

THANIA PETERSEN

Petersen was born in 1980 in Cape Town and later moved to the UK with her family when her father was exiled under the apartheid regime. Petersen studied at the Central St Martin's College of Art in London (2001 – 2003) and went on to do apprenticeships in Zimbabwe (2004) with sculptor Sylvester Mubayi and in South Korea (2005) where she trained under ceramist Hwang Yea Sook and participated in the South Korean Ceramic Biennale. Throughout her travels, Petersen remained the resident painter of props and costumes for the London based Yaa Asantewa Arts Group at the Notting Hill Gate Carnival (2000 – 2007). By 2007 Petersen returned to Cape Town where she currently lives and works.

Her work often takes the form of self-portraiture, installation and multi-sensory based performance. Through this work, Petersen addresses the identity politics of the problematic term Cape Malay/Cape Coloured, coined by the apartheid regime and expands on her experiences with her Muslim religion and Indonesian heritage. She stakes her claim to these heritages, cultures and histories through the imagery and use of costume, defining personas to explore nuances of her identity.

Petersen hosted her first solo exhibition, *I am Royal*, at the AVA Gallery, Cape Town (2016) with a second solo titled *Remnants* at Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town (2017).

Notable group exhibitions *Studio* at the South African National Gallery (2016), *Surface and Subtext* at Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town (2016).