

Nelson Makamo

IN CONVERSATION
SOLO EXHIBITION: 8-12 OCTOBER 2024



PRESS VIEW

Tuesday 8 October, 10.30-4pm

OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday 8 October, 6-8pm

LOCATION

**67 Great Titchfield Street,
London W1W 7PT**

WEBSITE



www.riseart.com/exhibition/nelson-makamo-in-conversation

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ANOTHER COUNTRY

Nelson Makamo (b. Limpopo, 1982) initially gained popularity for his intense and joyful drawings of children. These images challenged viewers to reappraise their understandings of the African continent, replacing the negative view prevalent in the media with portraits of hope and optimism. The popularity of such works led to intense press attention, which proved to be a mixed blessing: though it amplified his voice, it also made the artist feel pigeonholed, the nuances and development of his practice drowned out by a one-dimensional feeling media narrative.

Today, though themes from his early work remain pertinent to him, the artist's scope has broadened considerably.

This exhibition presents a body of paintings that touch on a range of themes including identity and personhood within a broader cultural paradigm. Its title is an allusion to the openness and lack of didacticism that Makamo approaches his work with. Rather than tell the viewer what they are looking at, he would rather allow them to form their own interpretations of his paintings and drawings. This way, space is created for a conversation between artist and viewer.

Comprising new paintings and drawings, 'In Conversation' brings together more than 20 new works, traversing familiar and new themes and motifs within the artist's practice. Together, they serve as a series of anchors in an ongoing dialogue between Makamo and his audience.

About Nelson Makamo

Nelson Makamo's career spans the seventeen years since the year he received his formal training as a master printer at Artist proof studios in Johannesburg. In this time, he has managed to solidify an iconic signature and a subject matter that has steadily placed him on the global stage, making him one of the world's most sought-after visual artists of our time. Makamo has exhibited in South Africa, USA, France, Italy, the Netherlands, England, and Scotland and his work is featured in a number of prestigious public and private collections.

Initially known for his emotionally intense mixed-media portraits, portraying the optimism that is often missing from depictions of life in Africa, his oeuvre has expanded to tackle a wider set of questions around culture and identity. In his immediately recognisable style — both intuitive and deeply considered, he holistically bears witness to his surroundings, presenting a nuanced and sensitive view of the Africa of today. His enquiry reaches from the children of the village where he grew up to the ways in which the African diaspora shapes societies and cultures around the world.

About Rise Art

Rise Art collaborates with emerging and celebrated artists across the globe to highlight their work through online channels in person exhibitions and artist residencies. Rise Art is based in London, UK and Bordeaux, FR.

For further information or images please contact Scott Phillips:
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