



CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

GALLERY

SIZWE SAMA





## SIZWE SAMA 'YOU HANDED ME THE SCISSORS'

In Sizwe Sama's captivating series titled 'You Handed Me The Scissors', the artist explores the importance of cutting ties with negative individuals. Drawing from personal experiences, Sama delves into the dynamics of one-sided relationships. In today's social media-driven world, where narcissism often prevails, we are presented with carefully curated versions of people's lives. We witness the happy moments and snapshots of joy and excitement but remain unaware of the struggles and challenges they face behind the scenes. Our society has lost sight of what true happiness means. As depression rates soar, our obsession with material possessions grows. Massive corporations invest billions of dollars in advertising campaigns, convincing us that their products hold the key to our happiness.

Sama goes deeper into the complexities of the human condition, questioning how we can cultivate self-awareness instead of being self-absorbed. Some of the titles in the series, such as 'Repent Your Sins', 'Holier Than Thou', and 'The Confession', playfully explore the correlation between religion and spirituality, regardless of one's faith. Spirituality can be found in various places, whether it be in a church, temple, mosque, or atop a mountain. Sama emphasises the importance of helping oneself before being able to help others.

All the figures in this series are women, paying homage to Sama's mother, a pivotal figure in his life. Raised in a single-parent household after his father walked out at an early age, his mother has always provided him with unconditional love. These foundations have shaped his values and identity. However, navigating love and relationships can be challenging. Titles such as 'Selfish', 'Cat Got Your Tongue', 'Checkmate', and 'Two-Faced' highlight the complexities of dealing with narcissism and its prevalence in society. Narcissistic relationships are characterised by excessive self-importance, a constant need for admiration, and a lack of empathy towards others. Sama questions how, in an age of inflated self-importance, healthy relationships should be based on mutual respect, empathy, and support.

Sama incorporates a rich diversity of African fabrics in his artwork, each with its unique history dating back centuries. African fabrics such as Kitenge, Shweshwe and Ndebele are featured. Kitenge, widely worn in East Africa, is a colourful floral fabric made from cotton, known for its bold patterns. Shweshwe fabric, a printed cotton fabric with a stiff texture, is culturally significant in South Africa and often worn during special occasions and celebrations.

Ndebele fabric holds deep symbolism within the culture, characterised by vibrant colours, bold patterns, and geometric designs that represent the unique visual language of the Ndebele people in South Africa. Tweed fabric, adopted and integrated into African fashion, bridges European influences with African cultural expressions, contributing to the vibrant fashion landscape of the continent.

Sama's artwork captures the passion of both love and loss, as depicted in the vibrant and bold works of his series, 'You Handed Me The Scissors'. Through his skilful use of colour, texture, and composition, Sama conveys the intensity of emotions experienced in relationships. Whether it's the fiery reds and oranges symbolising desire and passion or the deep blues and purples representing sadness and heartbreak, each work evokes a powerful response from the viewer.

The figures in Sama's artwork exude a sense of vulnerability and strength simultaneously, reflecting the complexities of love and the resilience required to navigate through the challenges of relationships. The use of expressive gestures and facial expressions further enhances the emotional impact of the artwork, allowing viewers to connect on a deeper level.

In his exploration of loss, Sama's art invites contemplation and reflection. The juxtaposition of fabric, along with the incorporation of symbolic elements such as scissors, represents the act of letting go and severing ties with negativity. This visual metaphor resonates with viewers, reminding them of the importance of self-preservation and the need to prioritise their own well-being.

Overall, Sama's series 'You Handed Me The Scissors' not only captivates the eye but also touches the heart. It serves as a poignant reminder of the passionate highs and heart-breaking lows experienced in relationships, urging us to reflect on our own experiences and the significance of self-care in fostering healthy connections.





SELFISH (2023)  
Tweed, cotton, wax fabric, polyester  
150 x 122 x 1cm (60 x 48.8 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 2,500 excl 15% SA vat



ding Room





CHECKMATE (2023)  
Tweed, cotton, wax fabric, polyester  
128 x 122 x 1cm (51.2 x 48.8 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 2,300 excl 15% SA vat







YOU MADE YOUR BED, NOW LAY IN IT (2023)  
Cotton, wax fabric, tweed, polyester  
115 x 162 x 1cm (46 x 64.8 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 2,850 excl 15% SA vat



CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? (2023)  
Tweed, cotton, wax fabric, polyester  
112 x 165 x 1cm (44.8 x 66 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 2,850 excl 15% SA vat



REPENT YOUR SINS (2023)  
Cotton, wax fabric, tweed, polyester  
110 x 168 x 1cm (44 X 67.2 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 2,850 excl 15% SA vat



SHE READ HER FOR THE GODS! (2023)  
Corduroy, linen, wax fabric, tweed,, cotton  
141 x 200 x 1cm (56.4 x 80 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 3,100 excl 15% SA vat



WINDS OF CHANGE (2023)  
Tweed, cotton, corduroy, linen, wax fabric, felt and feathers  
200 x 311 x 1cm (80x 124.4 x 0.4 inches)  
USD 4,300 excl 15% SA vat

## BIOGRAPHY

Sizwe Sama (b.1986) is a self-taught visual artist hailing from Kwa-Zulu Natal. His journey into the world of art began with visits to the Tatham Art Gallery and exploring art books at his local library in Pietermaritzburg. His work serves as a tribute to the LGBTQI+ community, advocating for freedom and self-expression, while also allowing him to reflect and express his own queer identity. While his art celebrates queer personhood, it is also deeply rooted in his personal experiences and cherished memories.

Drawing inspiration from his mother, a seamstress who single-handedly raised him and his brother, Sama learned the art of hand sewing. His mother's unique approach to mending their clothes left an indelible mark on his creative journey. She has played a pivotal role in providing him with a foundation of love that has shaped his values and identity.

Sama's artwork embraces the richness of African fabrics, each with its centuries-old history. His creations feature a diverse range of African fabrics, including Kitenge, Shweshwe, Ndebele, and Tweed. Kitenge, renowned for its vibrant floral patterns, is widely worn in East Africa. Shweshwe, a printed cotton fabric with a distinctive texture, holds cultural significance in South Africa and is often worn on special occasions. Ndebele fabric, characterised by its bold colours, striking patterns, and geometric designs, embodies the unique visual language of the Ndebele people in South Africa. Tweed fabric, blending European influences with African cultural expressions, contributes to the dynamic fashion landscape of the continent.

In his current series, Sama explores the perils of narcissism in relationships, families, and friendships. Through his artwork, he sheds light on the potential dangers and negative impacts that toxic individuals can have on our lives. By delving into this theme, he aims to raise awareness and provoke contemplation about the importance of recognising and safeguarding oneself against toxic relationships to maintain overall well-being.



## EXHIBITIONS

### 2024

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa. - Group Exhibition.  
You Handed Me The Scissors. A solo exhibition. Christopher Moller Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

### 2023

Guns & Rain, You're A Bird, Sing A Song, Duo Show with Princia Matungulu, Johannesburg  
Galerie Christophe Person, Artistes Textile D'Afrique du Sud, Paris  
KZNSA Gallery, Group Show, Within the Fibre of my Being, Durban

### 2022

99 Loop, Group Show, Cape Town  
Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, South Africa  
Africa First X Gordon Collaboration, What Makes Your Heart Fly?, Tel Aviv  
Guns & Rain, Solo Show, Happy In Hell, Johannesburg  
African Galleries Now, African Art Galleries Association, ArtsyThe Bag Factory, Solo Show, What Makes Your Heart Fly?, Johannesburg  
Duende Art Projects, Threads, Antwerp

### 2021

African Galleries Now, Artsy  
MOVART: New Era for Humanity, Lisbon  
Eclectica Contemporary: 11:11 Group show, Cape Town  
Guns & Rain with the Bag Factory: Meeting Places, Johannesburg  
99 Loop Gallery: Untitled 8.99 group show, Cape Town

### 2020

FNB Art Joburg, Online  
African Galleries Now, Artsy  
Guns & Rain: Fresh Voices, Online

## COLLECTIONS

Collection of African Contemporary Art and of the Diaspora, Foundation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva, Switzerland  
AMAWAL Collection, Spain  
ARAK Collection, Qatar  
Africa First Collection

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## GALLERY

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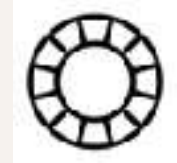
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### ACQUISITION PROCESS

- Once you have chosen your favourite piece, please contact our team at [info@christophermollerart.co.za](mailto:info@christophermollerart.co.za) to confirm your request and advise on your shipping address.
- Please note, your requested piece and invoice will be valid for 7 calendar days. Once payment has been processed and received, ownership of the piece will be transferred.
- Art pieces will be released to the waiting list after 7 days.
- Shipment date will be confirmed per purchase. Kindly note, artwork will only leave the Gallery post exhibition.
- Kindly note all ZAR prices are excluding 15% SA VAT.
- Kindly note, shipping cost excludes any destination taxes & import charges

### CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED.

Our bank (Nedbank) has given us the option to do the credit card transaction via e-payment solution for credit cards. This is a secure product that enables the Gallery to send you a link with the amount pre-populated. It requires you to complete your credit card details. This protects you, in that you don't have to give out your credit card details to a third party, while you complete it online. Unfortunately, this system does not accept American Express or Diners Club credit cards.

Please inform your bank of the transaction in advance and provide them with our Merchant code: 2738375 should your bank reject the request from a foreign country.

This is how it works; You will receive an email with the link from the Christopher Moller Gallery. This will include a PDF copy of the invoice. Please click on the link and complete the transaction by completing your credit card details. Kindly note each link has an expiry date and is valid for 2 days. Once the transaction has been authorised, you will receive a notification that the payment has been successful.

### ENQUIRIES | How can we assist?

E | [info@christophermollerart.co.za](mailto:info@christophermollerart.co.za) T | +27(0) 21 422 1599

### VIEWINGS BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact us to view in person.

Tuesday - Friday · 10h00 - 16h00

Monday & Saturday · Viewings by Appointment Sunday · Closed

# CHRISTOPHER MOLLER

## GALLERY

### VISIT US

7 Kloofnek Road  
Gardens  
Cape Town  
South Africa  
8001

### CONTACT

T | +27 (0) 21 4221599  
E | [info@christopherart.co.za](mailto:info@christopherart.co.za)  
W | [www.christophermollerart.co.za](http://www.christophermollerart.co.za)

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Please contact our team should you wish to be added to the preview list of your desired exhibition.  
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