



SITHENJWA LUTHULI

July - August, 2026

GALLERY 2



Sithenjwa Luthuli

New Print Series

Biography

Sithenjwa Luthuli was born in Bothas Hill in 1991 and attended Thornwood Secondary School. In 2010, he joined Visual Art classes and says that these classes familiarized him with the industry of art and encouraged him to further explore and develop his creativity. In his early age he was challenged in school by the education system of which brought fear to him therefore he found peace within art and discovered that his fear was brought by the way his family and the people within his surroundings grew up.

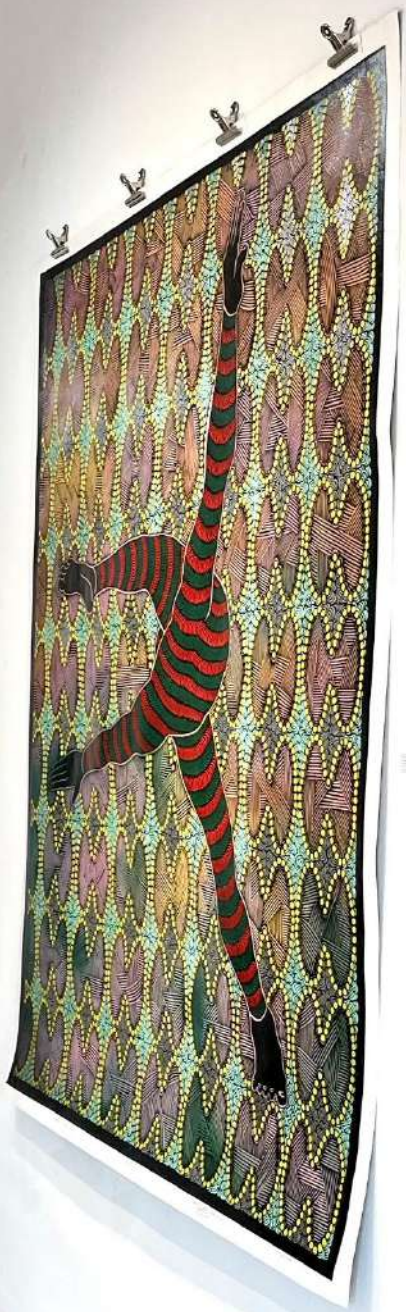
Luthuli is a Durban-based visual artist whose practice painting, muralism, and collaborative public art projects. He began his formal training in 2010 at Velobala Art School and the African Art Centre, building foundations under mentorship and through intensive workshops. From 2012, he studied at the Durban University of Technology, where he was selected for a mentorship program by Themba Shibase.

Over the years, Luthuli has accumulated a robust record of solo and group exhibitions, as well as significant public art commissions. His work has been showcased in notable solo presentations such as Birthmark- Umkhangu at Norval Foundation by WhatIfTheWorld Gallery (Cape Town, 2025), Inzalo Yelanga at Unit London Gallery (United Kingdom, 2023), Imbewu Yokhokho – The Seed Of Our Ancestors at Gallery1957 in Accra (Ghana, 2022), Imfumbatho – Bloodline at Unit London Gallery (UK, 2021), Umthente Uhlaba Usamila at BKhz Gallery (Johannesburg, 2021), Inkaba Yami at WhatIfTheWorld Gallery (Cape Town, 2020), and has shown in Istanbul, Belgium, the United States, and the United Kingdom through various group exhibitions and fairs, including Expo Chicago (2022), Cape Town Art Fair (2022), AKAA Art Fair (2021), and the International PRIZM Art Fair (2020). Azu Nwagbogu of the African Artists Foundation invited him to join a group exhibition at Frieze London titled “The Medium is the Message, with Unit London Gallery” curated by Azu (UK, 2019).

Luthuli’s selected public art projects demonstrate a sustained engagement with community spaces and urban landscapes. These include mural works at Westown Mall (Durban, 2025), collaboration with McLaren (Johannesburg, 2019), commissioned by Prof. Zanele Muholi for a hand-carved portrait, and later participated in a group exhibition selected by Muholi titled “Ikhono Lase Natali” at A4 Arts Foundation (Cape Town, 2019), mural commission such as the Concordia Tunnel mural (Bremen, 2012), the Don’t Panic mural waterfall bridge project by Gabi Ngcobo (Durban, 2012), Durban public art revitalizations like the BAT Centre mural renewal (Durban, 2011) and Izikhwephe Zethu at Durban Art Gallery (Durban, 2010). He has contributed to numerous workshops, including sessions with Gabi Ngcobo, Zamani Makhanya, Sfiso Ka-Mkame, and Danisile Ncube, exploring themes from Dead Man’s Tree to abstract explorations in homage to Ernest Mancoba.

Luthuli has been recognized with several art awards, including the Ernest Mancoba Art Workshop (Durban, 2013), Third Prize at the KZNSA Gallery membership competition (Durban, 2017), and being the runner-up in the Sasol New Signatures competition (Pretoria, 2017). He was also acknowledged as an outstanding student in 2010 at the BAT Centre for Visual Arts, underscoring his early commitment to artistic excellence.

In addition to his artistic practice, Luthuli has participated in numerous exhibitions that reflect a broad interest in African contemporary discourse and cross-cultural exchange. His work is held in prestigious collections, including the Brooklyn Museum (Public Collection, 2025), Unisa (Public Collection, 2025), the National Art Bank (Public Collection, 2019), the Cape Grace Hotel (Public Collection, 2019), and the University of Pretoria. He has contributed to the cultural landscape through both solo explorations and collaborative projects, shaping a distinctive voice that engages memory, heritage, and the social dimensions of space.



Statement

My art delves into the complexities of contemporary African society, particularly in South Africa. Just as the universe's vastness extends infinitely into the unknown, so too do our own potentials and ambitions. The concept of infinity serves as a reminder that there are no boundaries to what we can achieve and no limits to what we can become.

Within my work, headless figures symbolize our spiritual ancestors, individuals whose identities we cannot pinpoint as we belong to a newer generation. By incorporating these ancestral spirits into my art, I aim to honour their heroism and ensure that their stories and guidance continue to inspire us and future generations. Their legacy serves as a source of empowerment for us to carry forward.

Amidst life's challenges and obstacles, the notion of infinity acts as a wellspring of inspiration and perseverance. It motivates us to persist, urging us to press on even when the road ahead appears arduous. Embracing the power of infinity enables us to access our inner fortitude and resilience, empowering us to surmount difficulties and achieve greater heights.

The masks adorning the figures in my artwork symbolize the unity of diverse African cultures and religions, reflecting the interconnectedness of different tribes and communities. These masks serve as vehicles for storytelling, dance performances, and the celebration of the vast diversity and creativity present within African cultures across the continent. African masks stand as revered artistic expressions and cultural treasures, encapsulating the richness of heritage and traditions within African societies.

Please see below the six works on exhibition. Each work forms part of an edition of five. There are additional colour variations in each edition are available on request.





Circles of Life

Hand painted print on Fabiano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 5 of 5



Africa Unite

Hand painted print on Fabriano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 4 of 5





Power of Infinity

Hand painted print on Fabriano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 2 of 5



Power of Infinity

Hand painted print on Fabriano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 5 of 5

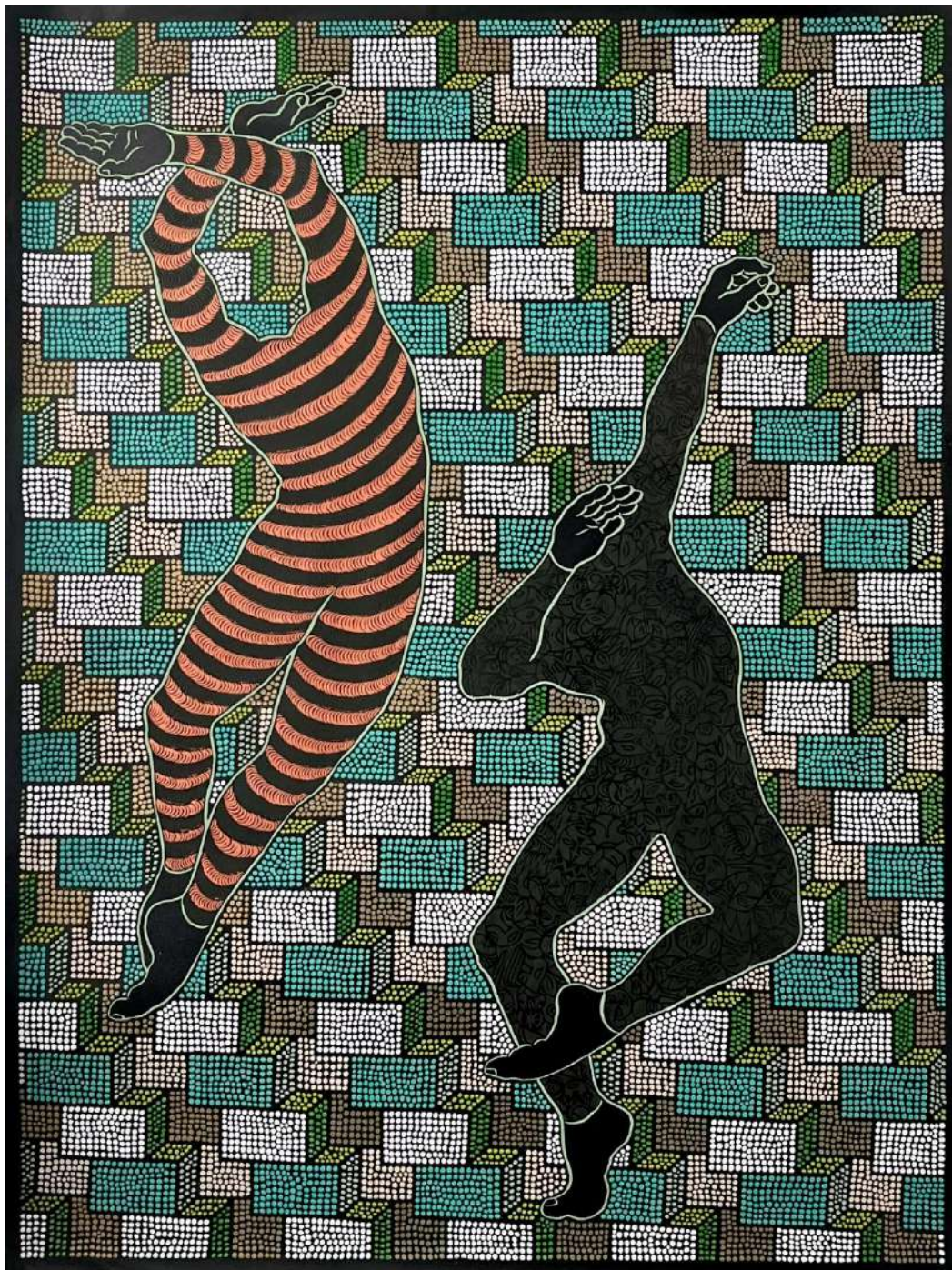


Touch In the Light

Hand painted print on Fabriano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 5 of 5





Udondolo II

Hand painted print on Fabriano paper, 193 x 155cm, 2026.

Ed 5 of 5





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