

KUDZANAI CHIURAI

Born in Zimbabwe in 1981, Kudzanai Chiurai currently lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa. Chiurai is a multi-disciplinary contemporary artist working in photography, drawings, film, painting and sculpture. His artistic footprint has also stretched into the mediums of poetry, fashion, activism, publishing and music, making him a cultural activist.

Much of Chiurai's work has been informed by his personal interaction with the changes in Southern African politics, economics and social interactions. Chiurai, was born one year after Zimbabwe gained independence from the UK, later, in 2008, responding to the political climate within Zimbabwe, Chiurai created a series of murals and posters criticizing the Zimbabwean government and was threatened with arrest. Chiurai therefore chose a self-imposed exile in South Africa. In South Africa, he attended the University of Pretoria where he was the first black student to graduate with a BA Fine Art. His imagery therefore reflects on the dynamics at play between history, contemporary culture, displacement, the psychological experience of urban spaces, power, war and the Western imprint on Africa.

Chiurai has exhibited extensively since 2003 in both Africa and abroad with solo and group exhibitions. These include; *Iyeza* at the RISD Museum in Rhode Island USA (2015), *Selections from Revelations*, MoCADA, New York, USA (2015), *REVELAÇÕES*, Kulungwana Gallery, Maputo, Mozambique (2015), *Defining the State of the Nation*, Zeitz MOCAA Pavillion, V & A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa (2014-2015), *Graceland*, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg (2007). *Dak'art*, Dakar, Senegal (2006)

His works have also been highlighted at significant Festivals and Exhibitions such as the Conflict Resolution series which was part of dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel, Germany (2012) and his *Iyeza* film which was included in the New Frontiers programme at the Sundance Film Festival (2013).

In 2005, Chiurai was listed as Mail & Guardians Top 100 Dazzlers and Doers in South Africa, in 2011 he was again listed as Mail & Guardians Top 200 Young South Africans. He was presented with the 2012 FNB Joburg Art Prize where he was awarded a cash



prize and a special solo project at the art fair. In 2014 he was shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize in Venice, selected amongst 21 other artists from the globe.