

## MEMORANDUM

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum and Red Location Art Gallery in collaboration with the GFI Gallery and Nelson Mandela University ran a competition and exhibition challenging artists from across South African to submit work in response to the historical exhibition and legacy of this great artist. From over 50 entries, 25 artists were selected to be part of this exhibition.

This current contemporary exhibition is the culmination of a project spearheaded by the GFI Art Gallery and family of George Pemba to celebrate his legacy. In April the GFI Gallery opened an exhibition showcasing the original work of George Pemba curated from works loaned from public and private collections including the art collection of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

Local artist, Vuyisanani Ngwadla, has been awarded the top prize of R 50 00 for his work, "Gqeberha 06", currently on the exhibition Umbhinyozo/Celebrating Pemba: The Art and Legacy of George Milwa Mnyaluza Pemba – A contemporary response.

The runner up is Wandile Msipa for his work, "Still no work", who has been awarded R 10 000.

The winners were selected by a panel of contemporary art experts.

The exhibition was opened at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum on 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, by writer, critic, and art historian, Thembinkosi Goniwe.

Ngwandla's winning painting is part of a body of work titled "Colour, Space and time" and reflects on, "people and the environment and how we exist in this world as individuals...the body of work is a window to and catalogues my visual perspective of the world around me." The artist further elaborated that "Gqeberha 06 is a painting of a taxi rank located downtown of Port Elizabeth. "It is a painting of people in their daily circumstances in an urban setting".

The opening speaker of the exhibition, Thembinkosi, reflected on the power of George Pemba's work to bring attention to everyday lives. Ngwandla's work like Pemba brings attention to the profound value of everyday experience.

Wandile Msipa's work quotes an older image titled, Still no work, painted by George Pemba. This image shows a young man walking down Govan Mbeki street gazing up to the buildings. Msipa quotes this work but adds biting commentary in his contemporary rendition of the image. In Msipa's work the main figure has on a graduation hat and gown. The work comments on the lack of opportunities for our young graduates in the current economics of the country.

In addition to the two winners, the selection committee of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipal Art Collection administered by the Cities two fine art establishments, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum and Red Location Art Gallery has selected 8 works to be purchased for the collection. The selected artworks are:

- Banele Njadayi - Simisa ixhanti
- Mxolisi Sapeta - Homage to Pemba
- Simon Venter - My nephew
- Vuyisanani Ngwadla - Gqeberha 06
- Wandile Msipa - Still no work
- Wellington Phepheng - Chemistry of Motherhood
- Wellington Phepheng - The Highly Ranked Traditional Woman
- Thandile Woji - Beaded tombstone

The exhibition, Umbhiyozo/Celebrating Pemba: The Art and Legacy of George Milwa Mnyaluza Pemba – A Contemporary response will run until September 2023.

**ENDS**