

ARTIST STATEMENT – UNCANNY STORIES: 2021

NOMBE MPAKO

My artworks have always been and are still about my lived experiences presented through metaphors and symbolism. My experiences reference life in general and are not unique to me however they have made me to be who I am and have become. In my earlier artworks, which are predominantly prints, I demonstrated my intense love for brilliant and flat colours. I used bright and flat colours as a freedom of speech. The bright colours are rendered like they are shouting for attention and are also meant to capture the viewer. I drew my inspiration from the joy of the moment using unique, exotic, figurative and decorative style complementing the bright colours. In addition my early works were developed from the spontaneous inspiration which came from the exciting results of experimentation.

The work featuring in the *Uncanny Stories* is selected from my recent exhibition entitled *Obu Bubomi Bam 8 out of 8: I teach Art, 2021*, and seek to add my voice to the 16 days of activism against gender based violence. These works depict women struggles of single parenting while pursuing careers in racial discriminating, male dominating, and competitive environments. They mainly present moments of vulnerability, resilience, perseverance, and victory.



