

Niketa's art

2016 - 2023



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About the artist

Niketa's artistic journey took a winding path before blossoming anew in 2016. After two decades exploring diverse fields, she rekindled her passion for art, earning her BFA from Kenyatta University in 2016, building upon her 1993 Diploma in Graphic Design.

Her vibrant paintings and textile collages, executed in oil, acrylic, and watercolors, draw inspiration from a rich tapestry of personal memories, evocative environments, and pressing social issues. Since 2015, her work has graced numerous group exhibitions, both locally – at the UN Headquarters, the ISK affordable art show, and the National Museum affordable Art Show – and internationally, with showcases in Delhi, India, and Castellon, Spain.

Artists Statement

Art, for me, transcends mere decoration; it imbues life with meaning and serves as a bridge between diverse cultures. It acts as a catalyst for introspective conversations, stirring within us emotions that uplift, motivate, and challenge.

Through vibrant fabric collages and paintings, I commemorate the dynamic interplay between my urban and natural Kenyan environment. My work reflects my personal connection to Nairobi and Kenya, where questions of identity have often left me feeling like a transient outsider despite my Kenyan roots. These themes permeate my art, prompting dialogue about identity, belonging, environmental concerns, gender roles, water accessibility, and the plight of endangered wildlife.



2016



SOLD

Night Shining White, 2015
70cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 50,000

Cityscapes

SOLD



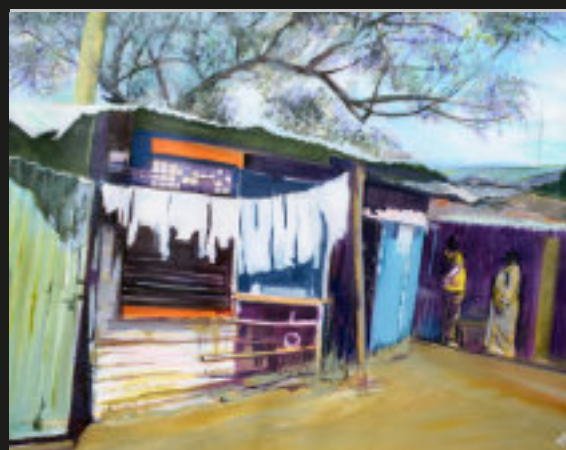
Matatu Fever, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

SOLD



Pangani Flyover, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

AVAILABLE



White Wash, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

SOLD



Shrinking Spaces, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

SOLD



Purple Haze, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

AVAILABLE



Saera's gift I&M, 2016
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

Nairobi Cityscapes

AVAILABLE



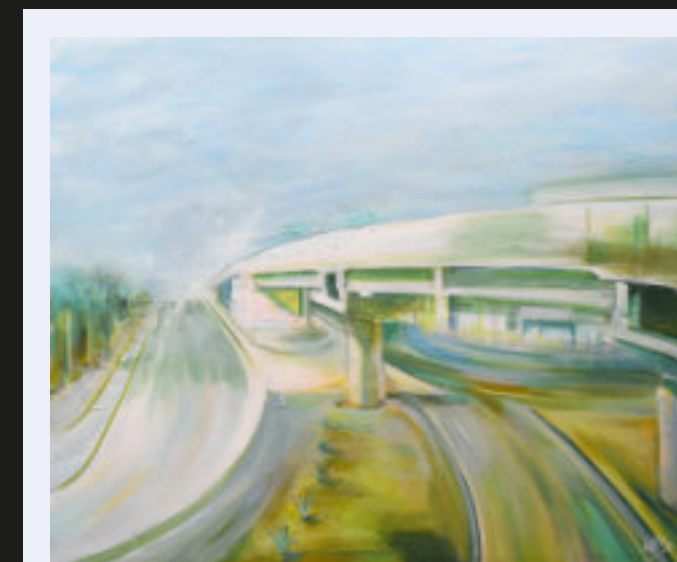
Mpesa Kiosk, 2022
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 65,000

SOLD



Power sharing, 2015
70cm x 80cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 75,000

AVAILABLE



Pangani Flyover day, 2020
120cm x 100cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 100,000

Art Catalogue

2015 - 2022

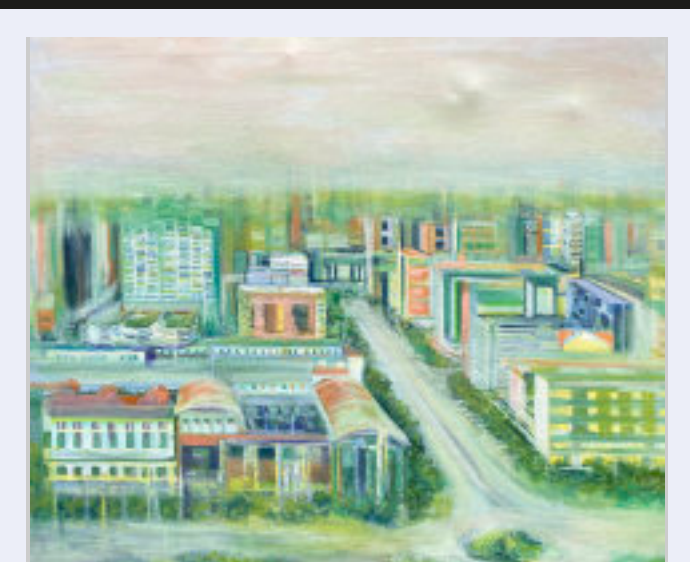
Nairobi isn't simply a city for Niketa; it's a muse, a confidante, a silent observer of her ever-evolving landscape. It's the wellspring from which these paintings flow, each infused with personal experiences woven into the urban tapestry.

Why Nairobi? Because it pulsates with life, a vibrant kaleidoscope of growth and diversity reflected in its ever-shifting skyline. Niketa harnesses color, space, and drawing to capture a distinct atmosphere, mirroring the way memory plays tricks on reality. These subtle distortions invite the viewer into a fresh perspective; to see the city anew.

Her canvases become havens of stimulation, engaging the viewer in a dialogue with the vibrant urban energy.

Yet, amidst the dynamism, a sense of stillness emerges, offering a respite from the city's ceaseless motion. It's an invitation to breathe, to reflect, to find solace in the unexpected quietude nestled within the bustling metropolis.

AVAILABLE



Cityhall way 2022
120cm x 100cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 100,000

Cityscapes

AVAILABLE



Sunny days
60cm x 30cm, Diptych
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 30,000

SOLD



'twende kazi', 2018
80cm x 40cm
Mixed media on canvas
Ksh 25,000

AVAILABLE



'jua kali', 2018
80cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 25,000

SOLD



'Wastelands', 2017
80cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 25,000

AVAILABLE



'chicken rail', 2018
50cm x 70cm
Acrylic on canvas
niketafazal.com

SOLD



'Rosy Outlook', 2018
30cm x 38cm
Acrylic on canvas
niketafazal.com

SOLD



'mkokoteni', 2017
30cm x 38cm
Acrylic on board
niketafazal.com

AVAILABLE



'no more charcoal', 2018
50cm x 70cm
Acrylic on canvas
niketafazal.com

AVAILABLE



'Nairobi Slyline', 2017
30cm x 38cm
Acrylic on canvas
niketafazal.com

SOLD



'Pink skyline', 2017
30cm x 38cm
Acrylic on board
niketafazal.com

2017

Miniature
Water colours

SOLD



Intelligent, 2018

AVAILABLE



Nurturer, 2018

SOLD



Beautiful, 2018

AVAILABLE



Resourceful, 2018

The Water Bearers

This intimate series, composed of watercolors on 13cm x 17cm 130lb paper, delves into the everyday struggles of Kenyan women. Each piece features the ubiquitous yellow "mtungi," a symbol of their relentless quest for water, the lifeblood of their families.

The mtungi transcends its utilitarian purpose, becoming a powerful symbol of resilience and resourcefulness. Its presence across Sub-Saharan Africa speaks to its practicality and durability, a lifeline for countless communities.

Intricate border patterns, reminiscent of both Mughal miniatures and vibrant African fabrics, adorn these tiny canvases. They serve as a visual elevation, framing the women's stories and amplifying their worth. Through these details, the series acknowledges the invisible labor that sustains not just families, but entire communities.

13cm x 17cm

22cm x 30cm, Framed

Watercolour on archival paper

Ksh 12,000

AVAILABLE



Defiant, 2018

SOLD



Fearless, 2018

SOLD



Graceful, 2018

SOLD



Dignified, 2018

SOLD



Joy, 2018

AVAILABLE



Brave, 2018

2018

Vanishing Wonders

SOLD



Elephant Family, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

AVAILABLE



The Last Rhino, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

SOLD



Buffalo, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

This poignant series paints a stark contrast between the vibrant past and the threatened present of wildlife in national parks. Inspired by the escalating threats of poaching and encroaching development, the paintings grapple with the shrinking spaces these majestic creatures once freely roamed.

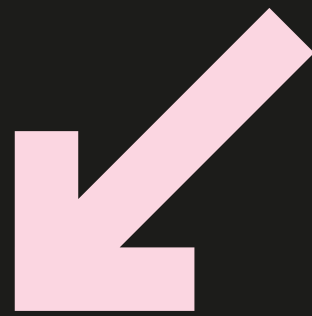
Abstract backgrounds explode in a riot of candy colors, a bittersweet reminder of happier times spent observing these animals in their natural habitat. Against this backdrop, the animals themselves are rendered in soft outlines, symbolizing their fading presence and the fleeting nature of their existence.

This juxtaposition serves as a stark warning, urging us to act before these spaces, and the irreplaceable lives within them, vanish forever.

Water colours

Acrylics

Vanishing Wonders



SOLD



Chamelion, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

SOLD



Giraffe Family, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

SOLD



Leopard, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

SOLD



Lion, 2018
30cm x 40cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 20,000

SOLD



Zebra in flight, 2019
100cm x 120cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 120,000

AVAILABLE



Happy Hippos, 2018
90cm x 90cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 90,000

AVAILABLE



Ankole, 2020
120cm x 100cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 120,000

Finding
Inspiration
In Unlikely Places

The Zebra flight and Happy hippos paintings were made after a year of happy coincidences and showed at many group exhibitions.

2019

A mystical journey through the Forest of the Lost Child, one of Kenya's last primary forest sanctuaries', ignited the spark for this captivating series. The work aims to capture the forest's fantastical essence, echoing the magic that unfolded before me. Within this fragile ecosystem, a unique tapestry reveals itself: vibrant flora and fauna intertwine, sharing their haven with the Maasai community, its guardians for centuries. Their presence, growing alongside the forest itself, underscores the delicate balance maintained here. Acrylic pours form the foundation, their fluidity mimicking the forest's untamed spirit. Charcoal and oils then breathe life into the diverse inhabitants, each stroke a testament to the interconnectedness of this precious haven.

SOLD



SOLD

Baby Leopard, 2019
120cm x 60cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 90,000

Elephant Family, 2019
1200cm x 60cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 90,000

FABRIC 3.

COLLAGES

SOLD



SOLD



SOLD



AVAILABLE



SOLD



Fabric Collage, 2019
20cm x 20cm
Fabric and embroidery
Ksh 8,000

AVAILABLE



Common Eland, 2023
180cm x 50cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 95,000

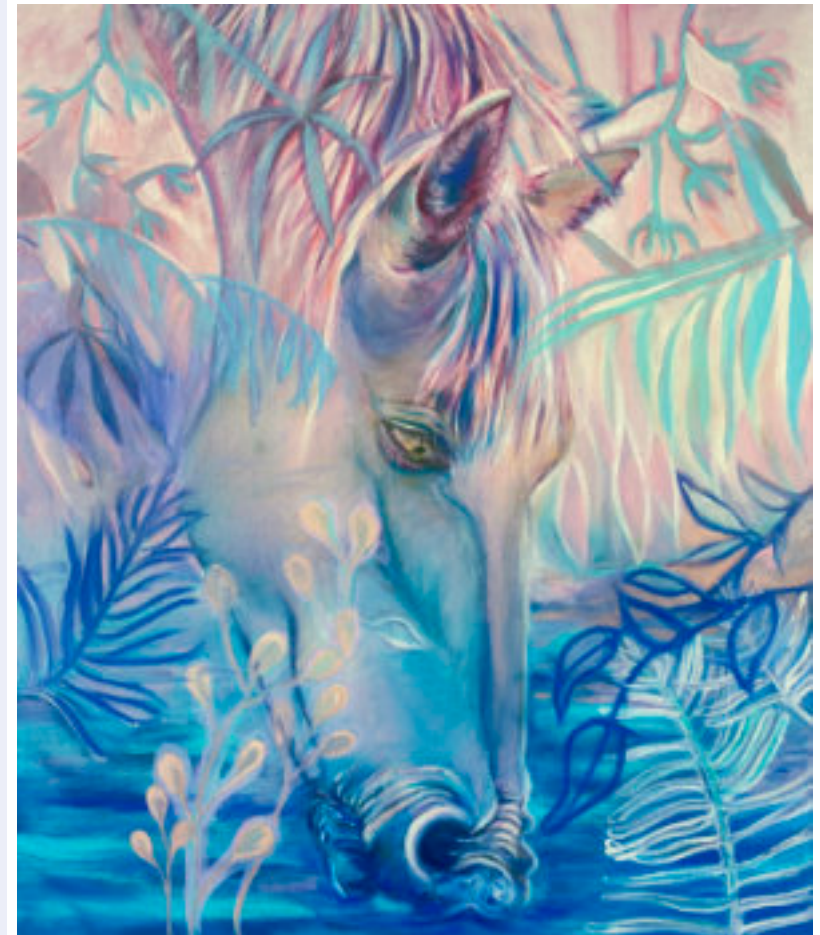
Chamelion Spirit, 2023
80cm x 60cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 75,000

SOLD



Spirit horse 2022
50cm x 70cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 55,000

AVAILABLE



Florals

30cm x 30cm
Tropical Flowers
Acrylic and oils on canvas
Ksh 15,000

SOLD



SOLD



AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



Clockwise from
top- Aberdare
thistle,
Bouganvillea,
Hibiscus, Rose,
Strelitzia and
Dahlia

SOLD



AVAILABLE



2021

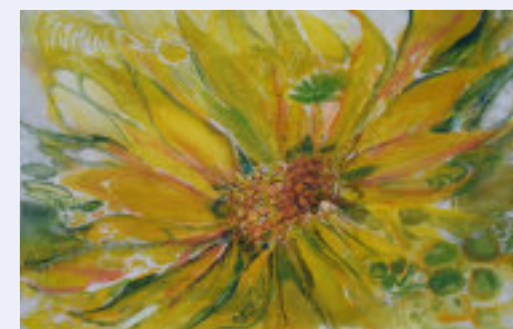
AVAILABLE



Sunflowers, 2023
100 x 120cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 125,000

More florals

Sunflower centre, 2023
30cm x 20cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 10,000

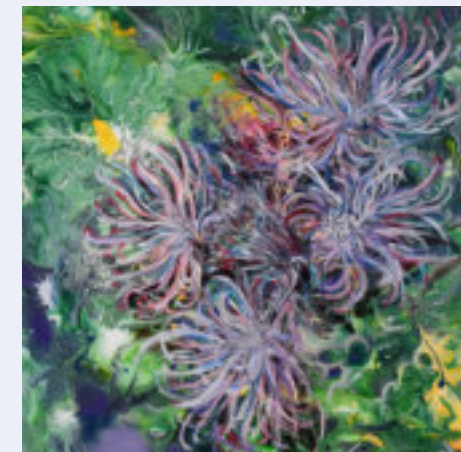


AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE

Aberdare weed, 2023
30cm x 30cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 12,000



2022

SOLD

Landscapes

SOLD



Tepid waters, 2019
100cm x 70cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 60,000

Samburu Sands, 2018
90cm x 70cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 75,000

SOLD



SOLD



Sunset, 2018
115cm x 40cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 45,000

Magadi sunrise, 2018
40cm x 40cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 40,000

AVAILABLE



AVAILABLE



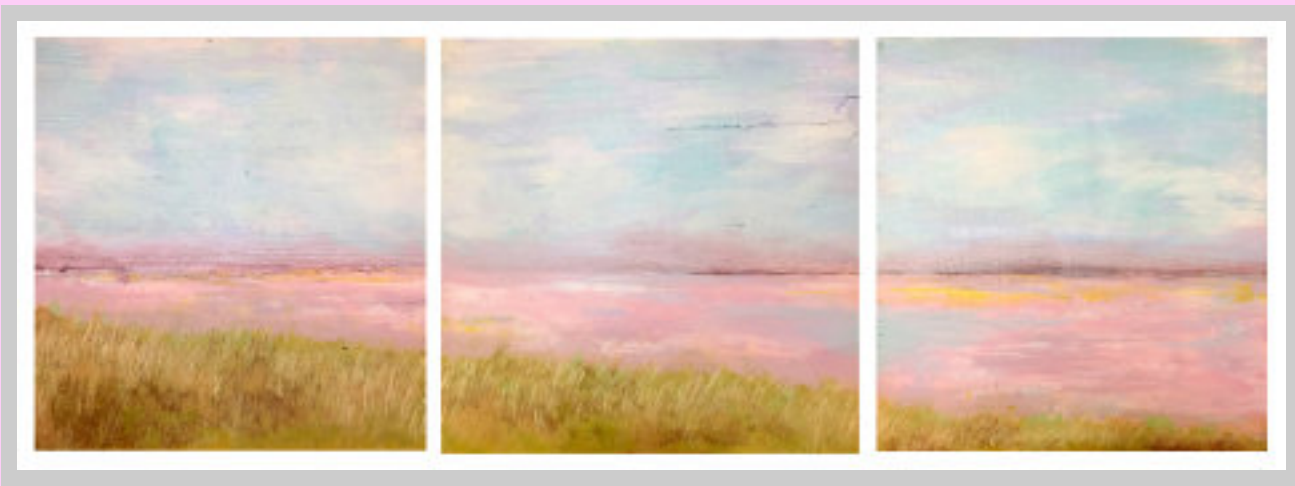
Waves crashing, 2018
70cm x 60cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 25,000

Waatching waater, 2018
20cm x 20cm
Acrylic & oil on canvas
Ksh 20,000

AVAILABLE



Landscapes

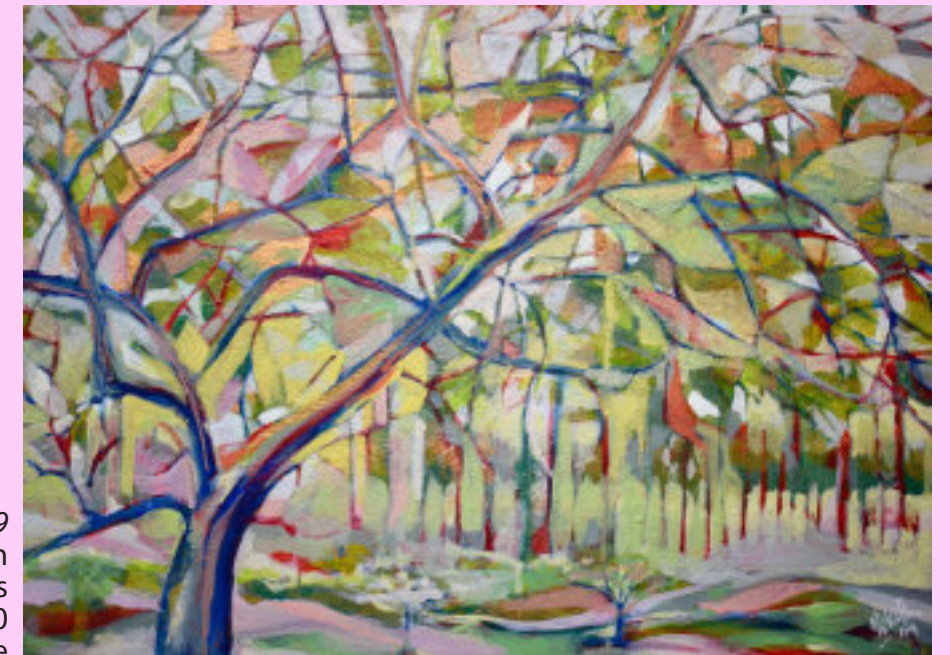


Magadi Tryptich, 2017
20cm x 20cm
Acrylic on canvas
Ksh 25,000
Donated to Rotary Nbi



Fork in the Road, 2018
50cm x 40cm
Acrylic on Paper
Ksh 25,000
Donated to UBUNTU

Contemporary realism
Semi-abstract
Color explosion



Forest Lights, 2019
70cm x 50cm
Acrylic on Canvas
Ksh 35,000
Donated to Festival Du Feminine

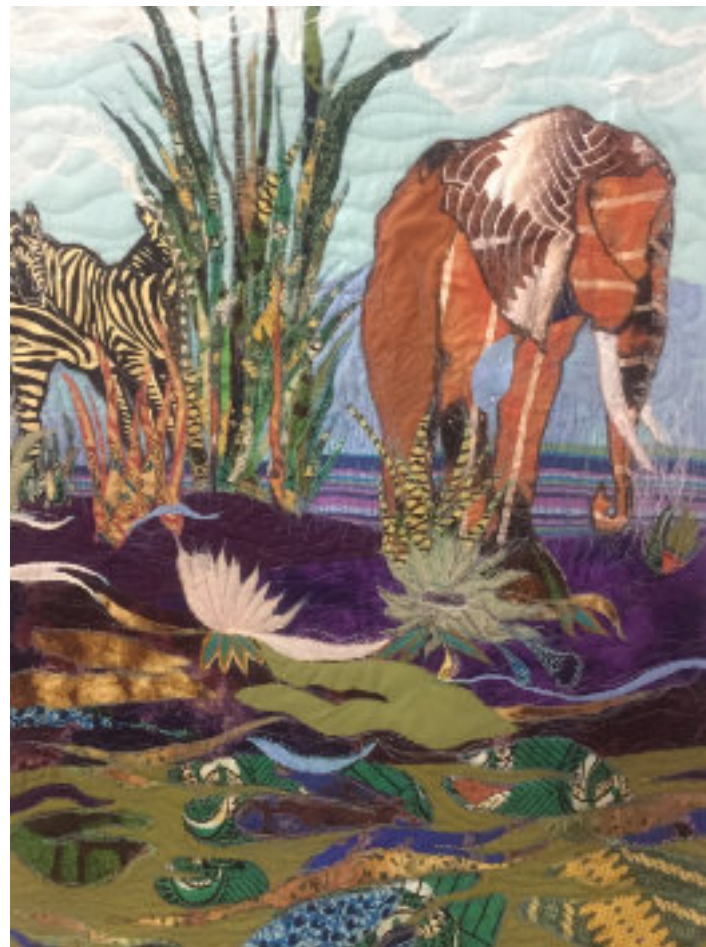
SOLD



Samburu Sands, 2018
90cm x 70cm
Acrylic on Canvas
Ksh 75,000

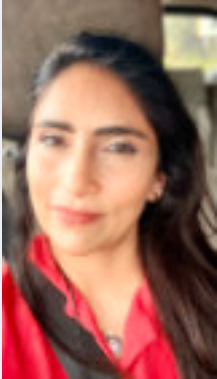
Get in touch

FABRIC



COLLAGES





Artist, Curator and Art Diary Producer
Emerging (6 years)

Art, for me, transcends mere decoration; it imbues life with meaning and serves as a bridge between diverse cultures. It acts as a catalyst for introspective conversations, stirring within us emotions that uplift, motivate, and challenge.

Through vibrant fabric collages and paintings, I commemorate the dynamic interplay between my urban and natural Kenyan environment.

My work reflects my personal connection to Nairobi and Kenya, where questions of identity have often left me feeling like a transient outsider despite my Kenyan roots. These themes permeate my art, prompting dialogue about identity, belonging, environmental concerns, gender roles, water accessibility, and the plight of endangered wildlife.

Exhibitions

10 / 2023	Ardhi Gallery, Nairobi <i>Miniature Art Fair Group Show</i>
09 / 2023	Ulwazi Place, Nairobi <i>Annual Vanishing Wonders Group Show</i>
03 / 2023	Alliance Francais, Nairobi <i>International Womens Day Group Show</i>
04 / 2022	Kenya National Meseum, Nairobi <i>Affordable Art Show</i>
08 / 2021	Village Market, Nairobi <i>Annual Vanishing Wonders Group Show</i>
11 / 2019	Tribe hotel, Nairobi <i>Festival du Feminin Group Show</i>
10 / 2019	Kenya National Meseum, Nairobi <i>Affordable Art Show</i>
09 / 2019	Village Market, Nairobi <i>Annual Vanishing Wonders Group Show for Environment Charity</i>
11 / 2018	Village Market, Nairobi <i>Diverse Perspectives Group Show</i>
09 / 2018	La Flama, Castellion, Spain <i>Vanishing Wonders Show- raise awareness for envirnment</i>
05 / 2018	French Accueil Womens Society, Nairobi <i>Water Bearers Show to highlight Access to Water Issues</i>
02 / 2018	Private Residence, New Delhi, India <i>Vanishing Wonders Show</i>
11 / 2017	FOTA ISK, Nairobi <i>Affordable Group Art Show</i>
07 / 2017	Saffron Spa, Nairobi <i>Peace & Diversity Group Show for peace before the Elections</i>
10 / 2016	Austrian Emb Residence, Nairobi <i>Kenyan Artists Highlght Group Show</i>

Education

08/2012-6/2016	BA Fine Arts	Kenyatta University
09/1991-6/1992	BA Graphic Design	Birmingham University
09/1990-07/1991	BTech Dipl. Art & Design	KIAD, Kent

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Themes

Cityscapes

Wildlife

Landscapes

Botanical & Floral

Women

Seascapes

Spiritual

Mediums

Water Colours

Oils

Acrylics

Textile Collages

Languages

English

Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi

Conversational Kiswahili

Intermediate German

Interests

Reading, Hiking, gardening and
swimming

Recommendation

Margaretta wa Gacheru

PH.D Columnist

Nation Media group

Margaretta.gacheru@gmail.com



Residency Resaearch Proposal

Rational

Confronting Our Responsibility: A Call to Collective Action

This exhibition dives deep into the crucial role of global conservation, urging viewers to actively examine their place within it. Climate crisis, ecosystem collapse, and growing social injustice aren't isolated issues; they're intimately intertwined. As we grasp the interdependency of human cultures and natural systems, a fresh urgency arises to abandon the exploitative habits and mindsets that have led us to this ecological precipice. Though the need for change has been long recognized, translating awareness into action remains a hurdle. Policy struggles to keep pace with scientific warnings, while our narratives and ways of relating to the natural world fail to offer alternative perspectives that could guide us towards sustainable solutions. This profound challenge demands a radical collective effort. No single discipline holds the key to overcoming a crisis as deeply rooted in cultural and spiritual values as it is in environmental factors. We must join forces, drawing on diverse perspectives and expertise, to weave a new tapestry of understanding and action.

The Work

My interest in human relationships with the local environment has led to my current body of work which explores themes of interconnectedness between the animal, human and natural world. Cultural symbolism from indigenous people, elements from the natural world, and the African Landscape are always present in my work. My style can be described as contemporary realism and can be seen on the 'Spirits' page in the attached portfolio.

As mentioned some of my new work is about layering fabrics to create new landscapes. I would like to continue the series of works that I have, 'Spirits' and share the result hopefully in an exhibition of 10 paintings in September 2025.

They are paintings of animals and people layered with other natural elements to convey a sense of deep connection between all of nature.

The idea that this connectedness between everything is sacred is what I am hoping to share with the world to remind everyone to be mindful when exploring both nature.

Theme

Conservation is the central theme of this exhibit. This is an important topic for many of us; it is also far more complex than we realize. Human lives and livelihoods are at stake, as well as animal lives. To solve it we have to collaborate with humans at the grassroots level to embrace and appreciate their environment and its flora and fauna._____

The background features a light purple and pink color palette with intricate, overlapping leaf patterns in various shades of green, brown, and purple. A dark brown silhouette of a giraffe is positioned on the left side, facing left. The text "Niketh" is written in a large, dark brown, cursive script, and "art" is written in a smaller, dark brown, cursive script below it.

Niketh
art

Portfolio

A horizontal line of small green dots runs across the bottom of the page.