

Artist Career

Artist name: **Cow Mash**

Birth date: 1994.10.30

Age: 25

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Biography

Cow Mash was born in Limpopo (birth name Kgaogelo Mashilo) and raised in Pretoria where she is currently based. In 2016 during her third year in University, Cow created her first life size public figure, representing freedom fighter Francis Baard, which forms part of the National Heritage Monument. Cow graduated in 2017 from Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) with a B-tech in Fine Arts (cum laude), majoring in sculpture. In 2017, Cow was one of three artists to create a 2.5meter sculpture of Political leader Oliver Tambo, which stands in the Johannesburg O.R Tambo international airport. Cow was winner of the PPC Imaginarium fashion category in 2019 and in the same year a finalist in the sculpture category. In 2019 she also collaborated on a life size sculpture of Zakithi Nkosi for the Zakithi Nkosi Clinical Haematology Centre of Excellence, located at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital. Southern African Foundation For Contemporary Art (SAFFCA) named Cow their SAFFCA artist of the month in May 2020. She is currently completing her master's degree at TUT and while lecturing in sculpture and fibre arts. Cow continues to take part in various group shows and art fairs.

Artist statement

Cow Mash's current work is inspired by her self-given and valid name "Cow". The cultures and symbols of the cow within the Sepedi traditions, as well as globally. Through cow metaphors, she tries to situate herself between tradition and the contemporary world. Cow creates drawings on synthetic leather and sculptural works using synthetic wools, combining various fabrics. She reflects on the transformation and evolution of culture by using synthetic leather rather than actual cowhide. Her doodle-like repetitive lines in her drawings and meditative methods in sculpting are a means of self-contemplation and healing and finding a sense of belonging in a rapidly transformative cultural revolution.

Academic conferences

- **February lectures NWU conference:** “Queer Visualities: African Perspectives, Other Perspectives”. Paper titled: Queer in Africa: Media representation and generational acceptance of queer. February 2019
- **SAVAH conference:** abstract entitled “Analysis of the cow as a metaphor in selected work by Cow Mash” 11-13 September 2019
- **Afems (African feminisms)** abstract entitled “Analysis of the Cow as a Metaphor in Selected Work by South African Artists” (at Wits University from the 5-7 September 2019 on the theme of “Theorising from the Epicentres of our Agency”).
- **Goethe Institute Museum Conversations 2019:** Performance collective, Performance title: “Display cases”.
Goethe institute and University of Namibia (In Windhoek, Namibia) 18-20 September 2019

Public Commissions

- **Life size figure of Francis Goitsemanng Beard:** National heritage Monument (2016/2017)
- **2.5m OR Tambo figure:** ORT international airport commission (2017)
- **ABSA Cape Epic African woman’s trophy** (2017/2018)
- **Life size figure of Zakithi Nkosi:** Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Soweto. Zakithi Nkosi Clinical Haematology Centre of Excellence (2019)

Exhibitions

2020

- RMB Turbine Art fair online | The Project Space (August 2020)
- Mmarthouse “Ambiguous” group show (August 2020)
- Latitude Art Fair (online) July-ongoing 2020
- Viewing room gallery “Transhumanism” July 2020
- BKHZ “Habit (at)” (online exhibition) June 2020
- Trent gallery “Epoch” (online Exhibition) June 2020
- SAFFCA artist of the month (online) June 2020
- Lizamore gallery “Phantasmagoria” (online exhibition) June 2020

- Story gallery (online exhibition @storygallery) April 2020
- Woord wees GUS (gallery university Stellenbosch) Knoop/knot group exhibition (February 2020- March 2020).
- BKHZ galley “making of themselves” (February- March 2020)
- The project space Johannesburg | International Cape Town art fair (February 2020)
- 99 Loop galley Cape Town | Cape Town art fair (February 2020)
- Nje collective | International Cape Town art Fair (February 2020)
- Arts Association of Pretoria “St Valentine” (February 2020)
- Trent gallery “elevated” group show (February 2020)
- Circa/ Everard read Capetown | Cubicle series “back to back they faced each other” (January 2020)
- Is art gallery Franshoek (December 2020)
- Lizamore gallery “hindsight” (November 2019 – January 2020)

2019

- Trent gallery “slightly saintly” (November 2019)
- Javett art center “living legends” (October 2019)
- Underline art fair “Familial threads” (September 2019)
- Latitude art fair “invisible exhibition” TMRW gallery (September 2019)
- Turbine art Fair “RMB talent unlock” (September 2019)
- PPC Imaginarium “finalist exhibition” (sculpture and fashion category) (April 2019)
- Trent gallery “Ophelia” (March 2019)
- TMRW gallery “the space in between” (February 2019)
- Alliance France “friends” (February 2019)
- Trent gallery “imagnisium of all” (January 2019)
- Johann van Heerden art gallery “New” (January 2019)

2018

- The old Granary, Cape Town “Penumbra” (December 2018)
- Trent gallery “Liminal Famine” (November 2018)
- Hazard Gallery “Numbers” (October 2018)
- Fried Contemporary art gallery “Black Humour” (September 2018)
- Jan Smuts “Art pop-up” (October 2018)
- Sasol new signatures (September 2018)

- Johann Van Heerden's gallery "Diversity" (September 2018)
- Trent gallery Print exhibition "Print now and then" (September 2018)
- St'Lorient viewing room gallery "The Unexpected" (September 2018)
- Art box group show "FAS" (2018)

2017-2015

- Lizamore gallery 35 years Trailblazer (September 2017)
- Jo'burg Fringe (August 2017)
- Rand Merchant Bank women's month show (August 2017)
- Art lovers: 2-man solo show (July 2017)
- Nirox Sculpture Winter Fair (May 2017)
- Trent gallery, Grey Spaces group show (2016)
- Trent gallery Voynichmanuscript: performance and 2D artworks (March 2017)
- Art it Is, glass Group show (2015)