

R|SE ART

Nelson Makamo

22 JULY - 25 AUGUST 2022



OPENING RECEPTION
Thursday 21 July, 6-8pm

LOCATION
67 Great Titchfield Street, London W1W 7PT

WEBSITE
www.riseart.com/nelson-makamo

The stereotype of the lonely artist does not apply to South African painter and draftsman Nelson Makamo. Meeting people, speaking with them and learning about them are as important to his practice as drawing and painting are. Togetherness, not loneliness, is at the core of the artist's work. It might seem surprising, then, that the drawings he first became known for tend to feature solitary, disembodied subjects. In these solo portraits, Makamo's talent for capturing the emotional intensity and overwhelming sense of hope in his sitters is a matter of expression and movement.

For the artist's first UK solo exhibition in more than five years, his characters are beginning to congregate. For the first time we are seeing them *in situ*, as members of a wider community. Alongside solitary, meditative characters, there are groups of laughing schoolchildren, busy street scenes and other displays of togetherness. This brings a new level of detail to Makamo's world: the spaces that they occupy, the clothes that they wear, the company that they keep and the way that they look (or don't look) at their companions all bring depth and complexity to his characters.

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With these new contexts, the emotional intensity of Makamo's work has not disappeared. Many of the faces in this exhibition - their owners engaged in social activities - contain all the emotional intensity of his early drawings. Momentarily these faces hover above their surroundings, their innermost essences exposed. They are both members of social groups and wider contexts and overwhelmingly individual. They are alone, together.

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About Nelson Makamo

Johannesburg based Artist Nelson Makamo is best known for his charcoal and oil paintings that redress decades of images that have portrayed African children as destitute. 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. However, 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.

His work is featured in prestigious public and private collections. Nelson Makamo's artwork speaks to changing the global mindset of what it means to be an African child. His portraits have strong emotions that every young African possesses, from conviction, to prowess and determination. You cannot help but resonate with every piece. His mixed media style and unique mark-making technique that break the scholarly rules and give his works a distinct signature. Makamo speaks about the Africa of today as he bears witness to his surroundings.

About Rise Art

Rise Art's goal is to shine a light on the most exciting, talented and culturally relevant artists of our time. We work directly with a curated roster of emerging, mid-career and established artists across our online sales platform and physical gallery to show and champion their work online and in person.

For further information or images please contact Phin Jennings:
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