africa, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, SA  
South Africa-USA Native American Exchange Project, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, USA
- 2006** 100% African, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain  
Memory Innovation Tradition, 34LONG, Cape Town, SA  
Beyond Lilith: The Sacred Feminine, Scuderie Aldobrandini Frascati, Roma, Italy  
1st Malindi Biennale, FN centre, Malindi, Kenya  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
- 2007** Signs, Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia  
Why Africa?, Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy  
The Winter Show, AfroNova Gallery, Johannesburg, SA  
Esther Mahlangu and Speelman Mahlangu, 34Long, Cape Town, SA  
Heritage Arts Awards Festival, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, SA  
Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, USA  
Tacoma Museum of Art, Tacoma, Washington, USA
- 2008** The Speed of Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2009** Against Exclusion, 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia  
Africa Una Nuova Storia, Complesso del Vittoriano, Rome, Italy  
A-friche, Galleria Monteleone, Palermo, Italy  
Sante Fe International Folk Art Market, New Mexico, USA
- 2010** Twenty: South African Sculpture of the Last Two Decades, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, SA  
ATASA Trust Southern Africa Handcraft & Ndebele Art Exhibition, Worker's Library, Johannesburg, SA  
The Global Africa Project, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA  
Toronto International Art Fair, Toronto, Canada
- 2011** ArtMonaco'11 , Grimaldi Forum, Monaco

- Africa. Objetos y Sujetos, Teatro Fernan Gomez Centro de Arte, Madrid, Spain  
 Durban Tourism Indaba, Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre (Durban ICC), Durban, SA  
 Ensemble, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA
- 2012** Blend, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA  
 Art Drive! The BMW Art Car Collection 1975-2010, London, UK
- 2013** FourWalls, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA  
 Africana, Fondazione Mudima, Milan, Italy  
 Urban Interpretation, Graffik Gallery, London, UK  
 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London, UK  
 Les Trésors de l'Art Modeste, Musée International des Arts Modestes, Sète, France
- 2014** Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, SA  
 Les Magiciens de la Terre (Revisited), Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
 Look Mickey!, 34FineArt, Cape Town, SA  
 Traditional African Murals, Museum of African Art, Belgrade, Serbia
- 2015** Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, SA,  
 40 years of BMW Art Cars, BMW Museum, Munich, Germany
- 2016** Celebrating Contemporary African Art, Amref Health Africa Artball, New York, USA  
 South Africa: The Art of a Nation, The British Museum, London, UK  
 Regarding Africa: Contemporary Art and Afro-Futurism, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 BMW Lounge, Frieze Art Fair, London, UK
- 2017** Amref Health Africa: Benefit Auction 2017, Amref Health Africa Artball, New York, USA  
 Colours, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, SA  
 A Tribute to Nelson Mandela, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, SA  
 Concours South Africa, Sun City, SA  
 FNB Art Fair, Johannesburg, SA
- 2018** Not A Single Story, Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, SA  
 African Passions, Cadaval Palace, Évora, Portugal  
 BMW Art Cars Collection, Museum der Bildenden Künste Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
- 2019** Conflict Resolution Art, Serafio Space, Athens, Greece  
 Expressions d'Afrique : Inside Jean Pigozzi's Collection, Galerie Gmurzynska, Zürich, Switzerland
- 2020** Courage is as Contagious as Fear, Selected Works from the Hoosein Mahomed Collection, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
- 2021** House Party, THEFOURTH, Cape Town, SA  
 Cosmogonies Zinsou: An African Collection, MO.CO. Hôtel des Collections, Montpellier, France  
 Africa Staged, LIS10 Gallery, Arezzo, Italy  
 A Force For Change, Agora Gallery, New York, USA  
 POP- The Melrose Gallery Collection, Sandton City, Johannesburg, SA

- Breaking Down the Walls, Iziko: South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
- 2022** When Rain Clouds Gather- Black South African Women Artists, 1940 – 2000, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
- Bande-Annonce, La Collection Pigozzi à Cannes, Gare Maritime de Cannes, Cannes, France
- SculptX 2022, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
- Also Known As Africa (AKAA), The Melrose Gallery Collection, Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
- 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair, Albertz Benda in London, UK
- 2023** Artmonte-Carlo, Almine Rech at Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
- Femme F(r)iction, New York, USA
- Frontline, Swivel Gallery, New York, USA
- In Dialogue: Abstraction & Figuration, Visioner, New York, USA
- Geometric Abstraction, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, USA
- The Female Emperor, 137 Gallery, New York, USA
- Unique Works: Paintings, Works on Paper and Board, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, USA
- Works By or About Black artists, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, USA
- To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions- Jorge M. Pérez Collection, EL Espacio 23, Miami, USA
- Archipelago Hervé Di Rosa, Museu de Arte Arquitetura e Tecnologia (MAAT), Lisbon, Portugal
- Africa Fashion, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, USA
- Africa Supernova, Carla & Pieter Schulting Collection, Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, Netherlands
- 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair London, Albertz Benda,
- Heritage Exhibition, 20<sup>th</sup> Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Forum, Johannesburg, SA
- Icons of Contemporary Art, Bellagio Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas, USA
- 2024** Giants, the collection of Alicia Keys and Swizz Beatz, Brooklyn Museum
- 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition 'Stranieri Ovunque' Foreigners Everywhere, **Venice Biennale** Main Pavilion.
- What's Mine, What's Yours. Galeria La Cometa. Miami, USA
- 2025** *Hlukanisa, uHlanganise*, The Melrose Gallery, South Africa
- 1-54 Contemporary Art Fair, New York, USA
- Expo Chicago, USA

## MURALS

- 1989** Indoor mural, Musée des Beaux-Arts d'Angoulême, Angoulême, France
- 1990** Rosebank Shopping Centre, Johannesburg, SA School, Johannesburg, SA
- Foyer mural of Student Hostel, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Cluny, Bordeaux, France
- 1991** L'Émile Roux School, Angoulême, France



- 1992** Fire Screen, Civic Theatre, Johannesburg, SA
- 1994** Building facade mural at National Museum of Woman in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA  
Ndebele College of Education, KwaNdebele, Mpumalanga, SA  
Stage backdrop for Lisboa94, African Festival, Lisbon, Portugal  
South African Tourist Board mural, European Inventive Business Travel Meetings Exhibition, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1996** Alexandra Township Stadium, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997** Courtyard mural, Spoleto Festival, Charleston, South Carolina, USA
- 2000** Maison de la Culture d'Amiens, Amiens, France  
U'gwala, Partage d'Exotismes : 5th Biennale of Contemporary Art, Halle Tony Garnier, Lyon, France
- 2004** New Identities: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany
- 2005** Project Row Houses: Round 22, Houston, Texas, USA  
Arts of Africa, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
- 2009** Villacaccia di Lestizza, Udine, Italy
- 2010** Mandela Forum, Florence, Italy
- 2018** The Market Theatre foyer, The Market Square, Johannesburg, SA  
Esther Mahlangu Boardroom, Windybrow Arts Center, Johannesburg, SA  
Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, SA  
Cadaval Palace, Évora, Portugal
- 2020** Indoor mural, Southgate Mall, Johannesburg, SA
- 2022** Casa Farida x Esther Mahlangu, Carvalhal, Portugal
- 2023** Chalet Africa, Gstaad, Switzerland
- 2024** Serpentine North, London, United Kingdom

## AWARDS

- 1988** Radio Ndebele Award, Mpumalanga, SA
- 1991** 1st prize Certificate of achievement for Traditional Painting, KwaNdebele National Show, Mpumalanga, SA
- 1991** Honorary Citizen, Civic Authorities, Angoulême, France
- 1996** Mpumalanga Sport Premier's Culture Award, Mpumalanga, SA
- 1997** Incorporated Village of Hempstead Citation, Hempstead, New York, USA
- 1997** Nassau County Commendation, New York, USA
- 1997** Award from the Ministry of Culture and Communication, Centre de la Villette, France
- 1999** Mpumalanga Arts and Culture Award, Mpumalanga, SA
- 2001** Arts and Culture Award for Art Promotion, SA
- 2001** Pan African Broadcasting, Heritage and Achievement Award (PABHA), Nigeria
- 2001** Radio Ndebele Award, Mpumalanga, SA

- 2006** The Order of Ikhamanga (Silver), Government of South Africa, SA
- 2006** Lifetime Achievement Award, National Arts and Culture Trust, SA
- 2007** The Heritage Award for Preservation and Promotion of South African Heritage and Culture, Durban, SA
- 2010** Increasing Access to the Arts Award, 13th annual BASA Awards, Johannesburg, SA
- 2011** Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality Lifetime Achievement award, Mpumalanga, South Africa
- 2012** 1st Mbokodo Awards for South African Women in the Arts, Soweto, SA
- 2013** 2nd Mbokodo Awards for South African Women in the Arts, Midrand, SA
- 2015** The Lilizela Tourism Award, Roots and Culture, SA
- 2015** Lifetime Achievement Award, South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards, SA
- 2016** Minister's Award, Provincial Lilizela Tourism Awards, Mpumalanga, SA
- 2016** Discourse Honorary Award, CAAMMPPS, South African Women Identity & Heritage Life Lessons, SA
- 2017** Arts and Culture Veteran Award, Ubuntu Awards, Cape Town, SA
- 2018** Honorary Doctorate, University of Johannesburg, SA
- 2018** Honorary Doctorate in Visual and Performing Arts, Durban University of Technology, SA
- 2019** First United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) South Africa NGO and Multi Stakeholder Award
- 2019** Officier de L'Ordre Arts et Lettres (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters), French Embassy, Pretoria, SA
- 2021** Lifetime Achievement Award, South African Traditional Music Achievement Awards, SA
- 2022** Honorary Doctorate, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Pretoria, SA
- 2023** Metro FM Lifetime Achievement Award, Mbombela, SA
- 2024** Honorary Doctorate, University of South Africa (UNISA), South African Creative Arts Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2025** Digital projection on Museum façade, The Louvre, Abu Dhabi

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS, PRODUCTIONS & COLLABORATIONS**

- 1989** Star of the video documentary *Esther se Wêreld* which premiered on TV1 in South Africa.
- 1991** Invited to take part in the Quartiers-Lumières initiative in Angoulême, France.
- 1991** *BMW 525i Art Car*, 12<sup>th</sup> Art Car commission, issued to Mahlangu from BMW headquarters in Munich, Germany.
- 1991** Comme des Garçons boutiques installation for the show *Ndebele* which toured Tokyo, Japan; New York, USA & Paris, France.
- 1991** Fashion magazine campaign with supermodel Iman at Botshabelo in Mpumalanga, SA
- 1992** Decorated one of 100 make-up vases (No. 52) for Alessandro Mendini's 100% Make-up project.
- 1999** *The Spirit House Project* for the Three Rivers Art Festival in Pittsburgh, USA.

- 2003** Design for the poster of The South African Society for Surgery of the Hand 34<sup>th</sup> Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2005** Painted Jean Pigozzi's *Volkswagen Type 181* for his collection in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 2007** Painted the New Fiat 500 for the Giovanni and Marella Agnelli collection in Italy.
- 2009** Painted limited edition Ultragirl pumps in collaboration with shoe company Melissa for their São Paulo Fashion Week program in Brazil.
- 2010** Commissioned as the FIFA Official Artist for South Africa in Italy.
- 2015** Sneaker design with Swedish company Eytys for Paris Fashion Week in Paris, France.
- 2016** New design for the Belvedere (RED) bottle and HIV/AIDs campaign tour across the USA.
- 2016** Collaborated with BMW again for the *BMW 7 Series Individual* with painted interior panels.
- 2017** Painted a 1995 *BMW Isetta* for Concours, South Africa.
- 2018** Decorated a motorcycle for the Africa Passions exhibition in Évora, Portugal.
- 2018** Collaboration with tea company Freshpak for the *Freshpak x Esther Mahlangu Tin*, SA.
- 2018** Tiger Brands Heritage Day special edition Tastic rice and Albany bread packaging, SA.
- 2020** Carol Bouwer Bag Collection Collaboration at The Melrose Gallery in South Africa.
- 2020** Unveiling of the Rolls-Royce *Mahlangu Phantom* in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2021** Air Jordan 1 sneakers decorated by Mahlangu used for the South African Pavilion of the Expo 2020 Dubai.
- 2023** *The Electric AI canvas* in association with BMW group for Art Basel, Switzerland; Frieze Seoul, South Korea & Contemporary, Turkey.
- 2024** 'Nostokana' a new car featuring BMW's latest colour change technology. Frieze Los Angeles.
- 2024** 'Nostokana' at Istanbul Contemporary Art Fair, BMW, Turkey