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## **Exhibition title: Imizwa Yami (...my feelings) by Mbongeni Buthelezi**

### **The Artist's Statement**

By the 1990's he knew exactly what kind of art he wanted to create, and which resources he wanted to use. In his work he deconstructs his childhood, many of his pieces are of children playing, or at school, and because he is a Christian, his religion is brought to life in his art works. He also draws inspiration from his adult culture, music, specifically jazz and music from authentically hand-made musical instruments and all of this comes alive through his art work. Buthelezi's work seeks to express all the emotions he went through when he was younger.

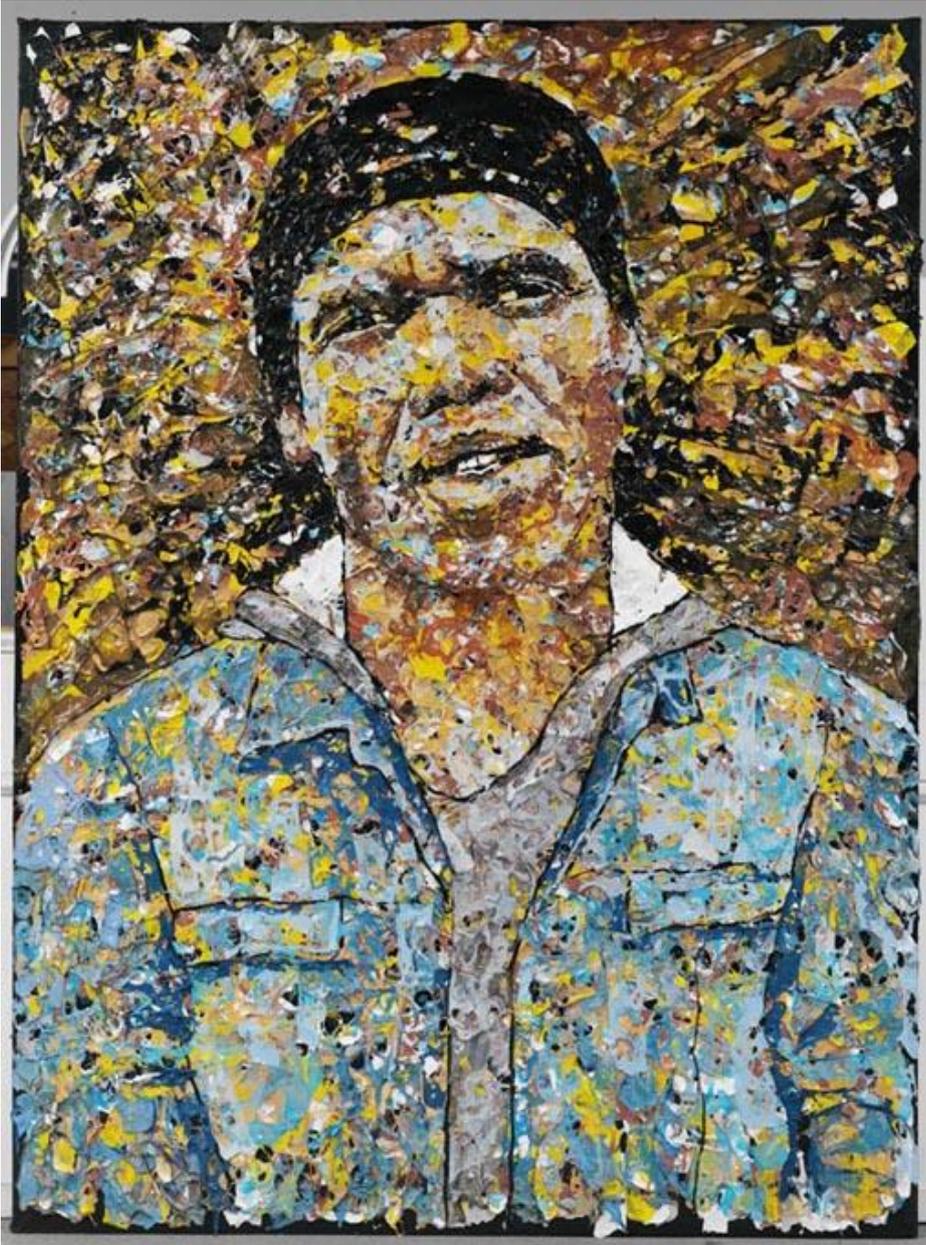
Before he started using plastics to create the rough but beautifully textured 'paintings', he used oil-based paints and charcoal. He then went in search of doing something different. In 1991 he developed his first technique which involved layering plastics on a canvas and using a heat gun to melt the plastics together to create a picture. In order to portray the desired feelings or images through his 'paintings', which could be anything up to 250cm x 185cm canvases, he first cuts the plastics into long strips and then layers black and white plastics on the canvas and melts them together with a heat gun to create a 'base' before the colourful and sometimes sepia-toned plastic is layered on to create a picture. He has been given an opportunity by a reputable leading plastics manufacturer with advanced technologies to create and mix his own colours, and then they produce the plastic for him.

Mbongeni usually works on several different bodies of works concurrently. This helps him prepare for up-coming exhibitions with ease. Buthelezi enjoys his work and finds inspiration in everything, anywhere and anytime.

### **MBONGENI BUTHELEZI PROFILE**

Mbongeni Richman Buthelezi was born in 1965 in rural KwaZulu Natal and he is a 'painter' in plastic. At a time when contemporary art seems obsessed with the idea of ideas, it is refreshing to see the work of artists who combine strong intuition with artistic vision and stand up against the best. Buthelezi's touring solo museum exhibition titled 'Imizwa Yami', (...my feelings) is a showcase of an exceptional artist's expression of his South African experience. Having gained acclaim for his work internationally, Buthelezi exhibited in venues such as the Museum of African Art in New York, the Goch Museum in Germany and the Prague Biennale, as well as attending many international residencies.

<http://www.mbongeni-buthelezi.com/>



*Mbongeni Buthelezi: Buthelezi Self-Portrait, plastic on plastic, 250x 185cm*



*Mbongeni Buthelezi: Imizwa yami, my feelings, Black and white series, 2007*



*Mbongeni Buthelezi: Imizwa yami, my feelings, Black and white series, 2007*