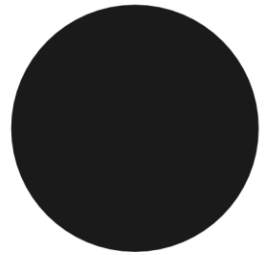


THE NEW VANGUARD

BERMAN CONTEMPORARY

ARTIST PORTFOLIO

Natalie de Morney



THE NEW VANGUARD

NEW DISCOVERIES | NEW WORK



For **Berman Contemporary**, it's important to keep an eye out for artists with emerging practices – it's incredible how many talented visual artists, born and living in South Africa, we come across during our visits to studios, exhibitions and graduation shows. 'Making it' in the world of art is a matter of hard work, but there are also factors like luck, timing and exposure at play.

We are proud to say that, in 2020, Berman Contemporary has launched The New Vanguard, a platform for artists with emerging practices, whom we believe could do with a little support. We create possibilities for these artists to showcase their work in a professional gallery and during curated group exhibitions and art fairs. We support them in applying for competitions and residency programmes, and in developing an artist portfolio which will help them to capitalise on their talents.

The eight visual artists currently participating in The New Vanguard are: Amogelang Maepa, Odette Graskie, Natalie de Morney, Nomfundo Mkhize, Grace Mokalapa, Mbali Mthethwa and Gina van der Ploeg. As always, many of these artists honed their skills at an academy, but a fair number of The New Vanguard will be self-taught artists. From our perspective, each and every one of them deserves the exposure. This might be the first time you hear of them, but it won't be the last.

Of course, there is an element of self-interest for the gallery in creating The New Vanguard; we are sitting front-row when it comes to the development and uncovering of new artist practices. We are also hoping that some of these artists will continue developing until they can be fully represented by Berman Contemporary.

We take a loose approach to defining what an 'emerging' practise is. Broadly speaking, these artists are in the first 10 years of their career, but – above all – we are looking for artists who have a singular voice, artists who have something to say about the world we live in, or how it is represented by the medium they work in. It is not easy to stand out in today's image-saturated reality, so they must have an original voice to cut through all that visual noise. We are open to new talents who are interested in developing themselves in the area of Contemporary South African Art and being actively involved in their own professional development.

The artists are working in a large variety of media such as photography, ceramics, textiles, painting and found objects. In preparation for their first group exhibition, opening in August, they will have the opportunity to interact with each other and/or be involved in the curation of the exhibition.

NATALIE DE MORNEY

Natalie de Morney was born in Cape Town (b.1980) and raised in Elsies River, a township on the Cape Flats. She currently lives in East London. She is a fine art graduate with majors in painting and ceramics from Walter Sisulu University. A successful civil engineer until, at the age of 33, she left that career behind to follow her passion of becoming the artist she always dreamt of being, since she was a little girl. After a year of exploring with little to no experience, she was led to joining a drawing class held by a retired fine art lecturer who encouraged her to go back to university and study fine art. Into her late 30s, she started tapping into her intuition and connecting to nature and the spiritual realm, capturing her introspective and healing journey. This led her to conduct her post-graduate research on how to use art, spirituality and nature to heal. Her works illustrate her journey of healing and transformation.

Instagram [@natalie_de_morney](https://www.instagram.com/natalie_de_morney)



ARTIST STATEMENT

I use the pottery making from the Xhosa Culture and translate it into the present time. As a person labelled Coloured, my white heritage has always been promoted and nobody spoke about my black heritage. I felt like something was missing. Using the Xhosa tradition of pottery making is helping me to go on a journey of self-discovery, both ancestral & spiritual.

I used clay and paper to create my sculptures. On its own clay can be fragile, but if paper is incorporated the paper fibres strengthen the final ceramic product. The clay represents my African heritage and the paper my European heritage. Together they form my rich, strong, mixed heritage. The Fragility and Strength of the ceramics also represent the feminine and masculine aspects within myself and the importance to find the balance. This is important to me, especially since our current society had been conditioned to believe that masculine aspects are more important to be successful. With this imbalance in us it can lead to inhumane behaviour.

ARTIST RESUME

Group Exhibitions

- 2020 LABYRINTHINE, curator Els van Mourik, Berman Contemporary,
- 2019 Johannesburg BTech Degree Fine Art Exhibition, Ann Bryant Art Gallery,
- 2019 East London Summer Salon, Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg
- 2019 Jikeleza Pop-up Art Weekend, Jikeleza Route, East London
- 2019 Art & Sliders, The Grove Wedding & Function Venue, East London Winter
- 2019 Salon, Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg
- 2019 Ideals?, Albany Museum, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown Blissful
- 2018 Farm High Tea, Ann Bryant Art Gallery, East London
- 2018 Walter Sisulu University, Albany Museum, National Arts Festival,
- 2017 Grahamstown Re-member, Walter Sisulu University Gallery, East London
- 2017 Peepshow, Ann Bryant Art Gallery, East London
- 2017 Common Ground, Albany Museum, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown

Art Fairs

- 2020 Turbine Art Fair, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg

Residencies

- 2018 Non-Metropolitan Artist Mentorship Programme, Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg

Education

- 2019 BTech Degree in Fine Art, Walter Sisulu University, East London National
- 2018 Diploma in Fine Art, Walter Sisulu University, East London



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | NATALIE DE MORNEY



Natalie de Morney
Where Next I, 2018
Ceramic
170 x 150 x 100cm

ZAR 16,000.00 Including VAT and Display



Natalie de Morney
Where Next II, 2018
Ceramic
30 x 40 x 15cm

ZAR 16,000.00 Including VAT

Natalie de Morney
Where Next III, 2018
Ceramic
30 x 50 x 15cm

ZAR 16,000.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
Where Next IV, 2018
Ceramic
30 x 50 x 10cm

ZAR 16,000.00 Including VAT





Natalie de Morney
Where Next V, 2018
Ceramic
Framed Size 63 x 63cm

ZAR 23,500.00 Including VAT and Framing



Natalie de Morney
Growth and Connection, 2018
Ceramic
25 x 25 x 24cm

ZAR 13,000.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
In out all around, 2018
Ceramic
18 x 17 x 19cm

ZAR 10,800.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
Portals I, 2018
Ceramic
37 x 31 x 13cm

ZAR 9,800.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
Portals III, 2018
Ceramic
64 x 44 x 11cm

ZAR 12,000.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
Portals III, 2018
Ceramic
37 x 31 x 13cm

ZAR 12,000.00 Including VAT



Natalie de Morney
Paths linked to community 1 of 3, 2018
Ceramic
45 x 45cm

ZAR 14,900.00 Including VAT and Framing



Natalie de Morney
Paths linked to community 2 of 3, 2018
Ceramic
52 x 52cm

ZAR 15,900.00 Including VAT and Framing



INSTALLATION PHOTOGRAPH | NATALIE DE MORNEY

Berman Contemporary is rooted in the growing understanding of the cultural richness and diversity of South African contemporary art. The gallery's collection centres on a vibrant group of artists living and working in South Africa.

Through studio visits, the gallery establishes connections to artists from all walks of life whose unique artistic processes celebrate their historical and cultural heritage and give voice to their complex societal realities, evoking an active and interpretative experience for the viewer.

Berman Contemporary was established to promote the work created by these local artists. The gallery further aims to establish a synergistic network between South African artists and their global contemporaries, many of whom evidently want to engage with the current South African art scene – not only as observers, but as active analysts, experimenters and contributors within this context and with this specific audience in mind.

**BERMAN
CONTEMPORARY**
SOUTH
AFRICAN
ART

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