

## Tega Tafadzwa

Tega Tafadzwa (b. 1985) is a Zimbabwean-born artist, currently based in Cape Town, South Africa. As he was raised in an artistic environment, Tafadzwa began painting from a young age while assisting his relatives in their art studios. Encouraged by friends and family, Tafadzwa pursued a fine art degree, and eventually, had his first solo show at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. However, the process of relocation and complete adaptation to the Cape Town community appeared to be challenging for the young artist.

The struggle to reinvent and re-establish a new life in an unfamiliar environment largely inspired the artist. Besides, the relocation from Harare to Cape Town deeply affected Tafadzwa's perception of himself as well as the migrant community, which he became part of. The vibrant portraits reflect Tafadzwa's admiration for the fellow migrants, who had to go back to 'ground 0.' The themes related to the human condition including memories, culture, religion and tradition are omnipresent in his work.

Each portrait's background pays homage to Tafadzwa's deep sense of self and his Zimbabwean heritage. A wallpaper of Zumbani, the tea leaf from the fever tree, is a common motif in his canvases: the graphic curtains reflect the artist's connection to the traditional plant, often used in his home country as a medicinal aid. This visual reference embeds in itself a powerful personal message for the artist: Zumbani acts as a symbol of his birth home, a token of remembrance, and as a protective talisman for the unknown journey ahead.

Using live models and photographs, Tafadzwa recomposes the stories which inspired his bright and colorful painterly settings. Under his direction, his subjects take center stage, adopting somewhat theatrical poses - emphasizing a sense of grandiosity and pride in the face of the challenges in unfamiliar surroundings. The vibrant color palette and high contrasts reflects the joy of new possibilities and the longing for what has been left behind. His vibrant canvases captivate the viewer, demanding attention and emanating empathy for his subjects given their challenges.

Tafadzwa's work is radiant, hopeful and colorful, filled with symbolism. Through sharing the fates of migrants and reimagining his own journey, the artist creates a universal visual language which excites and draws the viewer in, inviting us to explore the stories translated onto his canvases. After a series of successful shows in recent years in South Africa, Miami and Switzerland, his vibrant pieces have captured the imagination of collectors across the African continent and further afield.

**Tega Tafadzwa CV**

Cape Town, South Africa

**SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**2022** *RWENDO - WHICH MEANS JOURNEY*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

**2022** *Africa First X Gordon Gallery*, Tel Aviv, Israel

**2022** *Zumbani*, Mimmo Scognamiglio Artecontemporanea, Milan, Italy

**2021** *HARARE DREAM*, Foreign Agent, Lausanne, Switzerland

**2019** *AFRICA WITHOUT BORDERS*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa

**2014** *AFRICA WITHOUT BORDERS*, World Art, Cape Town, South Africa

**2012** *ADOLF TEGA*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2023** *Contemporary Figuration: Between Body & Metaphor*, JD Malat Gallery, London, UK

**2021** *A VERY LOOP STREET SUMMER*, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

**2021** *8x8*, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

**2019** *#RECESS*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2019** *URBAN ARCHEOLOGY*, Daor Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa

**2019** *NANDO'S CREATIVE EXCHANGE*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

**ART FAIRS**

**2022** *INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR*, Mimmo Scognamiglio Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

**2022** *MILANO ART FAIR*, Mimmo Scognamiglio Gallery, Italy

**2021** *ART MIAMI*, Mimmo Scognamiglio / Placido, Miami, USA

**2021** *DALLAS ART FAIR*, Mimmo Scognamiglio / Placido, Dallas Texas, USA

# JD MALAT GALLERY

**2021** *FNB ART JOBURG ART FAIR*, Open City: Everything Was Beautiful And Nothing Hurt, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2021** *1-54 LONDON*, Foreign Agent, London, United Kingdom

**2021** *INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR*, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

**2019** *FNB JOBURG ART FAIR*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa

JD Malat Gallery  
30 Davies St, Mayfair,  
London W1K 4NB  
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**Selected Artworks**



**Tega Tafadzwa**  
*Elton naMavusana, 2023*  
Mixed media on canvas  
55 1/8 x 39 3/8 in  
140 x 100 cm



**Tega Tafadzwa**  
*kune rima, 2023*  
Mixed media on canvas  
78 3/4 x 59 in  
200 x 150 cm

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