

Nelson Makamo

TWO-VENUE PRESENTATION, NEW YORK



1-54 CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART FAIR

439 W 127th St, New York 10027

18 - 20 May 11am-7pm

21 May 11am-5pm

Ticket required

HIGH LINE NINE

Gallery 7, 507 W 27th St, New York 10001

17 - 21 May 11am-6pm

Opening reception 17 May 6-8pm

RSVP essential for opening: rsvp@riseart.com

In the last 20 years, Nelson Makamo's (B. 1982, Limpopo) signature style and subject matter have steadily placed him on the global stage. Living and working in Johannesburg, he is known for his paintings and drawings that redress decades of images that have portrayed African children as destitute. This two-venue presentation of his work will re-introduce the New York audience to Makamo.

On show as part of the Special Projects section of 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair will be a large-scale hand woven tapestry created by the artist in collaboration with a team of artisans, displayed here for the first time outside of South Africa. The work, which combines Makamo's painterly style with the gridlike precision of weaving, features a child who towers above the viewer, looking out with a mixture of melancholy and hope through round glasses.

This monumental work will be contextualised by a parallel presentation at High Line Nine, comprising a selection of new paintings and works on paper. These pieces are a continuation of a new body of work where, alongside in solo portraits, Makamo portrays his subjects *in situ*, as members of a wider community. The emotional intensity of the artist's work has not disappeared, but the added context brings a new level of detail to his world.

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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.

The artist's mission is to change the global mindset of what it means to be an African child. His portraits contain the strong emotions that every young African possesses, from conviction, to prowess and determination. One cannot help but resonate with every piece. His mixed media style and unique mark-making technique break the scholarly rules and give his works a distinct signature. Makamo speaks about the Africa of today as he bears witness to his own 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:
phin@riseart.com