

Curriculum Vitae

KABELO JAMES KWAME MAJA

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Short Biography

I am an artist, a visual arts lecturer, and a developing researcher in the Department of Art and Music at Unisa. I grew up and acquired my formative education in Lesotho where upon completion of high school education, I started practising as a self-taught artist undertaking self-initiated projects. I later acquired support to study art formally at the University of KwaZulu Natal where I obtained a Bachelor of Visual Arts and Honours Degrees in Visual Arts in 2004 and 2005 respectively. I hold a Master of Visual Arts obtained from Unisa and am currently reading for PhD in Art.

As an artist, my work encompasses diverse media that incorporate two and three dimensional modes. Academically, my creative research delves into diverse fields that provoke thought and action although the aesthetics of everyday and sport comprise particular areas of interest. My work comprises commissions, projects and creative conceptual work. I have exhibited nationally and internationally with my artworks acquired by some institutional and private collections. Professionally, I serve in numerous creative art fraternities on different levels in advancing the development of the arts. These include educational bodies, national art competitions, various boards and committees of local and national institutions.

Qualifications

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| 2022 | Master of Visual Arts from Unisa |
| 2005 | Honours in Fine Arts from University of KwaZulu Natal |
| 2004 | Bachelors of Arts in Visual Arts from the University of KwaZulu Natal |

Professional occupation in art fraternities

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| 2025 – 2027 | Department of Higher Education and Training Creative Output Research panel member |
| 2026 | South African National Association for the Visual Arts (SANAVA) Executive Committee Member |
| 2025 | Chair of the Creative Output Research Departmental Vetting Committee at the University of South Africa |
| 2022 | Adjudicator for AUDA NEPAD African Youth Art Competition |
| 2020 to date | Unisa Portrait Commission Technical Artistic Director responsible for the production and delivery of academic portraits for Unisa's Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Chairperson of Council |
| 2022 to date | Unisa Art Gallery Committee |
| 2015, 2012, 2009 | Regional selector for the Sasol New Signatures National Art Competition in Pretoria |
| 2010 – 2013 | Advisory Board Member for the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the Tshwane University of Technology |
| 2013, 2010 | Regional selector for the Absa L' Atelier National Art Competition in Pretoria |
| 2010 | Conference presentation and facilitation of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup Soccer Clinics and Seminars in Pretoria held between Unisa and Vrije Amsterdam University |
| 2006 – 2009 | Advisor to the Gallery Planning Committee for the development of the new Unisa Art Gallery |
| 2005 – 2007 | Unisa Art Gallery Administrator |

2004 Part time Administrator at the Tatham Art Gallery
2003 Museum studies intern at the Tatham Art Gallery

Research

2024 Creative Output Research (painting artwork) presentation at the School of Arts, Social Science Conference at Unisa highlighting creative practice as credible scholarly knowledge contributor
2023 Awarded scholarly research accreditation for my artwork, *Precarious Power*, by the Department of Higher Education and Training of South Africa.
2019 Presented Creative Output at the Ethics Conference held in Cape Town at the University of Stellenbosch in pursuit for recognition of creative output research
2018 Presented Creative Output and a written article at the International Tourism of Southern African Conference at the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa in pursuit for creative output research recognition.

Commissions

2023 Commission for the Unisa 150 Years Commemorative Sculpture
2016 Commission by Lesotho Philately and Postal Services for the design and production of commemorative stamps series for the 50 Years of Lesotho's Independence
1997 – 1998 Resident artist for Lesotho Highland Water Project
1997 Commission by Lesotho Philately and Postal Services for the design and production of definitive and commemorative stamps and Official First Day Covers for Lesotho's Birds of Prey and Medicinal Plants

Selected Exhibitions

2025 October ***Vice Versa group exhibition at the*** Snowflake as part of Momentum Aardklop2025, Potchefstroom.
2024 Unisa Academic Staff Group Exhibition held at the Unisa Art Gallery
2024 Co-created *Umthimkulu we Mpilo* sculptural artwork for the ***UNISA Science Campus ArtWalk Project*** curated by Prof Miller in collaboration with Dr Thelma Louw and The Science Campus Art Walk Project Steering Committee of Unisa.
2021 ***Uncanny stories***, Group exhibition at Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria.
2018 ***Ethics, affect and endurance***, IAEE Conference Art Exhibition 2018, Spier, Cape Town
2018, ***Art as Destination Co Creation of Culture*** group exhibition International Tourism South Africa (ITSA) 7th Biannual Conference exhibition, CSIR IC, Pretoria
2017 Masters of Visual Arts students group exhibition at Unisa
2015 Department of Art History, Visual Arts, and Musicology staff group exhibition
2010 Video Performance at Unisa for the 2010 Soccer Clinics between the University of South Africa and Vrije Amsterdam University
2009 Co-curated and exhibited students' waste sculptural artwork in collaboration with Enviro Serve Waste Management Company with Ms Celia De Villiers
2004 Exhibited in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands Biennale
2000 Participated in the SADC Arts and Cultural Festival in Windhoek, Namibia
1998 Exhibited at the Hannover Expo in Germany