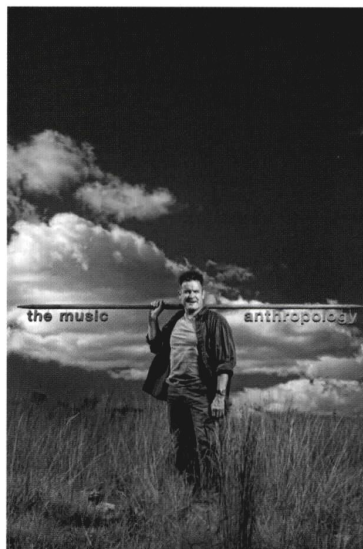


FACING PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Portia Zvavahera, *Ndakavhumbam*, 2014. Oil-based printing ink and oil bar on paper, 157.4 x 110 cm. Portia Zvavahera, *Ndouya Kwamuri Ishe*, 2014. Oil-based printing ink and oil bar on paper, 156 x 99.5 cm; Portia Zvavahera, *Ndiregererewo Murume Wangu*, 2014. Oil-based printing ink and oil bar on paper, 153 x 98 cm; Portia Zvavahera, *I Feel Single*, 2014. Oil-based printing ink and oil bar on paper, 155 x 97 cm. All images courtesy of Stevenson, Cape Town and Johannesburg.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Walter Battiss, Wood block, 22.6 x 30.5 mm. Photograph by Fay Jackson.; Zama Phakathi outside The Stop Sign Art Gallery. Photograph by Fay Jackson.; Jonny Clegg from the '21 Icons Portrait Of A Nation' exhibition by Adrian Steirn, held at Museum of African Design (MOAD). Courtesy of MOAD.; Desmond Tutu, from the '21 Icons Portrait Of A Nation' exhibition by Adrian Steirn, held at Museum of African Design (MOAD). Courtesy of MOAD.



the collection, was launched at the opening. But the real bright sparks flying from the creative flint are to be found right at the city's true urban core, in the gentrified neighbourhood near Doornfontein now known as the Maboneng Precinct. The area's rebranding has been internationally regarded as an exceptional example of urban regeneration, converting a mess of grimy post-industrial warehouses into trendy NYC-style loft apartments, an upmarket hotel, countless cafés and shops, indoor markets, and, of course, art galleries. Transformations like this seem to have cultivated a much younger, hipper art audience in recent years, as well as encouraging a new breed of gallery owners, curators, and critics to emerge from within an upcoming multiracial "creative class". Take, for example, Zama Phakathi, a flamboyant "walking artwork", in her own words, who owns and runs a gallery from a shipping container a mere stones throw away from the notorious neighbourhood of Hillbrow. Stop Sign Art Gallery can be found in a glass-fronted space on Fox Street in the city centre. Located just outside the perimeter of the

Maboneng Precinct, the bazaar is surrounded by hair salons with hand-painted signage, iconic Coca-Cola supermarket/café/take-aways and a small privately owned panel beater – a battered taxi with its bumpers removed, gleaming crimson, in its lot. As such, the Main St Bizarre really does represent a "cross section of the new Joburg" (as it proclaims in gold lettering, emblazoned across its storefront). Similarly, the Museum of African Design (MOAD), the first museum dedicated to design on the African continent, is on Commissioner Street, slap-bang in the centre of the city. Owned, run, and staffed by a team of energetic young enterprisers, MOAD (opened 2013) aims to create a space where cultural engineers from across the continent can share ideas and work through exhibitions, outreach, and partnerships with creative spaces across Africa and around the world. '21 Icons: Portrait of a Nation', presented by Mercedes-Benz South Africa, was on exhibition at MOAD for the first time, from 16 June until 17 August. The 21 Icons project includes beautiful black and white portraits, short films, behind the scenes photography, and written narrative, combined

and showcased at MOAD in order to celebrate "the lives of men and women who have shaped the world around them for the better, inspired by the life of Nelson Mandela." Visitors to the exhibition experience an audio-visual, interactive walk-through of the multimedia content through the 21 Icons smartphone Augmented Reality (AR) app that acted as a personal exhibition guide. Featuring well-known legends, like Madiba himself and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, alongside lesser-sung heroes such as Gary Player, Johnny Clegg, and Evelina Tshabalala, '21 Icons: Portrait of a Nation' opened on Youth Day in MOAD's cavernous subterranean exhibition space in celebration of 20 years of South African democracy. Maboneng, meaning 'place of light' in Sotho, is an example of inner city Joburg rolling with the times. Like our fledgling democracy, the city is young and raw, and bursting with potential.