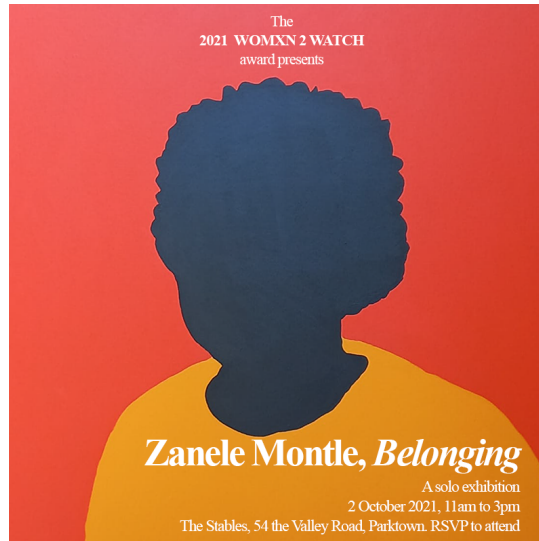




PRESS RELEASE



The 2021 WOMXN to WATCH award is proud to present

"Belonging"

A solo exhibition by artist, Zanele Montle

2nd October, 11am to 3pm

54 the Valley Road, Parktown

RSVP here: <https://qkt.io/aBoPCE>

Zanele Montle is the inaugural winner of the **2021 WOMXN TO WATCH** award.

This exhibition seeks to explore concepts of belonging. By its definition belong is a sense of fitting in or feeling like you are an important member of a group. A feeling of belonging describes this sense of truly fitting or meshing. These groups can range from geographic location, to race, to gender, to family and friends. Zanele unpicks this concept through a new body of work that will be presented at this solo exhibition. She says about this body of work "I am interested in how we relate to the people around us, be it family, people we don't know or just in society and looking at how different environments play a role in shaping our identity and how these factors influence our sense of belonging"

By presenting individuals either alone or together, as featureless individuals, the artist asks the viewer to see themselves as the characters presented in the work. Through the "blacked out" body, the artist allows for any person of any gender, race or age to see themselves within the context presented. Using clothing the artist unpicks how it too can also influence our sense of identity and locates the viewer with an everyman experience.

Company registration number: 2020/118172/08

Physical Address: The White House, 54 the Valley Road, Parktown, Johannesburg

Board of Directors: David Mayers (Chairperson), Boitumelo Tlhoale, Gila Abramson, Nolan Stevens, Vivien Kohler, Sara Hallatt, Pierre Lombart



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Zanele was born and raised in a small town in Empangeni. She and her eight siblings were raised by her single parent. She did her primary schooling in Empangeni Prep and High school in Empangeni High school where she matriculated in 2010 with a distinction in Visual Art. She furthered her studies at the University of Johannesburg and graduated for her National Diploma in Visual Art then completed her BTech at Tshwane University of Technology. In 2015, her work was selected in the Thami Mnyele Art Awards to appear in their top 100 exhibition. In 2017 she was a gallery manager at the Hazard Gallery. She has a Post Graduate qualification in art education and is currently working as an art educator and a painter.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The META foundation, in partnership with the Project Space and End Street Studios is excited to announce the:

WOMXN TO WATCH award

Annually, one top performing, South African womxn artist will be selected to receive this award. The award aims to shine a light on the top womxn talent in South Africa. Artists from across the country will be able to apply for the award. The award is held annually, with only 1 artist being selected.

The award provides the artist with the following for a period of 6 months:

- a studio space, at End Street Studios, which includes parking, electricity and water and uncapped internet
- the opportunities to participate in any group exhibitions curated by the META foundation
- the opportunity to participate in any August House activities
- a solo show with the Project Space
- featured (included in) August House/Meta foundation website and publicity materials