

Art For Hope

catalogue 2015



Catalogue of the Art For Hope project in association with Fordham University and the University of Pretoria service and learning Ubuntu initiative 2015.

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Sponsor: University of Pretoria, Fordham University, Alphajo Jallow, GoFundMe

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ART FOR HOPE



ABOUT...

Soshanguve South Secondary School is a publicly funded school situated in Soshanguve, which is a township in Gauteng province, South Africa. Since its inception in 2009, the school continues to provide education to less privileged kids of the Soshanguve community, who in the past had to travel miles to attend school. From my immediate analysis, I will describe Soshanguve South Secondary School (Soshanguve S S) as a school of hope. Looking around, I can't help but notice severe poverty, which is a global concern, but the manner in which it is deeply rooted in the community bothered me. As a young activist, keeping my silence goes against all my values. I saw an opportunity to join and help a community, but also an opportunity to learn and grow together with the community.

Involvement: Fordham University through its Ubuntu program provided me with the opportunity to study abroad at the University of Pretoria for 5 months. Part of my service learning component includes going to poor townships, community centers, and schools to lend a hand in various forms. I chose to help Soshanguve S.S.S by using art, which is my passion. Art has played a crucial role in my development as a young adult and a professional, it has helped me tell my story and sell my story to the world which has been the most fulfilling aspect of my life so far. Through Project Ubuntu, I want to use art as platform for these kids to communicate their stories, hopes, dreams and aspirations in life. This community is highly infiltrated by substance abuse, gangs, teenage pregnancy and extreme poverty, which to some extent, have created an atmosphere of hopelessness. I want to find ways to keep some of these kids- some of whom are extremely talented- away from this societal menace





RECYCLING...



PROJECT OBJECTIVES...

How do we keep these kids engaged in a productive and educational manner, but also, how do we help create a sense of worthiness and a sense of purpose in them?

Project Ubuntu seeks to answer these questions by using recyclable materials from within the township to create 10 works of art over the next 15 weeks. I will be painting with students who are either interested in art or would love to be part of creative project that will enhance their community. Through the active involvement of community leaders, stake holders, and the University of Pretoria, at the end of the 15 weeks period, I will hold an art exhibition for the students at the University of Pretoria, were important community leaders, local businesses and partners of Soshanguve S.S.S will be invited in an attempt to auction all the paintings to help raise funds for the high school. All proceeds will be geared towards student success. They include, but are not limited to the creation of a scholarship fund for graduating students who have demonstrated exceptional academic, artistic and leadership abilities and have demonstrated despairing need for financial assistance. The funds also will be used to help students buy text books, uniforms and so forth. Knowing this project will help tell stories, a canvas of hopes, dreams and also facing their fears, gives me the ultimate satisfaction. There is no way we can help these kids believe in themselves if they already have a limited vision of who they are and through art we can expand their horizons of possibilities.

In closing, some wise words from Desmond Tutu – “A person with Ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed.”







CURATORIAL PREFACE...

The Art for Hope exhibition, consisting of the work of highschool learners of Soshanguve South Secondary is conceptualised from the theme of Storytelling hoping to entice memories, identity and belonging which reflects in the art. The daily reality of living in the township means to be part of the accumulated effects of histories and events in that space. This condition influences their sense of belonging and identity in the urban space as well as sheds light on the structures used to construct collective and individual memory. The retelling and the representation of such histories and events help us to understand our lived space better and fully appreciate its complexities.

The student works on this exhibition articulates these themes by being aware of the current affairs happening around them such as in the work of students who were horrified by the atrocious nature of the xenophobic attacks and how it affected their communities as well as themselves as individuals. This reflected in their artwork titled "*Africa Shine*" (right) which seeks to tell Africans to unite so that we can stand strong as one continent undivided and shine owing to the wealth of our continents diversity, resources and most importantly, cultures.



The meaning behind this painting is to show that Africa is losing it's colors due to Xenophobia in South Africa. Numerous Africans in South Africa are scared to even come to South Africa. There are wars in other countries and girls in schools have been kidnapped from school as well as tourists travelling by boat being captured and even tortured, some even killed. The colors that are coming out of Africa and division in the continent shows that we are losing the beauty of the continent and that we no longer share the same, love, care and respect for one another that the premise of our continent is grounded upon.

-Koketso Mokuwena

2015

Africa Shine
left
various artists
mixed media



2015

Our Loving Parents
above
various artists
mixed media

2015

Say No to Xeno
right
various artists
mixed media

I feel like this painting was about my parents, African parents and the ways in which they work hard to protect us.....

Making sure we don't sleep with empty tummies and how try their best to become the best parents a child could ask for.....

They might not seem to be the best parents in other people's eyes but to me they are the best parents I could ask for...

This painting has actually taught me to always be grateful to what God gave us and always be thankful. This painting taught me to always be grateful for what my parents offer me.

It also talks about my life, my future, my everything.

- Zanele Cossa



2015

Hometown
left
various artists
acrylic on canvas



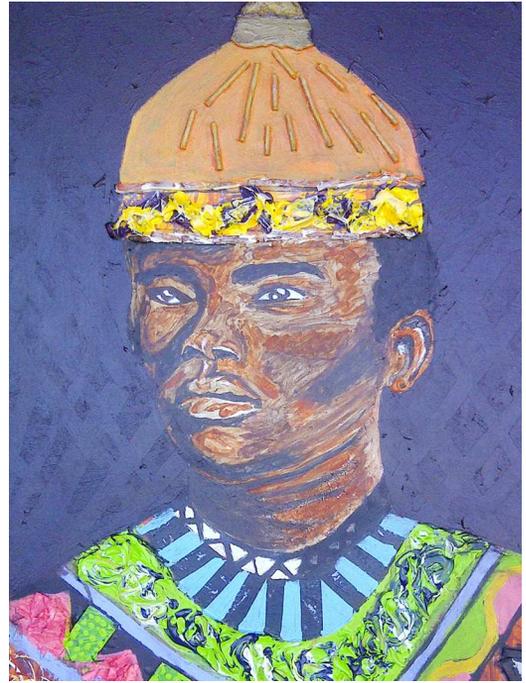
2015

Diamond Flames
right
various artists
mixed media



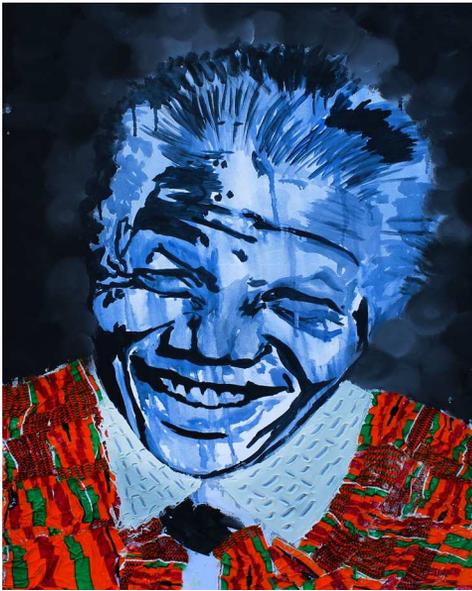
2015

African Queen
below
various artists
mixed media



2015

Traditional man
above
various artists



You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone.

- Nelson Mandela

2015
Madiba Magic
above
various artists
mixed media

2015
Mama Makeba
right
various artists
mixed media





2015

Kasi Vibes
above
various artists
mixed media

2015

Hometown Glory
right
various artists
mixed media







2015

Mmatlala II
above
Goitseone Moerane
mixed media



2015

Mmatlala III
right
Goitseone Moerane
mixed media

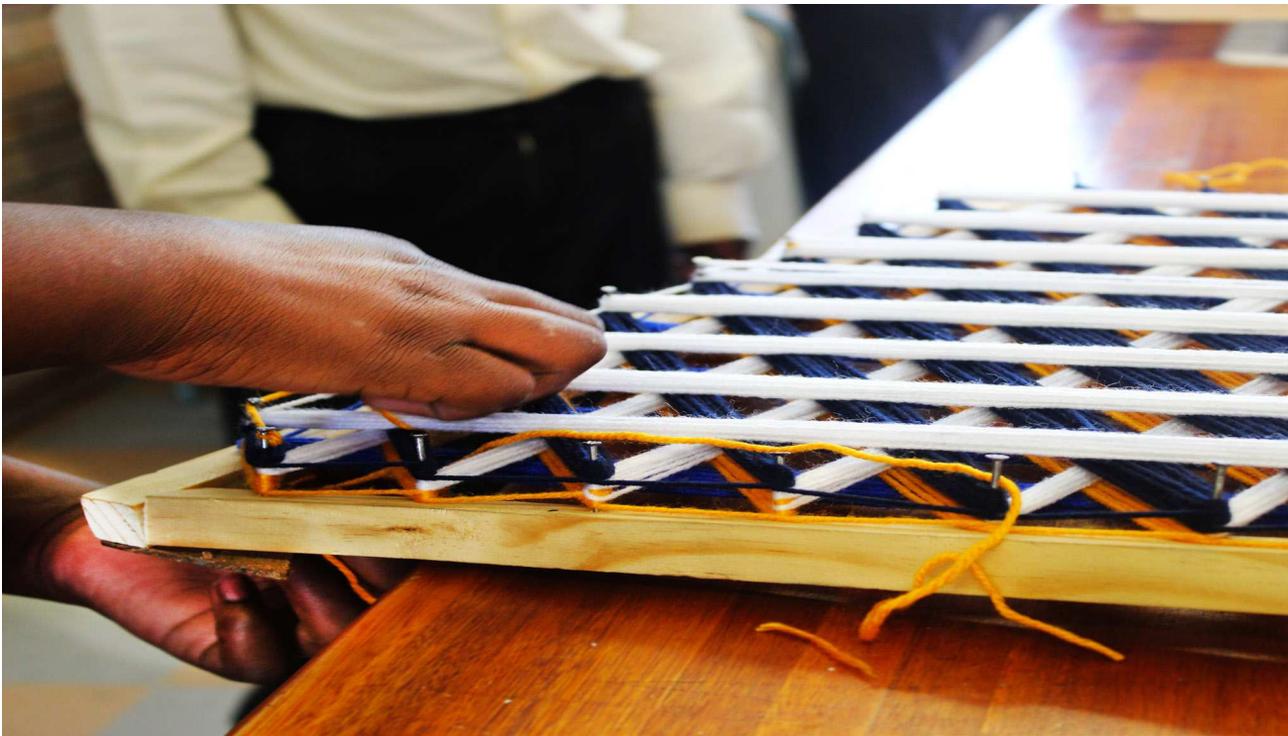


2015

Mmatlala I
above
Goitseone Moerane
mixed media



The introduction of weaving came as a way of incorporating every student present in the classroom into the art project. Some students were unable to really delve into painting and so the incorporation of weaving as an arts craft seemed like a great idea ,which has proven fruitful owing to the success of the weaving itself as well as the wonderful response from the students.





I am 13 years old. I love to sing, read, write and do some poetry. When I grow up I want to be a doctor and help people that are sick or hurt. I did weaving and I enjoyed it. It means a lot to me knowing that I can use it as a table cloth or use it to decorate furniture...even blankets too. I want us to do more because I would like to also teach my family how to weave and also show them what I can do.

- Winnet Shongwe

The idea of putting us in groups was a good idea, even though we fought a lot, but that only brought us together even more....I didn't know how to paint, but I was able to do the weaving much better thanks to our mentors. The weaving project reminded me of my family...my mom and father. But it also reminded me of my grandmother who loved weaving.

- Ntando Radebe

The different colors our group decided to use refers to our cultural diversity..as we also look at our project, we are filled with joy and love. It reminds us of our late grandparents who were fighting for freedom and died. It also gave me courage to talk about xenophobia. Being part of this project made me realize that loving and being kind to others can bring many blessing from God.

- Kgomotso Mkhamozi





STUDENT REFLECTIONS...

Blessings came flying to me when I heard about this project. At last, I can take part in something involving the arts. I wish this project could last forever, but I must enjoy the project while it lasts, even the food was good .

At first, I didn't really take it seriously but now I know that art can change your life.

I hope when people go through my Art works they will be amazed because I worked very hard on it.

-Kagiso

We had our up's and down's, but we managed to work as a group... My works reminds me of family and love... and most of all, it taught me how to work in groups.

Weaving showed me how to use my bare hands to do something creative...

-Ntuli Phumzile

This experience taught me how to express everything with absolutely anything even recycable materials which is really cool.

-Mabotle Majake

Painting makes me feel motivated and inspired.

It also taught me how to be careful with every stroke and to be neat. Alfa always talks about- Respect and Responsibility and that is what we used to keep the group dynamic together. Working together made us finish works much earlier and learn from one another.

-Thando Maseko

I never knew how to solve complex problems, but now through art I know you can solve any problem, if you really put your mind to it.

-Lethabo Mothapo

This work reminds me of family and friends and other relatives... truly speaking, I hated working in groups, in fact it annoyed me. But now, this whole art project has changed me...as people we need to help each other, we need each other's hands and as people we live to share... It is nice to know that you have learnt a new skill.. I am no longer greedy and I have learnt how to share and thanks to the guy who came as a great opportunity in my life and who made me see how important other people are and how important sharing is. Art has been a way of life for me and I will always love it as it makes me express my life and my passion.

-Mavis Movimbela

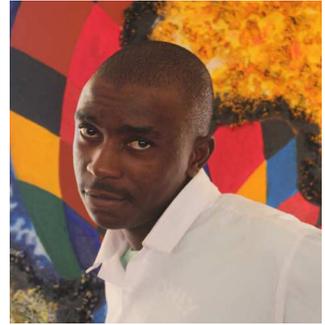
CLASS OF 2015...











The following students have played a very significant role in the formation of this project as well as its success. The time and effort they have invested in being creative with us has afforded us the opportunity to prove that success comes once preparation meets opportunity.



ARTIST BIO

ALFAJO JALLOW

To the average person, trash is unusable and frowned upon. To the award winning artist of the year 2014, from African Youths Excellence (AYE) - trash can be turned into art. At an early age, the Gambian-born can turn just about any trash-like object into a reusable and glorified work of art.

Recycling provoked his use of rough texture, by pasting cardboards, stones, papers, plastics and fabrics on his canvas before painting. In essence, he makes beauty out of trash. Alfajo paints with one goal- “How do I hold on to my identity as an African, but at the same time challenge it, while evoking a conscious thought process in the minds of my audience?” -A. Jallow. He, then, began using vibrant colors that were pleasing to the eye, and recycle items that gave the painting a 3-dimensional feel. His art challenges and expands his audience’s imagination, whereby helping them see art from different lens each time they come in contact with his creation. Peace, integrity and activism are messages the artist hopes his audience will draw from his work. He is freer than a bird, and trusts that his imagination will guide him to a world where creativity is abundant. Possessing a vivid imagination, stern posture and a powerful voice that moves people; he is an influence -wrangler. Growing up in a society that did very little in questioning art and its importance, the young artist has taken it upon himself to ask critical questions about African art.

Questions broader than just painting on a canvas and selling it for a living, but rather questions that spoke to the consciousness of African art and role youths played in it. While trying to answer some of these questions, Alfajo became an activist unknowingly. Change was what he always wanted to see take place. But he knew change required more than just painting in a studio, but rather getting involved economically, socially and most importantly-politically. Mr. Jallow discovered this through a variety of ways.

In 2013, as the President of the Student Government Association, Alfajo started an art project at Guttman Community College that focused on recycling trash around the campus by making paintings out of discarded materials. For the purpose of this project, Alfajo, through his political involvement was able to secure funding for this project-“Guttman Through the Lens of Art”. The goal of this project was to increase, preserve and exhibit the fundamental values of the community through paintings around the walls of the school campus, documenting ideas that the school seeks to achieve. While serving as the Vice Chair for International Students at the City University of New York, (CUNY) 2013-2014, Alfajo held the first ever international cultural event for the entire University called “Culturally United New York”. This cultural event brought various international clubs from about 10 colleges in the university to celebrate different cultural values, art, cuisine, fashion, language and music under one umbrella.

Knowing that art has no boundaries, Alfajo saw it as a perfect opportunity for this endeavor. Alfajo continued with his activism work by partnering with non-profit organizations like Children Education Alliance Inc. (CEA) and Kor Foundation, by having life auctioning his paintings at their respective events, to help raise funds. The artist hopes to continue doing his work for the betterment of Africa and Project Art for Hope is no different.

ARTIST BIO GOITSEONE MOERANE



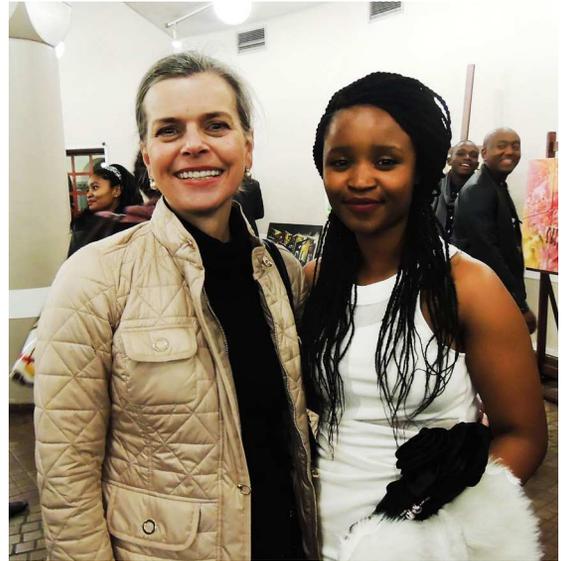
Born 13th September 1992, Goitseone Moerane is an African female currently living in Pretoria and studying Fine Arts at the University Of Pretoria. Goitseone was chosen to participate in the Hidden Urban Histories Exhibition held by the University Of Pretoria in 2013 for artworks based on themes relating to the mundanity of life, reality, abstraction to name a few. Working on Project Art For Hope has proven to be a huge success in Goitseone's opinion as she has always aimed to make the world realise the immense potential in young and upcoming contemporary African artists and this project is at the premise of this goal which has proven exciting thus far. Goitseone specialises in mixed media art often experimenting in various art forms and incorporating anything she finds interesting into her work to create interesting forms and textures often resulting in abstract artworks unique to her style. Major themes include work based on her role as a Black African female in the contemporary South African society and the realities experienced in this regard. Other than her passion for art, Goitseone has always had an interest in working with children and got to bring the two together when she worked as a professional art workshop facilitator producing art with children from various schools and hospitals around Gauteng to be used for the interior design of the Nelson Mandela Childrens Hospital which is still under construction.



THE EXHIBITION ...



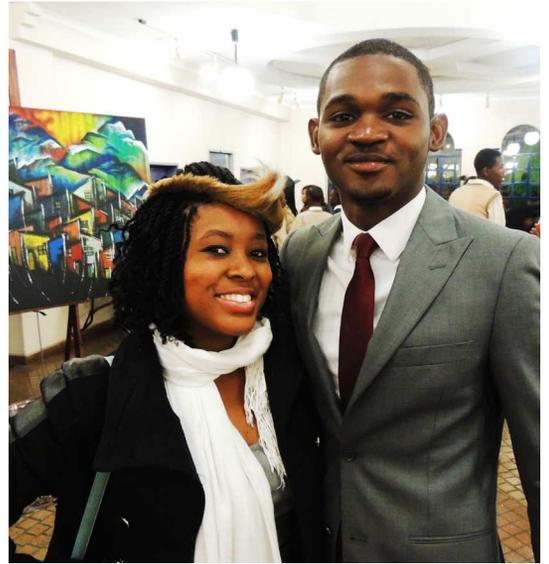












The Art For Hope exhibition held on the 12th of June 2015 proved to be very successful. The event, organized by the facilitators could not have been possible without the help of professor A Lombard and many others. The Art for Hope students were transported to Pretoria and treated to a lunch courtesy of The Village B&B, Hatfield prior to the main event, The Exhibition later that day.

The event featured numerous keynote speakers who shared inspirational and motivational talks with the audience. The students shone like the stars they are throughout the evening as they performed a drama and musical piece that spoke about using art as a means of making a living. They further encouraged guests to purchase artworks by selling the stories that motivated the creation of the various artworks on display. The atmosphere in the venue was the culmination of months of hard work and dedication by the students and the facilitators who worked tirelessly to make the evening a success.

As the project continues and grows, we at Art For Hope continue to value your support in any way possible and encourage supporters of this initiative to spread the word about Project Art For Hope so that we continue encouraging the students to spread their messages of hope through art .By September 2015, we had raised R10 000 through the sale of some of the artworks. This money has helped continue this project and do wonderful things such as help matriculants from the school with tertiary application costs and fund an art based excursion to Johannesburg for the students of Art for Hope. We thank each and every person out there dedicated to helping us grow Project Art for Hope; you are making a significant difference in the lives of South African youth, and through continued support and funding, the possibilities of growth and brighter futures are endless.



Acknowledgements

Fordham University Community

President Scott Evenbeck, Guttman Community College

Chairperson Joseph Awadjie, University Student Senate of the City University of New York

Head: Department of Social Work & Criminology, University of Pretoria

CEO and Founder: African Youth Excellence, Kofi Tonto

Assistant Dean: Luz Lenis, Fordham University

The Graduate Program in International Political Economy and Development: Booithemeli, PhD

Founder and CEO: Adarsh Alphons, Project Art

Soshanguve South Secondary School Community

President, Student Government Association: Cyrille Njikeng, Lehman College

President, 54 kingdoms LLC Kwaku Awuah (it's a culture, not a Brand)

Amie Manneh, Northern Virginia Community College

Mashuping Liphoko

Mrs Esme Munik

Lauren DiMartino

Randy Moore

Dr. Clair King

Mrs Mary Moerane

Avi Sooful

Nicola Grobler

Manny Lopez

Lori Ungemah

Hadiatou Wann

Fatou Camara

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Mrs T.G Gosebo (Head of the department-Sciences)

Mr P.M Maotoe (Deputy Principal)

SAT Management-Coordinator

Mrs Mogotsi (English and Life Orientation)

Mr MD Buthelezi {Arts & culture and IsiZulu teacher}

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