

Celebrating Local Talent: Lesotho Artists Shine on Global Stage

15 FEBRUARY 2024



In a celebration of creativity and cultural heritage, Lesotho artists Pitso Lekatsa, Sbusiso Khohlokoane, and Mamotsoko Mohobane have achieved international recognition for their exceptional artwork. Organized by Pioneer Mall, an art competition commemorating His Majesty King Letsie III's 60th Diamond Birthday showcased the talent of local artists and highlighted the importance of global exposure for their work.

The competition, which drew participants from across Lesotho, captured the essence of the nation's cultural richness and artistic prowess. After a rigorous selection process, three artworks, crafted by Lekatsa, Khohlokoane, and Mohobane, were chosen to represent Lesotho on the global stage.

The significance of this achievement lies not only in the recognition of individual artists but also in the broader impact on Lesotho's artistic community. Exposure on an international platform, such as the Main room at Marvilla Art District in Lisbon, provides

invaluable opportunities for local artists to showcase their talent and gain recognition beyond national borders.

For artists like Lekatsa, Khohlokoane, and Mohobane, this exposure is a catalyst for growth and development in their artistic careers. It offers a chance to connect with a wider audience, establish international networks, and ultimately, elevate the status of Lesotho's art scene on the global stage.

In the spirit of supporting and uplifting the artistic community, Moruo Developments Limited's subsidiary, Pioneer Art Initiative, is dedicated to providing resources and opportunities for local artists. Through initiatives like the art competition commemorating His Majesty's birthday, Pioneer Art Initiative aims to nurture talent, foster creativity, and promote cultural exchange within Lesotho and beyond.

Pitso Lekatsa, known as "Deep C," is a shining example of the talent thriving within Lesotho's artistic landscape. Hailing from Rothe, Maseru, Pitso's journey as a self-taught visual artist began at an early age. His passion for art led him to explore various mediums, from hyper-realism to abstract and graffiti. As he delved deeper into his craft, Pitso honed his skills with charcoal, pencils, oil, acrylic, and spray paints, creating intricate and captivating artworks that have garnered attention both locally and internationally.

In 2020, Pitso transitioned into a professional artist, embarking on a journey filled with commissions, interviews, and accolades. His talent has been recognized by esteemed platforms such as Radio Maria, PMR Radio, Bokamoso FM, Public Eye Newspaper, and Lesotho Times Newspaper. Notably, Pitso's artwork caught the eye of the South African media giant, SABC News, leading to a feature interview on February 13th, 2023, following his portrait of the renowned South African celebrity, AKA.

Mamotsoko Mohobane, a passionate artist who breathes life into moments with delicate strokes of charcoal and graphite, shares her artistic journey with profound depth and emotion. From a young age, Mamotsoko discovered the profound connection between shadows and light, igniting her passion for portrait art. In 2022, she achieved a significant milestone by completing her first commissioned artwork, marking a pivotal moment in her artistic venture.

Through her pencil, Mamotsoko weaves narratives that resonate with the intricacies of everyday life, finding beauty in the ordinary and inviting viewers to explore the depth beneath the surface. Charcoal and graphite serve as her trusted companions in this artistic journey, capturing not just scenes but the very essence of the emotions they evoke. Mamotsoko's creativity knows no bounds, as she seamlessly incorporates strings to tell captivating stories through her artwork.

Sibusiso Khohlokoane, better known as "Budah," is a Lesotho-based, self-taught visual artist whose passion for drawing and painting knows no bounds. Specializing in realism



self-portraits and abstract paintings, Budah's artistic journey is characterized by a relentless pursuit of excellence and a deep commitment to his craft.

Since May 2020, Budah has been creating commissioned artworks, utilizing charcoal pencils, paints, and innovative techniques to bring his visions to life. His talent has garnered widespread recognition, leading to features on national television, radio interviews, and publications in newspapers and magazines. Notably, Budah's artwork has been showcased at exhibitions like the "ART, FASHION, AND BEAUTY EXPO" held in Maseru, Lesotho, on June 3rd, 2023.

Driven by a desire to continually evolve and push the boundaries

of his creativity, Budah's goals as an artist extend beyond personal achievement. He aspires to develop new series of artwork, improve his skills, and build stronger professional relationships while sharing his passion for art with the world. With portraits of high-profile individuals like Senegal soccer player Sadio Mane, His Majesty King Letsie III, and South African Hip Hop star Areece gaining viral acclaim on social media, Budah's artistic journey is marked by a dedication to excellence and a profound love for his craft.

In conclusion, the success of Pitso Lekatsa, Mamotsoko Mohobane, and Sibusiso "Budah" Khohlokoane on the global stage exemplifies the immense talent and potential within Lesotho's artistic community. Their dedication, passion, and creativity have not only brought them individual recognition but have also contributed to the cultural enrichment of our nation.

As we celebrate their achievements, let us also recognize the vital role played by organizations like Moruo Developments Limited and its subsidiary, Pioneer Art Initiative. With a steadfast commitment to supporting and uplifting local artists, Pioneer Art Initiative has become a beacon of hope and opportunity for aspiring talents across Lesotho.



As we look to the future, Pioneer Mall's Art Initiative pledges to continue its mission of nurturing and promoting the arts in our country. Through future initiatives and collaborations, we aim to provide even greater support and resources to the vibrant

artistic community of Lesotho. Together, let us embark on a journey of artistic discovery and innovation, ensuring that the legacy of our nation's cultural heritage continues to thrive for generations to come.

With boundless creativity and unwavering determination, the artists of Lesotho are poised to leave an indelible mark on the global stage. Let us stand united in our support for their dreams and aspirations, as we celebrate the richness and diversity of Lesotho's artistic landscape.

Pioneer Art Initiative proudly stands as a testament to the power of art to inspire, unite, and uplift. Together, let us continue to champion the arts and pave the way for a brighter, more vibrant future for all.

