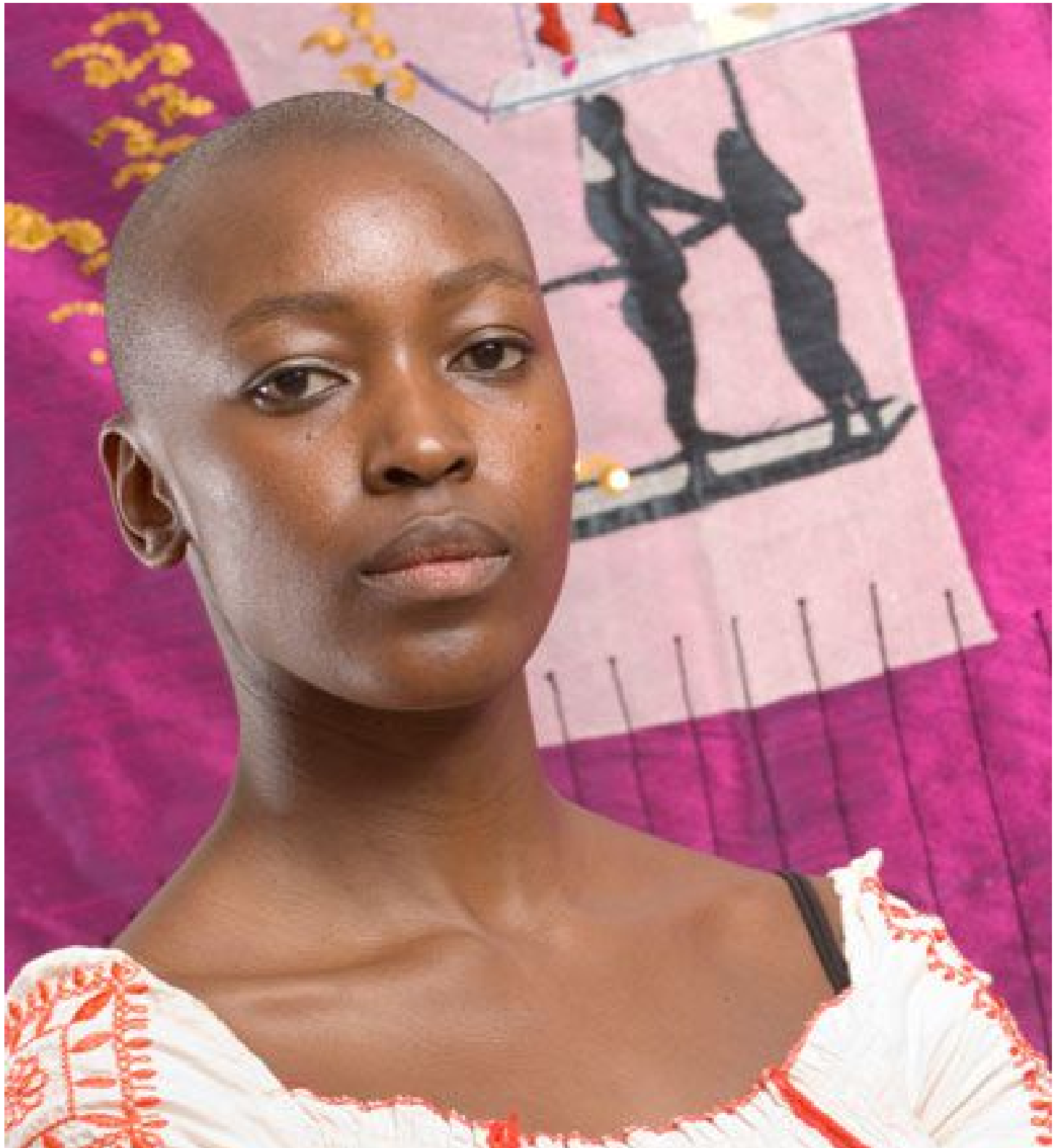


Billie Zangewa is 2018 FNB JoburgArtFair's featured artist

The FNB JoburgArtFair has selected Malawian-born Billie Zangewa featured artist for the 2018 instalment of the fair. The fair will be held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg from 6-9 September 2018.

"After many years of celebrating great artists who reside elsewhere in the world as featured artists, the FNB JoburgArtFair team felt it was time to focus on an artist who lives and works in Johannesburg and expresses lives lived here. Billie Zangewa's quiet work has been included in many prestigious collections and exhibition worldwide, and we are excited to, this year, present a large-scale work to our FNB JoburgArtFair audience," comments fair director Mandla Sibeko.





Billie Zangewa - John Hodgkiss





Vision of Love

Zangewa primarily uses raw silk offcuts to create intricate hand-stitched collages in a flat, colourful style. Her figurative compositions, depicting a woman going about her every day domestic life, explore how women are so often disadvantaged by multiple sources of oppression: race, class, gender identity. She sensitively illustrates this intersectional identity in a contemporary context and challenges the historical stereotyping, objectification, and exploitation of the black female body.

Her narratives are concerned with experience – both personal and universal. Almost always the protagonist in her works, the artist becomes a heroine whose daily life is revealed through the scenes she illustrates. Rather than making grand gestures or overt political statements, they focus on mundane domestic preoccupations, exploring universal themes that connect women to each other.



45 galleries, 15 new exhibitors to show at 11th FNB JoburgArtFair

14 Jun 2018



Over the past year, when much of the world's discourse has centred on gender inequality and violation of women's rights, Zangewa's work represents the historical narrative of women and the implications of inhabiting a female form - the struggles and strengths as well as the perseverance, triumphs, potency and majesty.

"Zangewa's vision of Johannesburg exceeds the steel, glass and concrete infrastructure that constitute this hurried, agitated metropolis," says art critic and writer Sean O'Toole. "What is most striking about her mature work is Zangewa's consistent focus on the social rituals and verdant abundance obscured by her hometown's suburban walls."



Date Night

Born in 1973 in Blantyre, Zangewa has exhibited extensively at institutions both locally and internationally, including at the MASS MoCA (2017), Stedelijk Museum (2017), Studio Museum Harlem (2016), Iziko South African National Gallery (2016), Johannesburg Art Gallery (2016), Guggenheim Bilbao (2015), WIELS (2015), La Maison Rouge (2013) and the Menil Collection (2012). Her work is represented in several notable private and public collections, including the Tate Modern, Stedelijk Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art collections.

“I’m thrilled to be selected as this year’s featured artist for the FNB JoburgArtFair,” Zangewa says. “It is a great honour and I’m proud to be in the company of the other artists chosen before me. Sincere thanks to FNB, Artlogic and my gallery, blank projects, for their support.”

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