

2024 DALRO VISUAL ARTS MERIT AWARD WINNER

TSHEPO BOPAPE SEA-CRITS IN THE WATER

03 – 30 APRIL 2024



TSHEPO BOPAPE

Tshepo Bopape, the winner of the 2024 DALRO Visual Arts Merit Award is set to present their solo exhibition titled, *Sea-Crits In The Water*, after a nine month long artist residency. In 2024 the Dramatic Artistic Literary Rights Organisation (DALRO) partnered with the Blessing Ngobeni Art Prize Foundation to launch the first ever DALRO Visual Arts Merit Award, won by Tshepo Bopape.

Over the course of nine months, Tshepo was incubated to create a comprehensive body of work for his first ever solo exhibition, in a live -in studio at Ellis House Art Building. The artists chose to conceptualize his exhibition around the concept of Water and its relativity to African Spirituality. The exhibition highlights the artists personal spiritual journey with exciting anecdotes, mythology and nostalgia.

Tshepo Bopape's artistic practice studies and interrogates how beliefs impact our daily lives. His canvases depict deep spiritual inner workings in a quest to find meaning and understanding. His artistic practice does the work of bringing the personal into the public to communally create and share insights. 'Sea-crits in the Water' is a critical study of Water. revealing the truths of its life-giving power. It dives into the unknown, revealing how the Spirit of the Most High may manifest as water, and lead one to acknowledge their higher self. This body of work explores concepts of faith, conspiracy, mythology and indigenous knowledge systems in a celebration of African metaphysics- The science of African people.

Foregrounding the systematically marginalized ancient African knowledge systems, 'Sea-Crits In The Water' invites viewers into a state of prayer, asking and meditation.



EXHIBITION STATEMENT

Tshepo Bopape's artistic practice seeks to study and question how human beliefs impact our lives. His canvases depict deep spiritual inner workings in a quest to find meaning and understanding. His artistic practice does the work of bringing the personal into the public to communally create and share insights. 'Sea-Crits Of The Water' is a critical study of water. Revealing the truths of its life-giving power. It dives into unknowns revealing how the spirit of the most-high may manifest as water, bringing one to knowledge of the higher self. This body of work explores belief, conspiracy, and indigenous knowledge systems in a celebration of African metaphysics- The science of African people. Foregrounding the systematically marginalized ancient African knowledge systems. 'Sea-Crits Of The Water' does this by inviting viewers into a state of prayer, asking and meditation.

Through Bopape's cosmic use of colour, view the Journey of an individual seeking their spiritual home using the natural element of water as a mechanism of transportation and transformation. Suited up in their spiritual cape, a symbol of their supernatural spiritual strength, is a journey of an individual who had been Spiritually and physically away from home and had lost themselves. Seeking self, they travel through the essence of water. Flowing in and out of numerous aquatic encounters. From everyday rituals such as praying over and drinking tap water, bathing, steaming, purging, and cleansing a space, to engaging with natural bodies of water like wells, rivers, rain, and the sea. They discover the magical gifts found in them like sea plants, marine life, and mythical water creatures. This is a journey of healing, a return to one's spiritual home. Which is a place of peace and enlightenment. A point where they feel in alignment with their destiny and purpose. 'Sea-crits Of The Water' reveals how water can be used to transport one to arrive at a place that is their spiritual home.

Water is a Source of Transportation.
Water is a Source of Transformation.
Water is a Source of Healing.
Water is a Source of Resilience.
Water is a Source of Power.
Water is a Source of Alignment.
Water is a Source of Answers.
Water is a Source of Knowledge.
Water is a Source of Cleansing.
Water is a Source of Protection.
Water is Important.
Water is Precious.
Water is a Guide.
Water is Life.
Water is Omnipotent.
Water is Omnipresent.
Water is Secretly The Most High.
The Most High Is in The Water
Water is The Most High.

If we start seeing water not only as a resource. But see water as a spiritual entity. Perhaps that understanding may help us look after our water bodies. Safeguarding it and cleansing it. To restore our reverence and respect for water. Thinking of water as the Most High and beginning to treat it with that divine dignity. If you respect and love the Most High. Respect and Love Water.





O Mahlohonolo, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl. Vat



TSHEPO BOPAPE

SEA-CRITS IN THE WATER

SOLO EXHIBITION

03 – 30 April 2025

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Medupi, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
114.5 x 112.5 cm
R13 800 Incl.VAT





Lefa La Pula I, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
98.5 x 68.5 cm
R8 625 Incl.Vat



Lefa La Pula II, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
98.5 x 68.5 cm
R8 625 Incl.VAT







Tiisetso, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
84.5 x 84.5 cm
R8 625 Incl.VAT

Kolobetso, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
94.9 x 119.8 cm
R12 650 Incl.VAT





Tsireletso, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
122.2 x 94.7 cm
R12 650 Incl. Vat





Falls of Healing (Kolobetso), 2024
Acrylic on canvas
175 x 165 cm
R27 600 Incl. Vat



Sedibeng, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
134 x 94.8 cm
R13 800 Incl. Vat



Sea-Crits In The Water, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl.VAT





Man Meets Water Spirit, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl.VAT



Water Spirit Guide, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl.VAT



Born Again, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl.VAT





Indlondlo Yamanzi/ King of Water, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl.VAT



Beach Boy, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
95.9 x 131.7 cm
R13 800 Incl. Vat

WHERE THE WATERS CALL

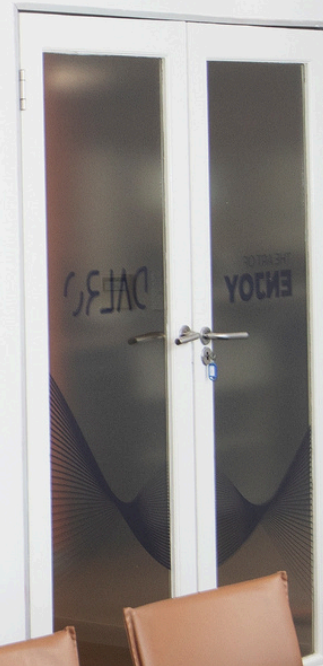
I wandered far, through dust and stone,
My heart unmoored, My soul a clone.
The wind would whisper a call, skies would sigh,
Yet something in the flow of depths drew my eye.
Beyond the hills, beyond the trees,
A silver thread, a transformative wave, a path at ease.
A river sang in liquid tone,
"Come weary soul, find your home."
I knelt beside the rippling gleam,
And dipped into the hospitable stream.
The water knew, the water spoke,
"Come, wash away what once was broke.
A splash of peace stilled my chest,
A spirit at ease, carried long-awaited rest.
Far from temple walls, with no ancient tome,
Just flowing grace—I'd found my home.

Written by Tshepo Bopape

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Bath Time, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
74.5 x 91.6 cm
R8 625 Incl. Vat



Metsi A Halalelang, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
73.5 x 56.5 cm
R6 900 Incl. Vat

The Purge In, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl. Vat





The Purge Out, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
56.5 x 44.5 cm
R5 750 Incl. Vat



Ho Leleka Mafu / Exorcism of Diseases, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
84.5 x 84.5 cm
R8 625 Incl. Vat





CONTACT

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