

MOVART

GONÇALO MABUNDA

Born in 1975, Maputo, Mozambique where he lives and works.

BIO

Gonçalo Mabunda is interested in the collective memory of his country, Mozambique, which has only recently emerged from a long and terrible civil war. He works with arms recovered in 1992 at the end of the sixteen-year conflict that divided the region.

In his sculpture, he gives anthropomorphic forms to AK47s, rocket launchers, pistols and other objects of destruction. While the masks could be said to draw on a local history of traditional African art, Mabunda's work takes on a striking Modernist edge akin to imagery by Braque and Picasso. The deactivated weapons of war carry strong political connotations, yet the beautiful objects he creates also convey a positive reflection on the transformative power of art and the resilience and creativity of African civilian societies.

Mabunda is most well-known for his thrones. According to the artist, the thrones function as attributes of power, tribal symbols and traditional pieces of ethnic African art. They are without a doubt an ironic way of commenting on his childhood experience of violence and absurdity and the civil war in Mozambique that isolated his country for a long period.

Mabunda's work has been exhibited at Museum Kunst Palast, Dusseldorf, Hayward Gallery, London, Pompidou, Paris, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and the Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg among others

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

- 'The Chronicler's Throne', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

2021

- 'Masks & Thrones', LIS10 Gallery, Milano, Italy Night Citizen, Jack Bell Gallery, London UK

- Massimo Kaufmann | Gonçalo Mabunda, LIS10 Gallery, Milano, Italy

2020

- Gonçalo Mabunda, AKKA Project, Venezia, Italy The Negotiator, Jack Bell Gallery, London UK

2019

- 'Orator of Time', Jack Bell Gallery, London UK

2018

- 'Transformation', Renaud Riley Gallery, Brussels, Belgium The Messenger, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- Gonçalo Mabunda, Cape Town Art Fair, Caroline Smulders Game of Thrones, Akka Project, Dubai, UAE

2017

- 'Emperor of the Sands', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

2016

- 'Make Art Not War', AKKA Project, Dubai Manuscripts, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 'Ex Africa semper aliquid novi', Kyo Noir, Viterbo, Italy

2015

- 'Saudades do tempo da carta', Fundação Fernando Leite Couto, Maputo, Mozambique
- 'Game of Thrones,' Galerie du Passage, Paris, France

2014

- Solo Exhibition, Teatro Ribeiro Conceição, Lamego, Portugal

2013

- 'Illegível Memória', Centro de Artes Nadir Afonso, Boticas, Portugal Gonçalo Mabunda, 'When I Get Green', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

2012

- Marrakech Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco
- 'Made in Africa', Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 'Utopia da Lei', Galeria Bozart, Lisbon, Portugal
- 'New Work', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

2008

- 'My New Voice', Afronova Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2007

- 'Afronism', Afronova gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa Brothers in Arms, Núcleo de Arte, Maputo, Mozambique

2006

- 'Arms into Art', Centre Culturel de L'Espate, Le Mans, France

2005

- 'Give Voice', Galleria d'Arte La Nuvola, Rome, Italy

2004

- 'Arms into Art', Army Museum, Delft, Holland
- 'Arms into Art', touring solo exhibition in Alliance Française in Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Burundi, Namibia, Uganda

2003

- Felix foundation, Amsterdam, Holland Maison des Cultures du Monde, Paris, France

2002

- 'Arms into Art', Centro Dionysia, Roma, Italy

2001

- International Conference for destruction of Arms, New York, USA Arms into Art, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Histori-city, World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam, Holland

2000

- 'An Artist, A Gesture', Nucleo de Arte, Maputo, Mozambique Arms into Art, Toronto, Montreal, Canada

1997

- Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1995

- Ujamaa IV Workshop, with Andries Botha, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

- 'PARAGONE: WHAT'S WITH MEDIUMS TODAY?' THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Lisbon
Passos pela Vida (Steps for Life), Arte de Gema, Lisbon

2022

- '(IM)MATERIALITY', THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Lisbon
- 'Portugal Under the African Sun', Ethan Cohen KuBe, Beacon, NY

2021

- 'Art, a serious game', MACAAL, Marrakech, Morocco
- 'LOST & FOUND', Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf, Germany
- FNB Art Joburg art fair, MOVART gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1-54 London, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 1-54 New York, Jack Bell Gallery, New York, NY
- ARCO Madrid, MOVART gallery, Madrid, Spain
- 'Africa on my Mind', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York,
- 'NYGo go go' – Maputo Art Fair, Arte de Gema, Maputo, Mozambique
- 'Africa Staged' – 'L' Africa messa in scena', LIS10 Gallery, Milano,
- 'Italy African Vibe II', LIS10 Gallery, Milano, Italy
- 'Spring Selection', Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Ethan Cohen Gallery, South Hampton, NY
- Art Dubai, AKKA Project, Dubai, UAE

2020

- FNB Art Joburg, Arte de Gema, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Art Dubai, AKKA Project, Dubai, UAE
- Cologne Fine Art & Design, Galerie Kellermann, Cologne, Germany
- 1-54 New York, Jack Bell Gallery, New York, NY
1-54 London, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- ARCO Lisboa 2020 Online, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Lisbon, Portugal
- 'DEEP INSIGHTS' – Jansen Mabunda, Marienfeld, Galerie Kellermann, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 'Materiality', South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 'Figures of Power', MAGNIN-A, Paris France
- 'Afrique: Nouvelle Vague', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY

2019

- 'Fears of Art', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY
- 'EXPO CHICAGO', Smith Davidson Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 'SPACES IN BETWEEN', THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Lisbon, Portugal
- ARCO Lisboa, THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Lisbon, Portugal
- Art Market San Francisco, Nil Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Cape Town Art Fair, MAGNIN-A, Cape Town, South Africa Investec Cape Town Art Fair,
- 'THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE', Cape Town, South Africa
- 'The Past, The Present and The In Between', Pavilion of Mozambique at Biennale di Venezia 2019, AKKA Project, Venezia, Italy
- 'Growbox Art Project', Seitz Museum of Contemporary African Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 'Fears of Art', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY
- 'Kubatana', Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway

2018

- 'Talent Show', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY Rassemblement, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- AKAA, MAGNIN-A, Paris, France
- 1-54 London, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- FNB JoburgArtFair, Arte de Gema, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

- 'Devil in Disguise', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK Art Remixed, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY
- 'Weapon of Choice', Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery, New York, NY
- 'Lumières d'Afriques', Dakar, Senegal 1:54 London, Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK

- Artgenève, Collectionair, Geneva, Switzerland
- 'From Africa With Love @ World Art Dubai,' AKKA Project, Dubai

2016

- Double Take: African Innovations, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY
- VOLTA NY Art Fair, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, NY
- 'Le Penseur', Jack Bell Gallery, London, UK
- 2050, Palazzo Reale di Milano, Milan, Italy
- Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 'Lumières d'Afrique', Guggenheim Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain
- Art Miami, Smith Davidson Gallery, Miami, FL
- 1/54 New York, MAGNIN-A, New York, NY

2015

- The Venice Biennale - curated by Okwui Enwezor, Venice, Italy
- 'Making Africa', Vitra Design Museum, Germany
- 'Telas e Metais', Galeria Tilandia, Maputo, Mozambique
- 1/54 London, MAGNIN-A, London, UK
- 1/54 New York, MAGNIN-A, New York, NY

2014

- 'BATIK d'AFRIQUE', Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, USA Galeria 111, Lisboa, Portugal

2013

- 'The Power of Protest Art', The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, UK

2012

- 'O Círculo', Kulunguana Gallery, Maputo, Mozambique
- 'Made in Africa', Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Marrakech Art Fair, Marrakech, Morocco

2011

- In Toto Gallery, Johannesburg, South África
- 3D, CCFM, Maputo, Mozambique
- Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South África

2010

- 'Karl Marx dezoito trinta e quarto', Núcleo de Arte, Maputo, Mozambique
- 'African Stories', Casa Blanca, Morocco
- World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures, Dakar, Senegal
- 'The Global Africa Project', Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
Movart Bienal, National Museum, Maputo, Mozambique

2009

- 'Second Life', Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY Galery La Nuovla, Rome, Italy

2008

- 'Second Lives', group show, Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA

2007

- Museum Het Domein Waardij Kunstinllingen, Amsterdam, Holland
- 'Africa Remix', traveling group exhibition, Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, Germany -
Hayward gallery, London, UK - Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France - Army
Museum ,Stockholm, Sweden - Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan- Johannesburg Art
Gallery, South Africa

2005

- 'Arms into Art', collaboration with Eugenio Saranga, Gallery 23 / SBK Foundation,
Amsterdam, Holland
- Instituto Galileo galilei, Rome, Italy

2004

- Festa D'afrika festival, Musei Capitolini, Rome, Italy Forum Barcelona, Spain

2002

- 'Arms into Art', Oxo Gallery, London, UK
- Playtime festival, Afronova, Johannesburg, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

The	Brooklyn	Museum
Tiroche	DeLeon	Collection
Bill	Clinton	Collection
The	Vatican	Museum
The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum		

