



ARDHI GALLERY

ROOTS & REINVENTIONS

by

WARAZI COLLECTIVE

featuring

**ODYSSEY
COLLECTIVE**

WARAZI COLLECTIVE



Warazi Art Collective is a Community-based organization based in Nairobi, Kenya dedicated to fostering creativity, innovation and artistic expression. Comprising a diverse group of talented artists and designers, in various fields among fine art, graphic design, interior design, photography, gaming and bamboo technology.

Founded in 2017 WARAZI is swahili slang (sheng) for overzealous people who are successful in disrupting the creative fields by introducing a complete environment, encouraging innovation and exploration for social economic and socialcultural benefits.

In the common interest and focus on ways art and design shapes and transforms culture, society and nature, Warazi came together to forward the realization of individual potential and capacity towards global development. With the intention of creating meaningful change and opportunities, they aim to investigate and persist against some of the challenges like poverty, lack of skills, opportunity identification and exploitation, climate action amongst others. The collective comprises of ; Lawrence C. N. Mwachiro, Teddy Ngando (TNN), Elvis, Stephen Mutuku, Oliver, Barney Ogolla and Teddy Barry Odhiambo.

ODYSSEY COLLECTIVE



The Odyssey Collective, is a newly formed vibrant community of artists united by a shared passion for creativity, expression, and connection. The collective was born out of the belief that art has the power to challenge, heal, and inspire and that when artists come together, something truly extraordinary happens.

Through diverse mediums like paint, print making, sculpture, digital art, and more the collective explores the world around us and within us. But more than just creating art, we aim to spark conversations, build community, and reflect the times we live in.

The Odyssey collective isn't just about individual talent; it's about collaboration, mutual support, and pushing boundaries together.

The Collective comprises of; Marvin Abwao, Valsey and Samuel Muriithi.

EXHIBITION STATEMENT

"Roots & Reinventions brings together the Warazi Art Collective in collaboration with Odyssey Collective to explore how contemporary Kenyan artists anchor themselves in heritage while reshaping it through experimental, sustainable, and innovative practice

The exhibition presents a dynamic spectrum of sculpture, woodcut printing, illustration, digital art, interior concepts, bamboo technology, and upcycled design—each offering a distinct response to the question of how tradition can be reimagined today.

From stainless-steel forms forged from everyday cutlery to surreal illustrations infused with cultural symbolism and pioneering bamboo design solutions, the featured works share a fascination with transformation: of materials, of narrative, and of possibility.

The artists approach their roots with deliberate reinvention—reclaiming discarded objects, reframing cultural memory, and proposing new aesthetic and ecological futures.

Together, these voices reflect a modern Africa in motion, where inherited knowledge and contemporary ingenuity continually inform one another. Roots & Reinventions positions Ardhi Gallery as a site of encounter between past and future, inviting viewers to engage with artworks that reshape familiar histories and open space for new imagination.



ARDHI GALLERY

LAWRENCE C.N MWACHIRO



ARTIST BIO

Lawrence C. N. Mwachiro is a Kenyan visual artist and illustrator based in Nairobi. A graduate of the Buru Buru Institute of Fine Art, his work draws deeply from African culture, heritage, and contemporary social themes.

Mwachiro has produced impactful illustrations addressing issues such as domestic violence, post-election trauma, and community healing for Green String Network's Muamko Mpya and Kumekucha projects, as well as visual work for TED Talk x Sprints Climate Change 2025. His artwork has been showcased at prominent spaces including the Railway Museum, the National Museum of Kenya, and the Nairobi Gallery. In addition, he was a participant in the 2019 BIC Africa Competition and exhibited internationally at The Hawke Centre in Australia

ARTIST STATEMENT

"Wahenga na Wahenguzi"—the ancients and the great ancestors—is a series honoring the enduring wisdom of past generations. These portraits blend ritual markings, vibrant flora, birds, and symbolic elements to depict the deep connection between human identity, nature, and ancestral memory. Each figure becomes a living landscape: hair transforms into forests and clouds, markings echo spiritual maps, and surrounding patterns act as portals linking the past and present. Through this fusion of body and environment, the works explore how ancestral knowledge continues to guide and shape us. This series is a visual tribute to those who walked before us—reminding us that their voices, teachings, and energy still live within and around us.



MHENGA II

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



MHENGA IV

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



MHENGA III

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



MHENGA V

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



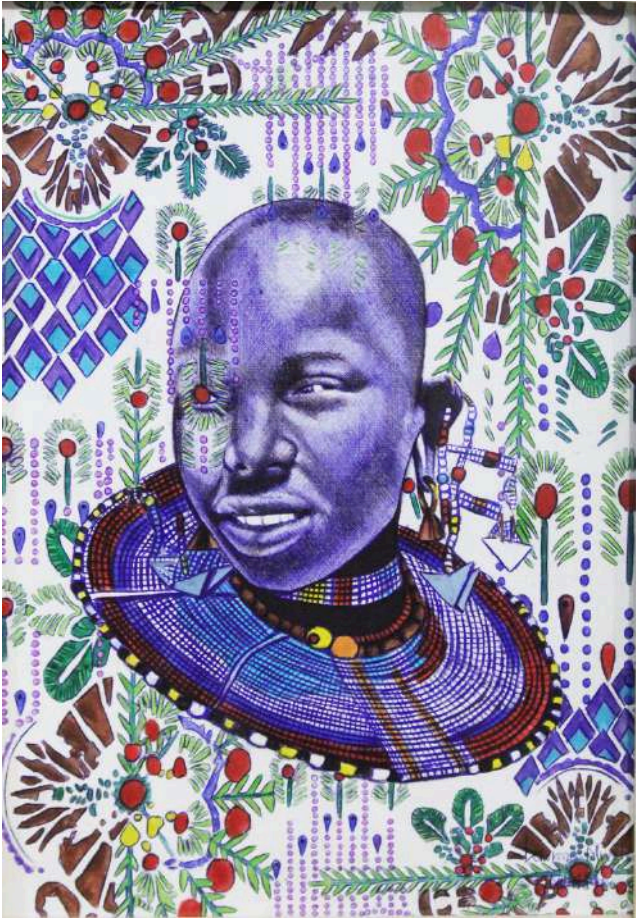
MHENGA I

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



CROWN OF THE FIRST LIGHT

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 85cm x 85cm |
| Price: | USD 660 |



MHENGA VII

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |



MHENGA VI

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Medium: | Mixed Media on Paper |
| Dimensions: | 34cm x 44cm |
| Price: | USD 275 |

BARNEY OGOLLA



ARTIST BIO

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, he began cultivating his artistic practice at an early age, initially working with pencil as a primary medium. What started as a quiet form of personal expression gradually developed into a dedicated pursuit and a clear artistic vision: to create impactful, large-scale works that communicate with clarity and depth beyond verbal language.

His practice is distinguished by a considered approach to composition, texture, and color. Each piece is constructed through intentional brushwork and thoughtful material exploration, resulting in artworks that evoke emotion, invite reflection, and foster meaningful engagement with viewers. Themes of beauty, memory, and human experience are central to his work, expressed through a visual language that is both expressive and refined.

Today, his paintings serve as an extension of his inner sensibilities—articulating ideas and emotions through form rather than words. For him, art is not merely the application of paint, but a disciplined and purposeful process that reveals the emotional and conceptual layers of the artist's world.



ECHOES OF THE CULTURE

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Dimensions: 94cm x 75cm
Price: USD 462



RESILIENCE IN BLOOM

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Dimensions: 94cm x 81cm
Price: USD 462



THE ASCENDED 9

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Dimensions: 66cm x 43cm
Price: USD 330



THE CELESTIAL QUEENS

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas
Dimensions: 66cm x 43cm
Price: USD 330

MARVIN ABWAO



ARTIST BIO

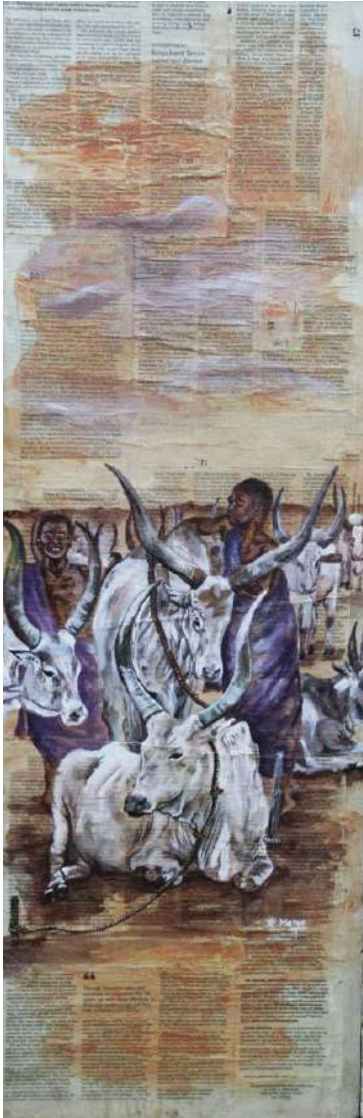
Marvin Abwao is a Kenyan artist who was born in 1993 and specializes in watercolor and acrylic painting. He studied at the Buru Buru Institute of Fine Arts and graduated in 2017. His goal is to show accurately the beauty of the human figure, nature and wildlife with all its elements, past cultures and beauty of tradition, as well as beautiful sceneries and scenarios in the world around him. He strives to achieve this by using bold colors and African print patterns.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Since I was child I would create different kinds artworks from any and everything I could lay my hands on, as my understanding of the world grew so did my style and the more I aimed to convey human emotions, messages past and present environments and documenting change in culture and as well as evolution of art.

My goal is to show accurately the beauty of the human figure, nature and wildlife with all its elements, past cultures and beauty of tradition, as well as beautiful sceneries and scenarios in the world around me. I try to achieve this through using bold colors and also African print patterns.

My mediums of choice are watercolor and acrylics on newspaper print. These mediums allow me to increase my precision, capture light, show life expressions in fine detail, my developing style was as result of trying to emulate Da vinci's sketches thus making my aim to create something new yet familiar.



ANKOLE CATTLE

Medium: Acrylic on Newspaper print
Dimensions: 90cm x 30cm
Price: USD 308



CARMEL

Medium: Acrylic on Newspaper Print
Dimensions: 90cm x 60cm
Price: USD 495



POLKA

Medium: Acrylic on Brown Paper
Dimensions: 80cm x 60cm
Price: USD 440



FAMILIAR

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Medium: | Acrylic on Newspaper Print |
| Dimensions: | 32cm x 32cm |
| Price: | USD 137 |



GREEN EYED MONSTER

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Medium: | Acrylic on Newspaper Print |
| Dimensions: | 100cm x 100cm |
| Price: | USD 769 |



STRIPED

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Medium: | Acrylic on Brown Paper |
| Dimensions: | 65cm x 45cm |
| Price: | USD 330 |

TEDDY NGANDO (TNN)



ARTIST BIO

Teddy Ngando (TNN) was born in March 4th 1993 in Kirinyaga County , Kenya.

He studied a diploma in interior design at Buru Buru institute of fine arts. Current Secretary and Head of operations at Warazi art collective Organization . He is the founder and executive Director at BAMBE, a bamboo enterprise focusing in beauty accessories. He practices mixed media art in drawing, painting, woodcut printing, sculpture, mosaic art, recycling and photography.

He engages in interior design in innovation of sustainable and durable of various house hold accessories. He exploits fashion design in the creation of sustainable beauty accessories. He has exhibited widely in Nairobi where he advocates conservation and sustainability through his various projects. He has exhibited in Kenya over the years at; Kenya National Museum, Nairobi art Gallery, Dari Restaurant, Dusti D2, Bonzo art Gallery, Karen Country Club, International School of Kenya (ISK), Mckinsey&Company, Kioko art Gallery. He has also participated in many local pop up markets: Pop up and chill, Art in the open @ Village Market, Alchemist and others. He has also been involved in community exercises in training the youths and locals in bamboo technology in partnerships with Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) and International Bamboo And Rattan Organization (INBAR) He works in a creative collective known as Warazi Art Collective together with other creatives, in mentoring and creating opportunities through Art and Design. Warazi Art Collective is a CBO that was started in 2017 by 10 artists in various fields among fine art, graphic design, interior design, photography, gaming and bamboo technology. He lives at Komarock estate Nairobi.

ARTIST STATEMENT

“Growing up in the rural landscapes of Kerugoya, Kirinyaga County, I was captivated by the rich textures found in nature, trees, stones, and the soil. As a child, my curiosity was especially drawn to sawdust, a byproduct of the frequent tree cutting around our homestead. Fascinated by this material, I began crafting small, imagined homesteads atop the sawdust mounds, using them as playful models of an evolving environment. Years later, this early passion resurfaced in my art practice. I turned to recycling sawdust from my workshop, incorporating it into mixed media paintings. My research led me to the powerful aerial landscape photography of Yann Arthus-Bertrand, whose work profoundly influenced my thematic direction. Inspired by his imagery, I sought to highlight both the fragile beauty of our Earth and the devastating consequences of unconscious deforestation. Over time, I came to see my artworks as vessels for the "resting souls" of trees—the sawdust representing the life force that bleeds when a tree is cut. Repurposing this material allowed me to honor what was lost and breathe new life into the remnants. My journey as a recycling artist also introduced bamboo into my practice—an abundant, sustainable alternative to wood.

Today, I integrate bamboo sawdust from my design workshop into my paintings, adding new layers of texture and meaning. Through this work, I hope to inspire both local and international artisans to explore and embrace bamboo as a medium for sustainable creativity and expression. The following mixed media paintings are part of an ongoing series titled Emergence, which I began in 2019. Through this body of work, I aim to emphasize the evident changes in our climate, reminding us that even the largest challenges are solved through small, conscious actions.”



THE FLOW

Medium: Saw Dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 39cm x 45cm
Price: USD 198



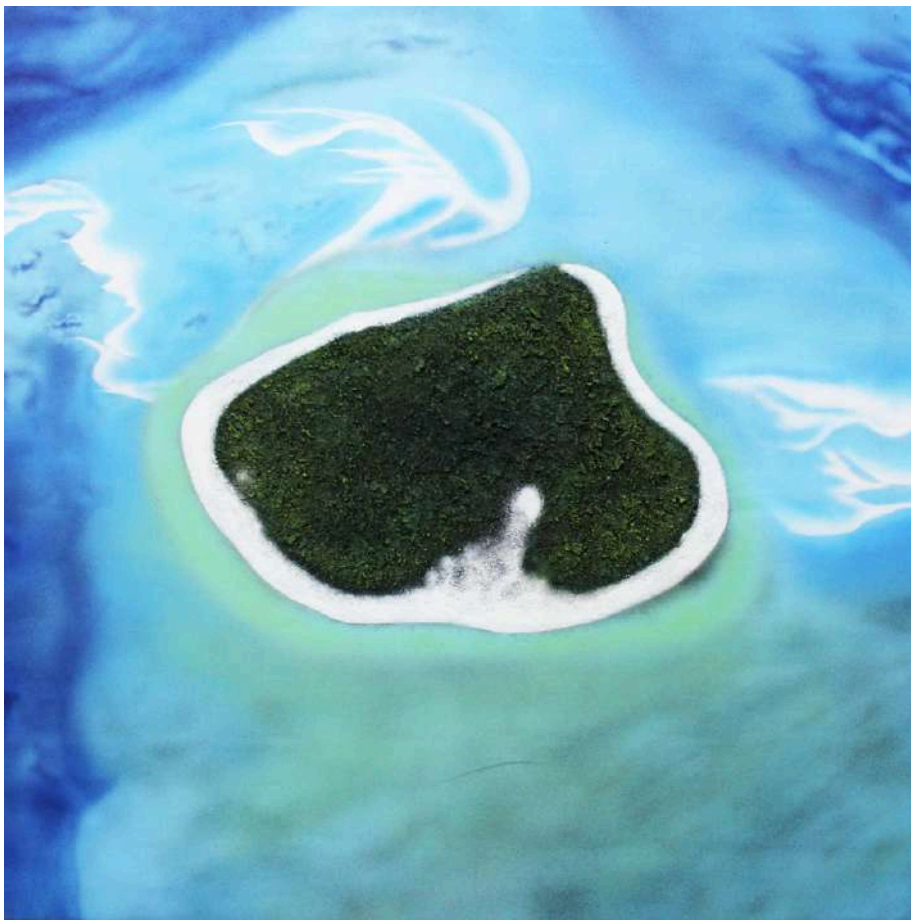
HIDDEN REALM

Medium: Saw Dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 33cm by 40cm
Price: USD 198



MEANDERS

Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 39cm x 45cm
Price: USD 253



BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 100 cm x 100 cm
Price: USD 550



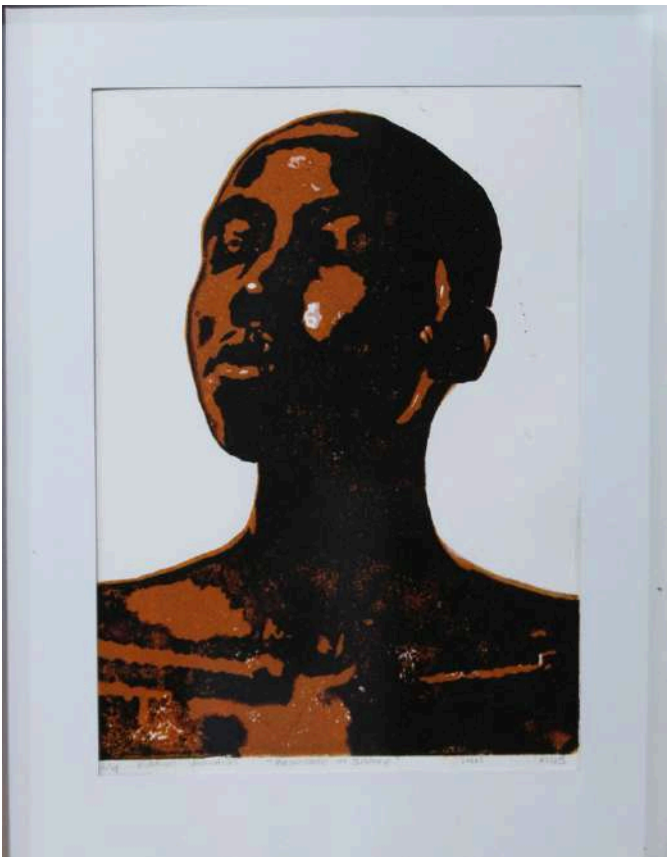
CIRCULAR ISLE

Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 100 cm x 100 cm
Price: USD 550



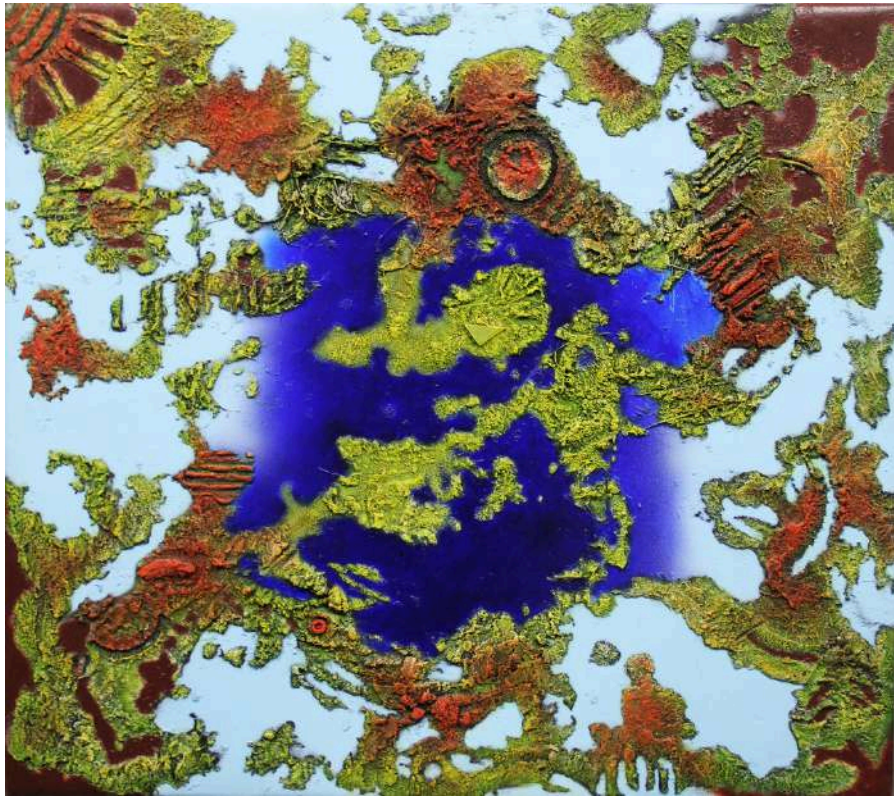
BECOMING (1 OF 4)

Medium: Wood cut Print on paper
Dimensions: 20cm by 30cm
Price: USD 198



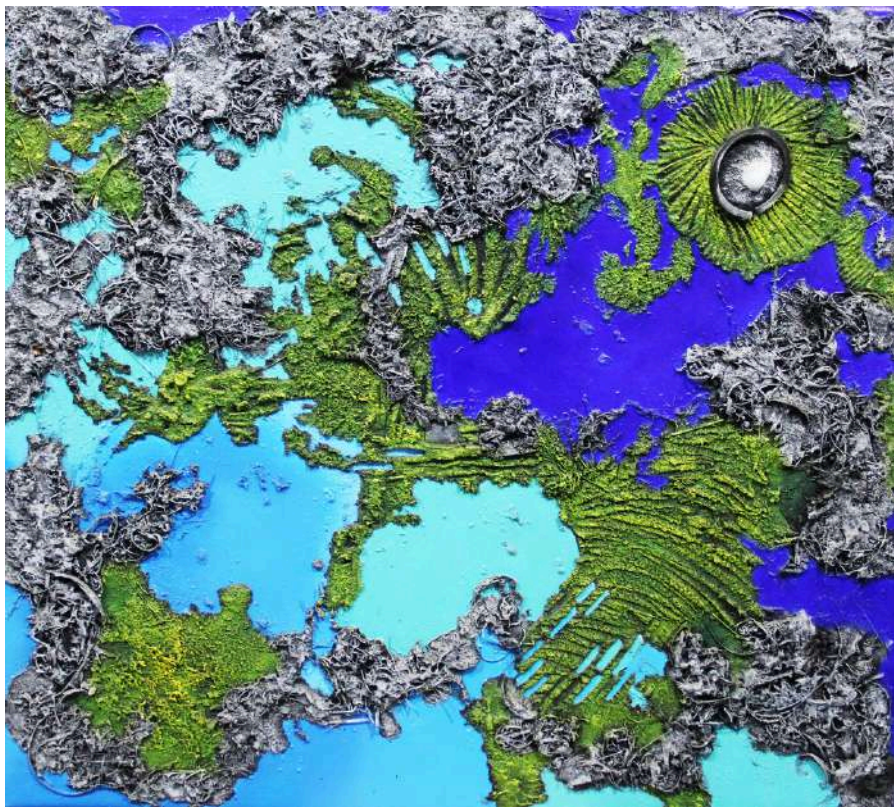
RESONANCE IN SILENCE (1 OF 4)

Medium: Wood cut Print on paper
Dimensions: 20cm by 30cm
Price: USD 198



EARTH REALM I

Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 80cm x 90cm
Price: USD 495



EARTH REALM II

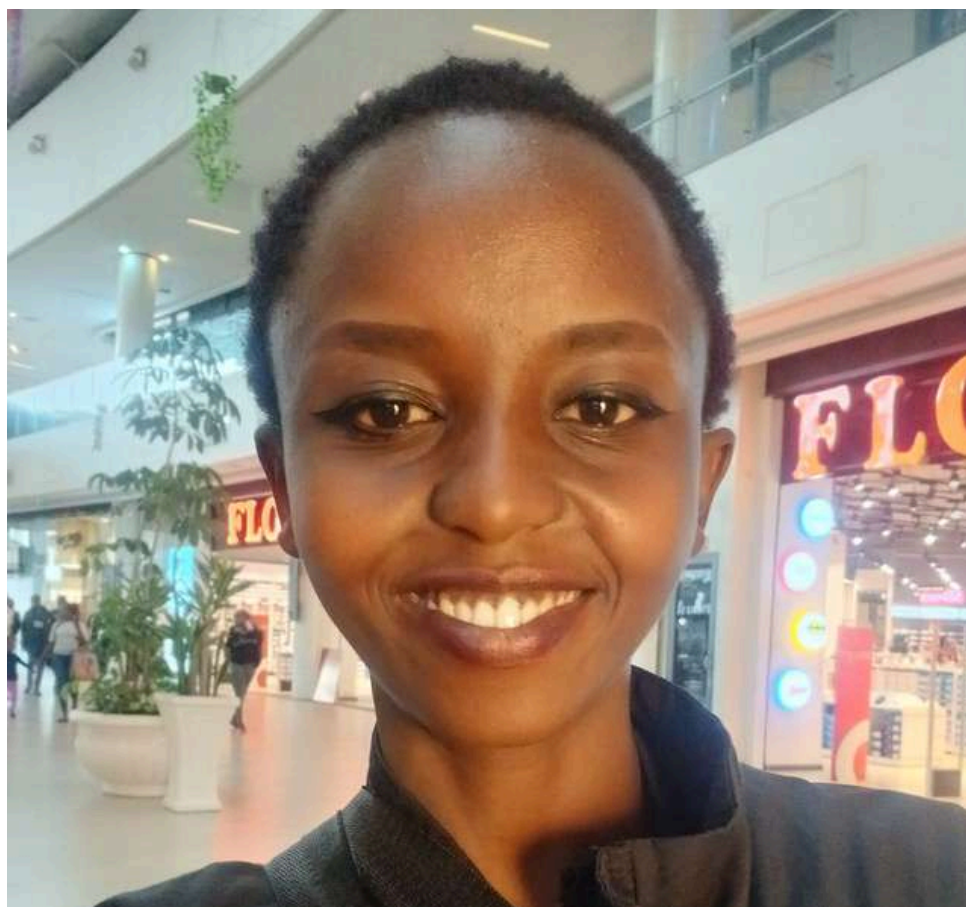
Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 80m x 90cm
Price: USD 495



KOO HAA

Medium: Saw dust & Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 100cm x 100cm
Price: USD 550

VALSEY



ARTIST BIO

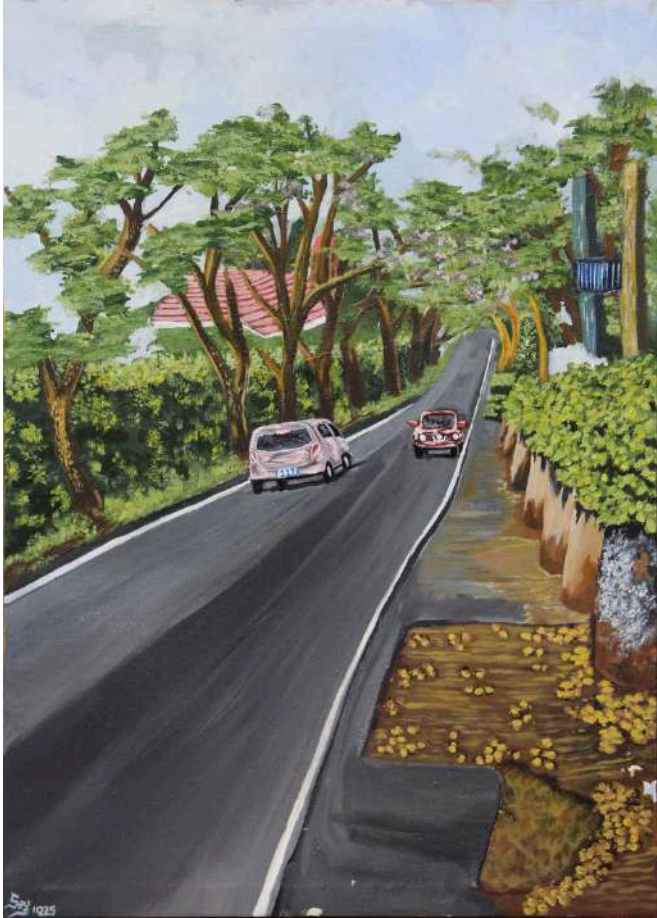
Valsey is a contemporary Kenyan visual artist whose impressionist-leaning palette and symbolic storytelling invite viewers into a world where color becomes intuition and emotion. Recently recognized in a national art competition, she continues to explore a unique fusion of impressionism and symbology—crafting works that honor nature, human behavior, and inner transformation. Each piece is created with the intention to spark connection, reflection, and long-lasting value for collectors who appreciate art with depth, spirit, and evolving meaning.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Observation has always been a niche of mine. From observing my environment and the people in it as well as their mannerisms, i get the inspiration to capture scenarios, events and immortalize them on different mediums with my own perspective.

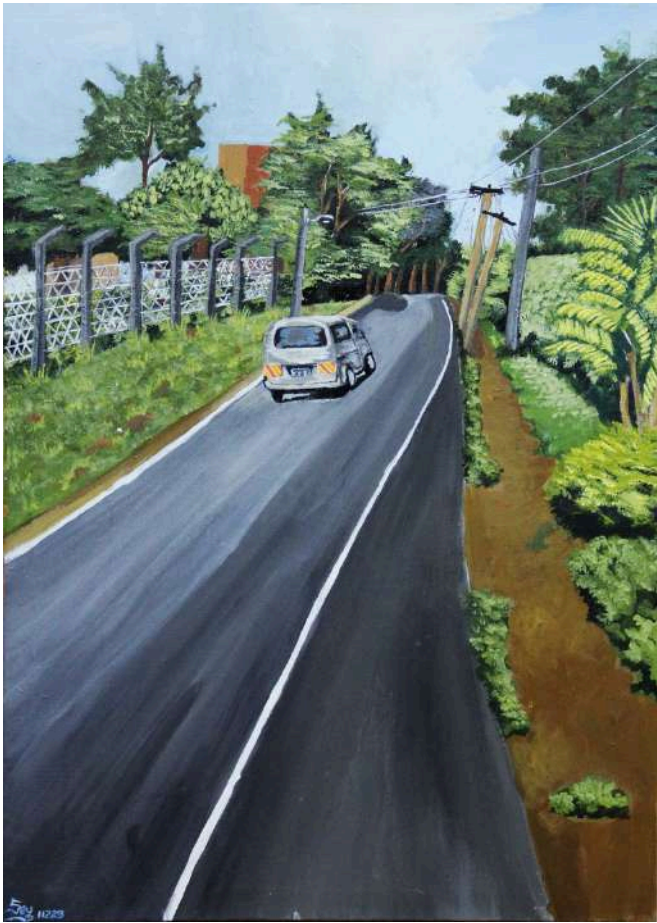
Since art is quite subjective, no medium defines me as i purpose to use any medium to express my vision.

My style of witty colors resonates with my inner child as she is playful and loves to experiment with color. I long to live an imprint of my philosophies that will inspire future generations to share their own authentic truths with the world."



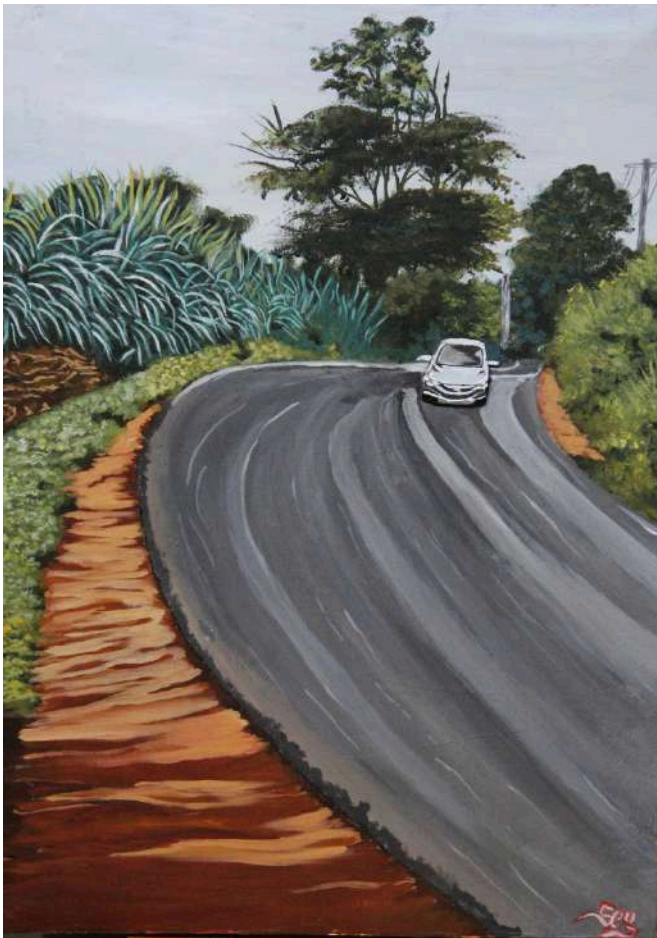
MTAA IV

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440



MTAA V

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440



MTAA II

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440



MTAA VI

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440



MTAA I

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440



MTAA III

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 70cm x 50cm
Price: USD 440

LEEVANS LINYERERA

ARTIST BIO

Linyerera Leevans, is a 33-year-old artist, and say he owes my amazing journey to his late mother. "Art is how I authentically express myself," he often says, and means it with every stroke, every line, and every shade. He starts each piece with careful planning, reflecting on his thoughts, dreams, and the stories he carries within. To him, the journey is just as important as the end result, and often the raw, unfiltered expressions speak the loudest. Interhuman relations as well as environmental issues are his inspiration. I use acrylics, oil, charcoal, and unconventional mediums. Amongst others,

Award; 1st prize professional artist at the GODOWN Centre (Manjano exhibition)

Exhibited; (solo) at the British Institute in East Africa, at Kerry Packer Civil Gallery in Adelaide (Australia)

Group exhibition at Circle Art Gallery (ke), sheft eye Gallery (ke), Alliance franchise (ke), Attic art space, and numerous venues in East Africa

ARTIST STATEMENT

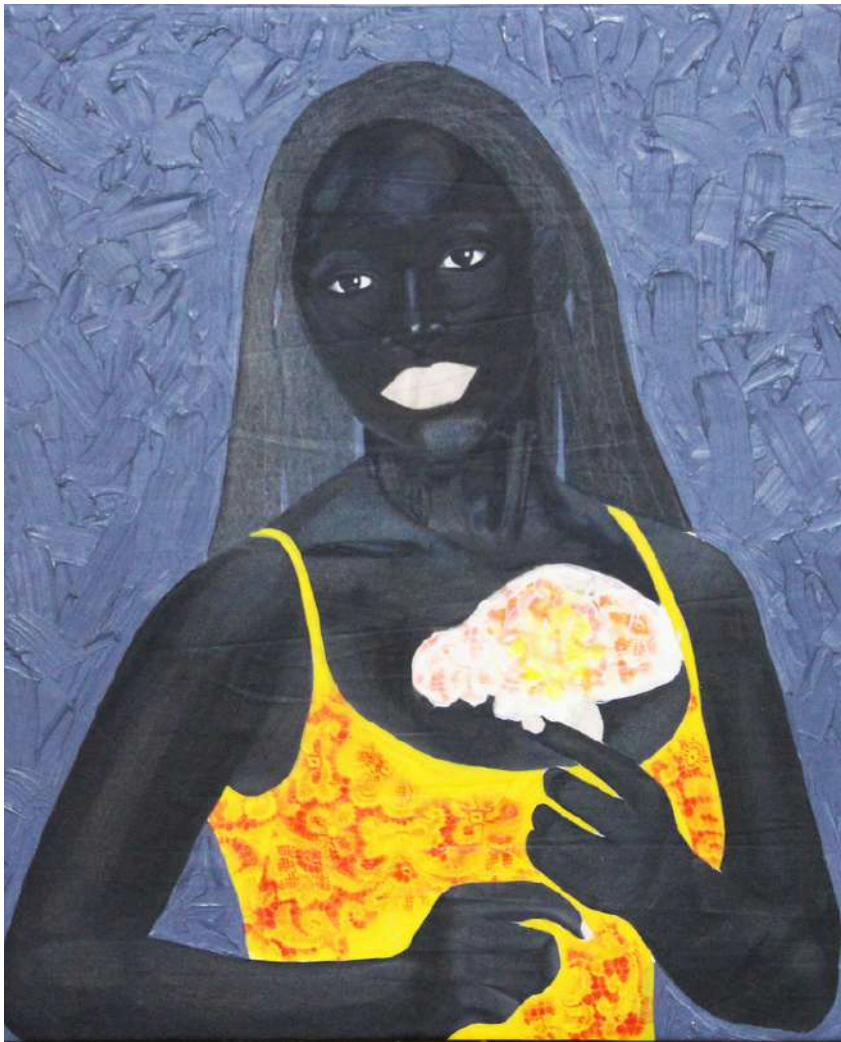
In this series, Linyerera captures Nairobi in motion the tenderness of everyday labour, the urgency of collective uprising, and the quiet radiance of youth.

Her Walk, His Work places a passing woman beside a cobbler at work, set against an abstracted city. It reflects the dignity of ordinary lives and the journeys that unfold in the margins of the urban day.

Liberation draws from the June 25, 2024 protests, reimagining the young man on a police horse as a symbol of collective imagination. Through abstraction, the moment becomes myth a gesture of courage transformed into shared story..

Moonlight returns to intimacy: a Black girl on a black ground, her smile like a crescent moon and her eyes bright as stars. The painting honours joy as resistance, and the quiet hope that follows struggle.

Together, the three works trace a narrative of labour, rupture, and renewal a city where the ordinary and the transformative coexist, shaping futures from the ground up



MOON LIGHT

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 85cm x 90cm
Price: USD 900



LIBERATION

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 120 cm x 150cm
Price: USD 1524



HER WALK,HIS WORK (NAIROBI SERIES)

Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 1.5m x 3m
Price: USD 5540

STEPHEN MUTUKU



ARTIST BIO

Stephen Mutuku is a Nairobi-based graphic designer and visual creative with over eight years of professional experience in the design field. He works as a self-employed graphic designer, producing brand identities, visual communication materials, and creative solutions for a wide range of clients. He is a graduate of the Buru Buru Institute of Fine Arts, holding a Diploma in Art and Design with a specialization in Graphic Design. Stephen is also the founder of Wafrika, a screenprinting brand through which he creates original posters and apparel that highlight contemporary urban culture and African identity. In addition to his design practice, he contributes to digital storytelling as a content creator for Hii Story Channel, blending visual design with narrative and cultural research. As the Assistant Chairman of Warazi Art Collective, Stephen plays an important role in coordinating projects, supporting artists, and fostering collaboration within the group. His work across print, apparel, digital media, and community-focused art reflects his commitment to creative innovation, cultural expression, and accessible design.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The question of why God is often referred to as "He" while nature is called "Mother" sparks curiosity in Steve. This inquiry led to a study of women, particularly the contrast between the traditional and modern African woman. Women possess an innate power, a force capable of transforming the Earth into a better place when they fully understand their potential. Inspired by this realization, attention was drawn to three remarkable African women who have left an indelible mark on the world through their inspiring actions: the late Prof. Wangari Maathai, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Miriam Makeba. To honor their legacies and raise awareness, a series of three art prints was created. These works aim to inspire not only women but all individuals to pursue purposeful lives. The art highlights that achieving one's dreams is simple in concept but often fraught with challenges. Curved lines within the pieces symbolize the obstacles these women faced on their journeys, serving as a reminder of the resilience required to make a meaningful impact.



MIRIAM MAKEBA (1 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



MIRIAM MAKEBA (2 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



MIRIAM MAKEBA (3 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



MIRIAM MAKEBA (4 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
(1 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
(2 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
(3 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
(4 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



WANGARI MAATHAI
(1 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



WANGARI MAATHAI
(2 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



WANGARI MAATHAI
(3 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110



WANGARI MAATHAI
(4 OF 5)

Medium: Screen Print on Paper
Dimensions: 33cm x 46cm
Price: USD 110

SAMUEL MURIITHI



ARTIST BIO

Muriithi Samuel b1996, is an artist based Nairobi. His curiosity in drawing and painting started in his childhood and later pursued a fine arts degree at Kenyatta University. Muriithi's work usually revolves around his personal life, childhood and social political commentary on the Kenyan society. His work is characterized by "humanised" animals in his fantastical world, side by side with human figures and still life. Often, his subjects are derived from lived experiences and people he meets. Samuel believes that the objects, activities and people that surround oneself mirror the society we are in. In his work, he lives to have fun on his canvases, not only to depict and critique but also to amuse and fascinate. Some of the exhibitions he has participated in include; The yellow exhibition at oneoff gallery, Manjano exhibition at Alliance Francaise, Tiny Christmas exhibition at oneoff gallery, The ISK FOTA art exhibition, The affordable show exhibition, TNR auction at oneoff gallery, featured in the Kenya arts diary 2024 and The Emerging Painters Invitational auction hosted by Strauss and Co.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is a representation of life, imagination and state of being. I see my canvases as a mystical land where I hold the power to will my reality forward. I utilize my surrealistic style to make socio-political commentary in my work. Making use of fictional characters often in form of animals, literature and stories rooted in life and society. I believe works of art should be appealing to look at, have a sense of childhood wonder and speak beyond simple imagery to move the spirit. I intend to make paintings that not only comment and record history but also influence it.



CITY FLOWER (CITY BUS)

Medium: Acrylic on Paper
Dimensions: 55cm by 43cm
Price: USD 165



SEMA MILELE

Medium: Acrylic on Paper
Dimensions: 40cm by 49cm
Price: USD 110

OLIVER



ARTIST BIO

Oliver is a contemporary sculptor whose practice explores transformation, balance, and the hidden poetry within everyday materials. Working primarily with stainless steel cutlery and reclaimed metal, he reshapes discarded objects into expressive human and abstract forms that speak to resilience, adaptation, and social reflection. Based in Nairobi, Oliver draws inspiration from urban life, local craftsmanship, and the intersection between function and form. His sculptures often carry subtle narratives—figures frozen in motion, gestures of unity, or symbolic pursuits—inviting viewers to see beauty and meaning in the overlooked. Through his work, Oliver celebrates sustainability and creativity as acts of renewal, using metal not only as a medium of permanence but also as a metaphor for human strength and transformation. His sculptures have been exhibited in community art spaces and continue to gain recognition for their ingenuity and depth.



NI BEBE

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 55



GUARDIAN

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 22



A PERCH

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 165



TAFADHALI

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 22



UNTITLED

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 55



DOLLAR FISHER

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 198



GROOVING

Medium: Recycled Stainless steel cutlery
Price: USD 71