

NUKWASE!

ELEGANT & ARTFUL

Join us in celebrating **Zambian artist Nukwase Tembo's birthday this April 27th with an exclusive interview. Nukwase, from Lusaka, has greatly impacted her community through her art and advocacy. The interview, led by BaMuata of Creatives Everywhere Collective, aligns with our mission to spotlight inspiring journeys of creatives of color. We're thrilled to share insights into Nukwase's life and work with our community.**

Can you take us through your journey and the defining moments that led you to become a painter?

I started drawing when I was 2 years old, so art has always been a huge part of my being. It was pretty much my second nature, as it's something I did compulsively throughout my childhood and into early adulthood. The defining moment came a few years after I completed my high-school and was going through what I can only describe as a quarter-life crisis. I had no idea what I wanted to pursue after I completed my diploma in a course I never wanted to study but had to because it was the only way that I could find a job that would help me further my studies as there was nobody to sponsor my tertiary education past that point.

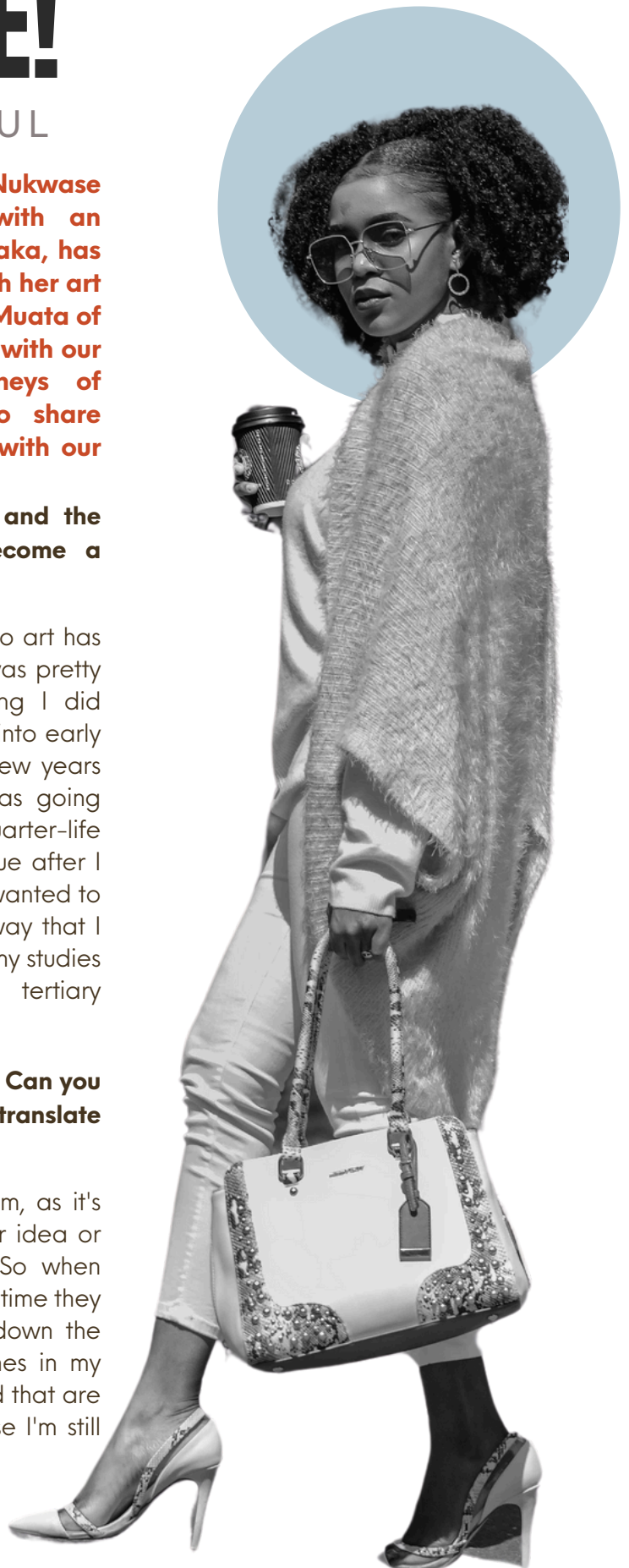
Every artist has a unique creative process. Can you describe yours and how it helps you to translate your ideas into art?

My process is pretty undefined and random, as it's driven by my desire to express a particular idea or thought - which happens spontaneously. So when said ideas come to mind (depending on the time they come and how strong they are), I write down the fleeting ones and archive the nagging ones in my head. I have a bunch of artworks in my head that are yet to make it on canvas or paper because I'm still perfecting them mentally.

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INTERVIEW





What themes and narratives do you often explore in your work? What draws you to these themes?

Ultimately, my themes explore the human experience, so I have done pieces on religion, politics, afrocentrism, feminism, interpersonal relationships, social commentary, a little bit of space science, and psychology. I'm drawn to these themes because I find the human experience not only complex and tragic, but very fascinating too. The layers, the intricacies of it all, while also trying to find my purpose and place in the cosmos, drives me to want to express as much of it as I humanly can. It's obviously inevitable that people will always attempt to put artists in a box and keep them in it, but that's not the kind of artist I aspire to be. For the sake of a little bit of order and sanity, I mapped out the way in which I would expand on, and express the different themes I've explored, and would like to delve much deeper into. So each exhibition I intend to put out will have a different theme but there will always be elements of either one or more of the listed themes in the work. I'm chaotic like that.

Could you share your perspective on creativity, particularly as it relates to creatives of color?

Personally, I think that creativity is essentially the driving force of each and every one of us, in whatever form in which we choose for it to manifest. When it comes to artists of color, I would say that it is our creativity that has kept us going even in the face of adversity, it's fuel for the heart, mind and soul. It's not easy being a creative, worse if you're one of color as you will most likely find yourself trying to tiptoe and be appealing in predominately white spaces, which is a challenge in and of itself, for many reasons. It's also a beautiful experience to be a creative of color because our stories enrich our creativity, which makes for a very colorful existence.

Art is an ever evolving process. How do you continue to grow, evolve, and innovate as an artist?

That's actually the hardest part of being an artist-aiming to evolve while staying true to oneself and also trying to stay relevant and/or likeable, even to a minimal degree. I continue to grow by maintaining the same curiosity and wonder I had as a child. By remaining open to learn, unlearn, relearn, explore and even entertain ideas and thoughts I don't believe in and challenge the ones that I do. There's times the evolution and innovation happens overnight and other times where it's an uphill battle. Overall, being open enough to absorb new information, and grounded enough to not think I'm better than anyone is what keeps me evolving.

Nukwase's journey as a creative artist is unique and inspiring. Her diverse experiences and determination to continually learn and grow make her story truly aspiring.



"Art is not just a hobby or a profession for me. It's a way I communicate my thoughts, challenge societal norms, and inspire change. It's my voice in a world that often silences those who look like me."
- Nukwase Tembo



Nukwase Tembo, an eloquent and prolific creative is currently planning a new exhibition. Known for her evocative art that challenges societal norms and promotes inclusivity, she's continuously pushing boundaries and expanding her creative horizons. Stay tuned for updates and sneak peeks of her upcoming exhibition, which is sure to offer a fresh perspective and a deeper insight into her artistic journey.

Creative Journey

At a young age of two, Nukwase Tembo began her journey in the realm of artistry, drawing inspiration from the natural beauty of her birthplace, Lusaka. Her voyage led her to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Arts, a move that both refined her artistic aptitude and supported her advocacy initiatives. This accomplishment provided her a gateway to dive deeper into her passion. After graduating, her unwavering commitment to art and societal causes led her to collaborate with different foundations. Coming from a background in social work, she aimed to use her professional knowledge to make a difference. She stepped into the media industry to throw more light upon issues that resonated with her and the communities she served. Furthering her advocacy and honing her craft, she acquired a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Arts and embarked on working with foundations that backed the arts and community projects.



"Normalizing Blackness, Empowering Women Through Art"

Nukwase emphasizes normalizing blackness and women's autonomy in her work. With three Ngoma Award nominations and two top-100 placements in the Barclays L'atelier competition, she's made her mark globally. Her notable exhibitions include 'The Gatekeepers of Morality' and 'The Hue-Man Condition', showcasing her commitment to inclusivity and redefining black identity.



The Creatives team has curated a selection of Nukwase's stunning artworks to share with our audience. For a deeper dive into her creative portfolio, visit Instagram to explore more of her creations.

