



Decolonizing African Art History in South Africa: New Perspectives and Methodologies

Nkosana Mkhize¹, Mpho Tshehla¹

¹ Stellenbosch University

Published: 25 May 2001 | **Received:** 28 January 2001 | **Accepted:** 23 April 2001

Correspondence: nmkhize@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18732666](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18732666)

Author notes

Nkosana Mkhize is affiliated with Stellenbosch University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Mpho Tshehla is affiliated with Stellenbosch University and focuses on Arts & Humanities research in Africa.

Abstract

African art history in South Africa has been predominantly shaped by Eurocentric perspectives since colonial times, leading to a lack of diverse and inclusive narratives. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with contemporary artists, curators, and scholars, alongside quantitative analysis of archival data from public collections. A thematic analysis revealed that over 70% of artworks in major South African museums have Eurocentric origins, highlighting the need for diversification to reflect a broader spectrum of artistic expressions. The study underscores the necessity of integrating diverse perspectives into art historical narratives and calls for institutional changes within museums to promote inclusivity. Museums are encouraged to develop partnerships with local communities and artists, ensuring that their collections better represent the diversity of South African artistic traditions.

Keywords: *African Studies, Decolonization, Postcolonial Theory, Ethnohistory, Oral Tradition, Visual Culture, Postmodernism*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge