



GUNS & RAIN

Investec Cape Town Art Fair 2020

14th - 16th of February 2020

Sandile Radebe

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About Sandile Radebe

Known for navigating between public space and the studio, Sandile Radebe's (b. 1978) striking relief sculptures are inspired by *iziqhaza* Zulu earplugs, and *ucu*, beaded necklaces with triangular patterns that carry encoded messages between lovers. This body of work reflects the artist's long-standing interest in language, communication and Zulu knowledge systems and material culture, exploring and deploying scripts, codes, symbols and colour.

Ukuklekla is isiZulu for slicing the earlobes, in order to adorn them with *iziqhaza*. *Ukuklekla* also means to be wise. Only those deemed wise are bestowed with the honour to *-klekla*. The use of herbs by knowledgeable elders during this rite alludes to indigenous knowledge systems inherent not only in the process of *ukuklekla* but also in the construction of Zulu material culture: *iziqhaza*, *izinkamba*, *amabheqe*, *amacansi* and so forth.

Isiqhaza also carries another more political meaning: it was used historically to describe those who resisted the rise of 'modernity' and Christianity, and were seen to be 'backward' in their maintenance of cultural beliefs and practices. Interested in fluid and contextualised meaning, Radebe says, "My *iziqhaza* is rooted in a different context to that of *ukuklekla*: mine is a critique on how we understand who we are and what identifies us, particularly as *amaZulu* and as human beings."

Based at the Bag Factory in Jo'burg, Radebe holds a BFA (Hons) and a PGDA in Arts & Cultural Management from Wits University.

He has exhibited in multiple group exhibitions in South Africa, including at Lizamore, Everard Read and Circa. He has also created numerous public artworks for Afrika Burn, Century City Bus Station Cape Town, Joburg Road Agency, Vrystaat Kunstefees, and the 1st International Sculpture Symposium' in Odisha India, among others. Radebe's gallery pieces are in private collections in Johannesburg, Cape Town, London and Madrid.



Isiqhaza

2019

Spray paint on Pine wood

45 x 45 x 8 cm (17.7 x 17.7 x 3.1 inches)



Isiqhaza (detail)



Esahloma

2019

Spray paint on Pine wood

45 x 45 x 8 cm (17.7 x 17.7 x 3.1 inches)



Esahloma (detail)



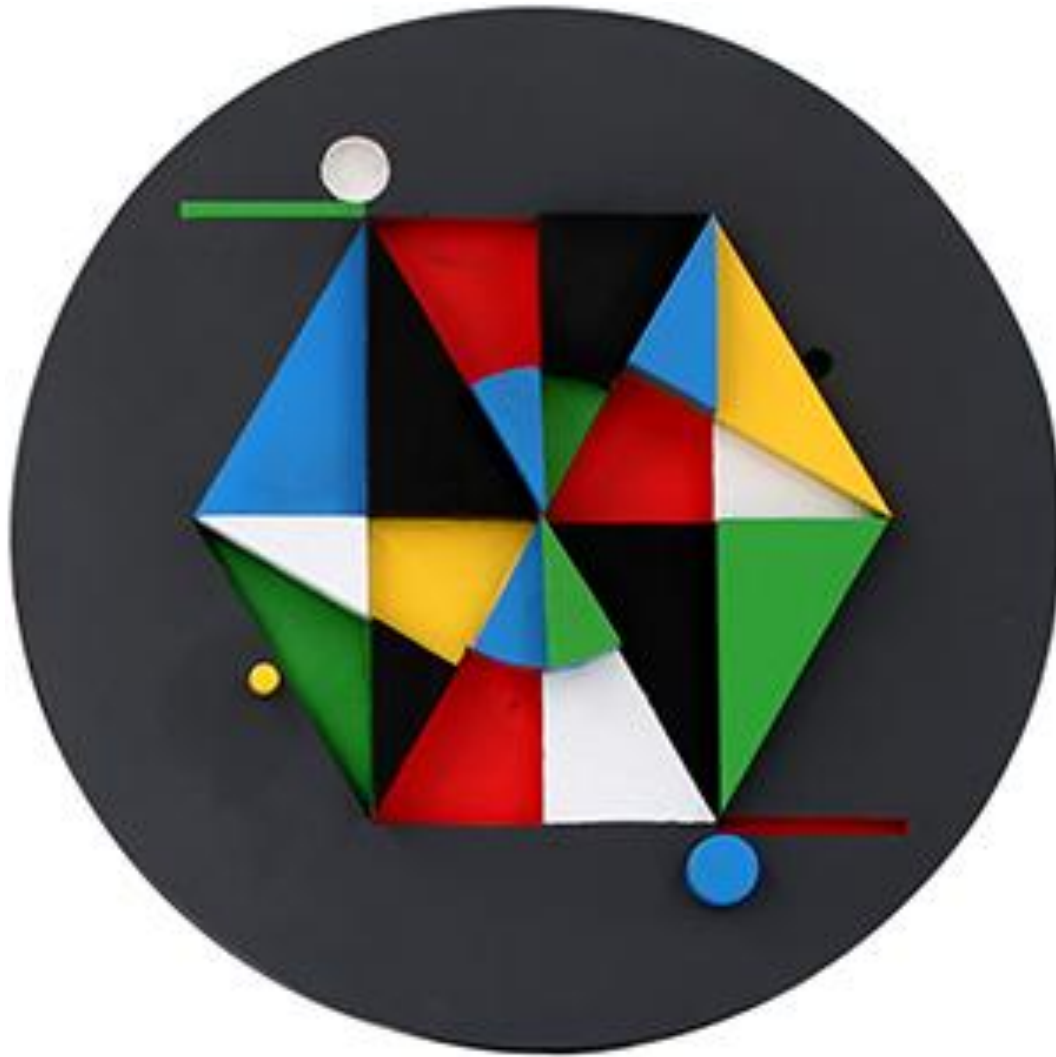
Isinyolovane I

Spray paint on Pine wood

60 x 60 x 8 cm (23.6 x 23.6 x 3.1 inches)



Isinyolovane I (detail)

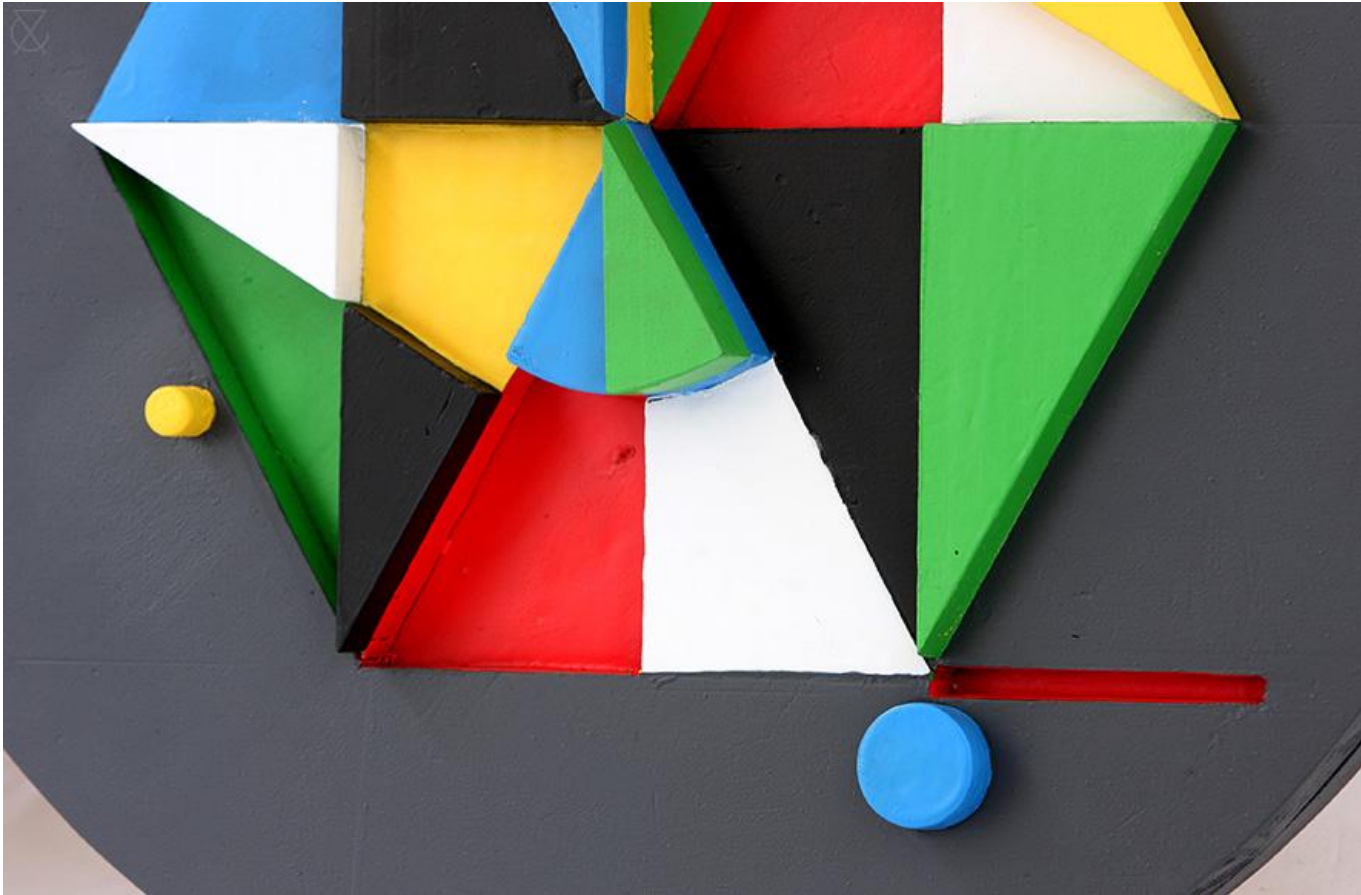


Isinyolovane II

2019

Spray paint on Pine wood

60 x 60 x 8 cm (23.6 x 23.6 x 3.1 inches)



Isinyolovane II (detail)