

LWANDISO NJARA

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY AND CV



LIZAMORE
& Associates

Njara was born in 1987, Libode, Eastern Cape. He obtained his Matric certificate in Port Elizabeth College and a BTech (FA) from the Tshwane University of Technology.

One of his proudest accomplishments is the Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC) Young Sculptor Competition, where he won the runner up award in 2009, and a Merit Award in 2012. He also won first prize in the Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Awards in 2012. His work has been shown in group exhibitions and he has had three solo exhibitions; *Altar, Engineering a New Jerusalem I* and *Engineering a New Jerusalem II*. The artist regularly exhibits work with Lizamore and Associates and his work has been shown at the Cape Town Art Fair and Turbin Art Fair.

He has recently exhibited at the Lizamore & Associates Gallery in Johannesburg. He has shown his work in the previous winners exhibition of the PPC Young Sculptor Competition at the Pretoria Art Association and exhibited at Trent Art Gallery in Pretoria with Joel Tsepho Sebothoma in 2011. He partook in the group show featuring the works of Diane Victor, Jan van der merwe at the Ron Belling Art Gallery in Port Elizabeth, at the Art South Africa contemporary art auction/group exhibition in Cape Town, as well as at Pretoria Arts Association with Malose Pete in 2012.

Njara's work is centered around the contradictions of his Catholic education in contrast with Xhosa ancestral rituals. Through his pieces, he explores an experience of identity construction, spiritual awakening and development during his boyhood years in rural Transkei. Njara's work problematizes his negotiation between his Catholic education and his traditional upbringing. The artist treats these two polarities as binary opposites which he does not necessarily seek to resolve, but uses them to construct a new emergent identity. Not in any way suggesting that identities are singular and fixed, but they could possibly be perceived to be multifaceted and fragmented. He brings this investigation of his own identity in conversation with the human existence within technocratic social orders.

These postcolonial constructs of identity are explored through the use of large bronze/concrete sculptural works. Njara's work is often unpolished and raw, exposing the internal workings of machines through tools, cogs and mechanisms. These relate to his need to deconstruct these binaries and consider each mechanism's contribution to his identity and reflect the hybrid contemporary African identity. Viewing the internal workings of these pieces also alludes to something more sinister, as he attempts to consider the use of religion in constructing a national identity.

Although Njara's work conveys a personal investigation of his identity, this exploration can be applied to a collective consciousness, where the diversity within South Africa is creating a hybrid third culture, and essential, separatist, understandings of identity are disappearing as our nation becomes trans-conscious.





Achievements:

- 2009 Runner-up at the PPC Young Sculptor Competition
- 2012 Merit Award winner at the PPC Young Sculptor Competition.
- 2012 Won first prize in the Thami Mnye Fine Arts Awards
- 2017 Residency at Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg

Selected Exhibitions:

- 2018 Engineering The New Jerusalem II at Lizamore & Associates, Johannesburg
- 2018 Engineering The New Jerusalem I at Trent Gallery, Pretoria
- 2017 Rethinking Kakotopia curated by Derek Zietsman at UJ Art Gallery
- 2017 Cape Town Art Fair with Lizamore & Associates
- 2017 35 Years: A Lizamore Perspective at Lizamore & Associates
- 2016 Altar, solo exhibition at the Association of Arts Pretoria
- 2016 African Equations, group exhibition at Lizamore & Associates
- 2014 Nirox Winter Sculpture Show, Nirox Sculpture Park, Maropeng
- 2013 Neo-Baroque, Fried Contemporary Gallery, Pretoria
- 2013 Multiple Identities with Gordon Froud, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
- 2013 Trans-Africa, Absa Art Gallery, Johannesburg.
- 2013 After the Rainbow Nation, Nirox Sculpture Park and Nirox Projects, Johannesburg.
- 2013 Engage II World Art Day Exhibition – Pretoria Art Association, Pretoria
- 2012 Winners exhibition of the PPC Young Sculptor Competition at the Pretoria Art Association
- 2012 Pretoria Arts Association with Malose Pete
- 2012 Belling Art Gallery (group exhibition)
- 2011 Trent Art Gallery with Joel Tsepho Sebothoma

Commissions

Absa Cape Epic 2014: bronze cast trophies

Collections

- Pretoria Portland Cement (PPC) Offices, Sandton Johannesburg.
- St. Lorient Fashion & Art gallery, Pretoria.
- The President's Bryntirion Estate, Pretoria.





011 880 8802

info@lizamore.co.za

155 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood, 2193



Lizamore & Assoc. Gallery | [@lizamoregallery](https://www.facebook.com/lizamoregallery)



Lizamore & Assoc. | [@lizamoregallery](https://twitter.com/lizamoregallery)



Lizamore & Assoc. Gallery | [@lizamoregallery](https://www.instagram.com/lizamoregallery)