



META foundation

LGBTQIA+ Studio Exchange **PRESS RELEASE**



The META foundation, in partnership with the End Street Studios and August House is excited to announce the winner of the **2023 LGBTQIA+ Studio Exchange: Zenande Mketeni.**

Zenande Mketeni is a multi-disciplinary artist who works across printmaking, photography, sculpture, video, and performance art. Born and raised in King Williams Town, Eastern Cape she moved to Pretoria to study and practice art. She graduated with a National Diploma in Fine Art at the University of Johannesburg and has been developing and exploring her art ever since.

Zenande's work revolves around spiritual dispossession, culture and heritage which she uses as a tool to unearth the important role women play within African society. She explores the representation of black Xhosa women and the spaces in which they reside because she believes that black women contribute to the cultural theologies in South Africa. In the current patriarchal society, we live in, women get little to no recognition within their cultures and communities. Zenande's work fashions a matriarchal world where human, spiritual and cultural potential occurs - a world where women reign supreme.

The Artist says "Many cultures and traditions describe processes of development that suggest an engagement with dimensions and aspects of reality that transcend space and time. Nothing is ever what it seems."



"Untitled", Digital Photography, 2019



"Ngena ngaphantsi" (go under), 2022
Mixed media collage, 40 x40cm

The path to spiritual development is bright, walk in the light every step of the way."

She has participated in numerous group exhibitions throughout her journey. In 2022 she participated in the "Miniature in Print" Group Exhibition, the Turbine Art Fair Graduate Group Exhibition. In 2019, she participated in the "Familiar Threads" Underline Projects Art Fair and in 2018 she participated in the "Print is Not Dead" Group Exhibition.

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, Brad Bentz



Why is this award important?

The META foundation and August House artists community are committed to supporting the practice of young, queer artists. Not only by providing them with space to work from but supporting them with the freedom to explore their work and develop their voices. Through this process, the hope is that they become self-sustaining, full time practicing artists who in years to come, change the status quo.

About the Partnership

The META foundation and August House has come together to launch this studio exchange. August House was established as a destination for artists to develop and it quickly became a space for artists to evolve their practice. The META foundation has instigated this studio exchange. Based at August House, the META foundation will oversee the day to day running of the studio exchange program. It is our hope that through such a program more queer artists will find their voices.

About the August House community

August House was established as space for artists in 2006 by Bie Venter and Maria Svane. The space has both survived and thrived on the artists and their interest in developing relationships and community level engagement. The building was sold in 2016 and during the transition more formal studio spaces were created for young up and coming artists. Currently there are over 44 artists housed within the building. While August House was created to initially provide a studio space for local artists, the space has extended its programming. All programming is focused on the support and development of the artists and the visual arts industry as a whole.

About the META foundation

The META foundation was founded in February of 2020 in order to develop a set of strategically driven programmes that focus on artistic career development and support. The ethos of the organisation is one of inclusion and diversity, focused on fairness and democratization of art – how it is viewed and consumed. August House was established as an enclave for artists in 2006 and currently houses 56 practicing artists. It is the largest studio space in Johannesburg, if not in South Africa.

Everything that the Meta Foundation does is focused on three pillars that make up the visual arts eco-system. We define these pillars as Artists, Artwork and Art Audiences / Lovers. The foundation's aim is to bring these three pillars together and to drive best practice to bolster the environment/context within which it operates.



About End Street Studios

End Street Studios is located on the 2nd floor of August House. The space does not separate itself from August House but rather runs as a faction within August House, which just happens to have a name attached to it. It consists of a community of artists who work in a mixed-use space, collective space. Consisting of nine studio spaces, ranging in size, the space invites artists to work and create within it. End Street Studios was a collective studio initiated by Bronwyn Lace in 2016, out of the need for an artist community to work alongside one another, as well as be a solution to the sharing of costs of space and logistics of having a studio. While the initiative is no longer run by Lace, as she has moved onto new and exciting projects, it continues to operate with a new bevy of emerging and mid-career artists.

For further information on the award and related activities please contact:

Email: info@meta-foundation.co.za Or

Website: www.meta-foundation.co.za

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