

Batswana History And Heritage Preservation



Theme: United Communities

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2020 Theme: United Communities

“United Communities” is our 2020 theme, which displays the long prevailing unity among an African grouping of the Batswana speaking community of the Royal Bafokeng nation. The exhibition narrates the historical events that positioned the nation and its people to their current status. Displaying integrity and good governance by our leaders and the involvement of the community. The show displays images of Dikgosi tsa Bafokeng from the times of the legendary Kgosi Mokgatle to the current Kgosi Leruo Tshekeledi Molotlegi. The community participation and involvement through various traditional structures is represented through paintings and sculptures like; Kwena (Bafokeng totem), Bafokeng men who went to Kimberly, Tiro ya kutle (clan duties).

Artist statement

All the Dikgosi images are digital paintings created by Princess Motswana Molotlegi. The choice to use digital art breach traditional values with contemporary structure of life today. Princess Motswana`s paintings are well created artworks with layers on top of layers of vibrant colors resembling wisdom and integrity of our previous and current Dikgosi. The use of computer emphasize the prolonged ability of adaptation, competitiveness, innovation, visionary and ownership embedded in our Dikgosi. These pattern of leadership, relayed from generation after generation is well captured with ethnic and cool colors. The bold vivid colors and background resembling unique approaches by individual Kgosi and the unique contributions. Our Dikgosi, from as early as Kgosi Mokgatle to the current Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi, are extra ordinary men who steered the community to archiving greater things.

Kgosi Mokgatle who ruled from as early as 1800 appears to be an exceptional figure in the history of Bafokeng. During his reign he inspired the community to buy land. A bold move that positioned Bafokeng nation to its current status. This mission archived during the difficult times of colonization inspired all Dikgosi who ruled after him to acquire more land for the future generations of the Bafokeng nation. His achievements display adaptability, visionary, competitiveness, innovative, sustainability and ownership. His era set a high standard for all Dikgosi who ruled after him. Through this kind of leadership the community is united, thriving and growing towards greater achievements.

Artworks by Princess Motswana Molotlegi

Artist statement

Paintings and Sculptures representing community participation and involvement through various traditional structures are created by Rre Tshepang Maelangwe. In his artworks, Rre Tshepang used the traditional mediums of painting and wood carving. The traditional approach emphasizes the Bafokeng traditional structures, customs, morals and values that encourage unity amongst the community members. The images are well painted using two different color palettes; the ethnic pallet and the natural pallet. He used the ethnic pallet to indicate ancient mythology, traditional customs and heritage while the natural pallet is used to display historical practices which are still embedded within this cultural community and the current influence. While he carefully selected and used wood to resemble the ancient traditions of the Batswana mythology, spirituality and proverbs.

The ethnic pallet is used to represent important ancient practices and activities performed by our ancestors to survive for many generations ago. Some of these practices are still in use to date, and some are fading away due to technology, foreign religions and modern influences. This pallet is influenced by the photograph taken during the times of Kimberly mines, showing Bafokeng men returning from the mines. This photograph which is well interpreted into a painting by Rre Tshepang, displays a calm, reasonable and selfless group of men who sacrificed the most in their life for the benefit of the future generations. This painting becomes one of the important artworks in this exhibition as it displays the function of our traditional structures, community participation and involvement.

The realistic pallet is used to represent ongoing practices that are still visible amongst our communities and show traces of united communities. A painting titled “Setlagane sa Bomme” is a good example of a natural pallet. In this painting Rre Tshepang depicted a community ceremony, might it be; Magadi (African wedding), death or any family event. A traditional structure called Kutle (clan), doing its duties to make the ceremony a success. Setlagane, meaning a temporary cooking structure, is usually erected by the uncles or Borre ba Kutle. These structure is always done for both men and women. In this artwork the artist focused on the women structure as most of the catering comes from their side. While Setlagane sa Borre would slaughter and prepare meat for Bomme to cook. Men usually cook traditional meat like; mala-mogodu(tripe), tshotlo and motlholo-isong. The use of cool natural colors display the willingness to help each other and the maturity of knowing that “Magora go sha a mabapi”.

Artworks by Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

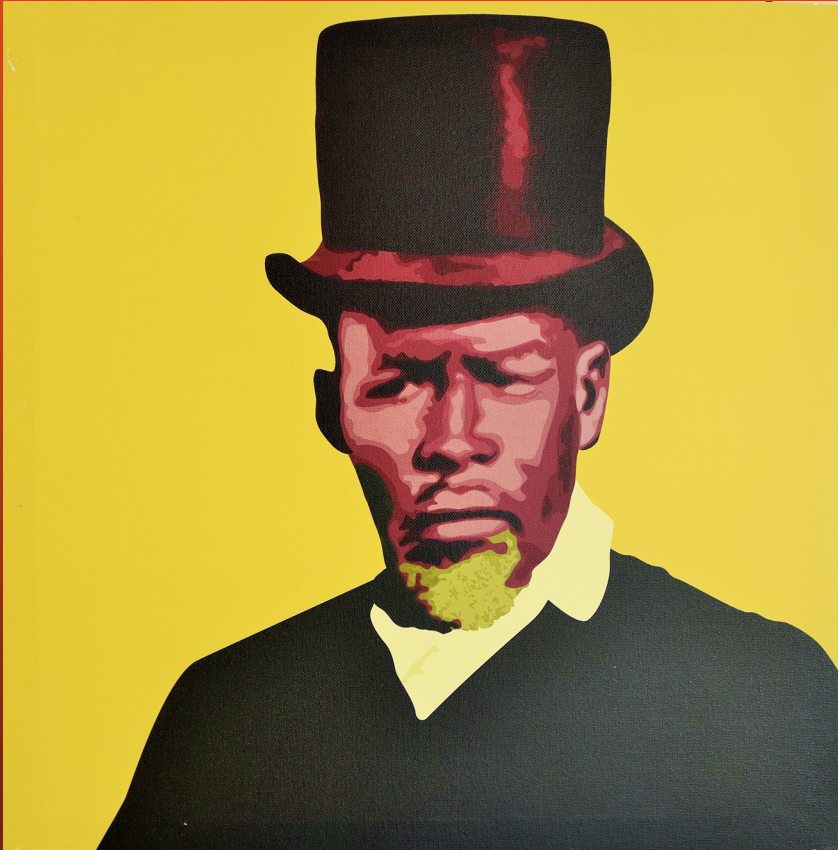


Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Mokgatlhe

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Tumagole

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Diale

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Mmanotshe

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi E. P. L Molotlegi

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Molelwane Molotlegi

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Mme Motswana Molotlegi

Title: Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi
Molotlegi

Medium: Graphic Art & Digital
Printing On Canvas

Size: 29,5x29,5 CM



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Kwena

Medium: Wood

Size: 22 x 12.3 x 12.5 CM

Date: 2018



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Bafokeng men leaving Kimberly (mines) to Phokeng

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 121.8 x 76.3 CM

Date: 2018



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Setlagane sa Bomme

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 84.5 x 59.5 CM

Date: 2018



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Diphiri

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 59.5 x 84.5 CM

Date: 2018



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Lebone II

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas

Size: 25 x 60 CM



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Thuto ke lesedi

Medium: Wood

Size: 76 x 76 CM

Date: 2019



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Ditswa Mmung

Medium: Wood

Size: 13 x 9.5 x 20 CM

Date: 2020



Artist Name: Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Title: Tsie e Fofa ka Moswang

Medium: Wood

Size: 10.5 x 9 x 10 CM

Date: 2020

Contributors

Curator :

Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Artists :

Princess Motswana Molotlegi

Rre Tshepang Maelangwe

Design Layout & Editing :

Rre Karabo Matlala