



META foundation

2022 Thami Mnye Fine Arts Award Winner

Press Release

April 2023



The META foundation, in partnership with the August House and End Street is excited to announce the winner of the **2022 Thami Mnye Fine Arts** award - Livhuwani Muthivhithi.

Livhuwani Muthivhithi is a Vandan born artist with a National Diploma in Fine and Applied Art from Tshwane University of Technology (2016). While Muthivhithi works in a variety of media, from drawing, costume design, writing as well as performance art, he majored in glass and ceramics.

Muthivhithi work focuses on exploring forever changing culture under the theme "Hybrid culture". Hybrid culture is defined as the two-way process of borrowing and blending that takes place between cultures. Through this process a new form of cultural practice emerges. In exploring this idea, Muthivhithi's hopes to further learn and understand the customs, values, and ideas of native cultures in South Africa, in particular a particular focus on Vandan culture.

"Culture is a fragile thing" - Muthivhithi's position is that cultural symbols and practices of old are often adopted and re-interpreted into new sub-cultures. As this process occurs, the emergence of a sub-culture accelerates the loss of original culture and practice. This is because we accept what is being portrayed to be the original practice and we do not question its origin. All that is left of the original culture is just an idea of what once was.

Muthivhithi has worked with multiple glass beading studios as an independent artist. Muthivhithi has been accepted in *Sasol New Signatures* in 2017 and was part of *Blessing Ngobeni Studio Award*. Muthivhithi has been in multiple exhibitions in Pretoria as well as Johannesburg.



Mupaso "Hawan" - a ceremony of burned offerings.
Ink on canvas
2022

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 is a dynamic visual arts organization that program for artists based at Johannesburg's creative landmark building of August House studios. Within this context and as part of the broader visual art eco-system the META foundation works across three primary pillars which centre on collaborating with ARTISTS, instigating projects, ARTWORKS and exhibitions, art practice focused workshops & art commissions, while it aims to inspire diverse AUDIENCES & Collectors to meet artists who work across mediums.

About the Partnership

The META foundation and End Street Studios have come together to launch this award. End Street Studios was founded by Bronwen Lace in 2016 and when it moved into August House it quickly became a space for artists to evolve their practice. The META foundation has instigated this award. Based at August House, the META foundation will oversee the day to day running of the residency program. It is our hope that through such a program more artists will find their voices.

About the META foundation

The META foundation was founded in February of 2020 to develop a set of strategically driven programs 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.

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 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.

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: info@meta-foundation.co.za

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