

What's up with talented Ben Nsusha?

TANKISO KOMANE

THUNGAU Thimule, a reflective exhibition featuring more than 100 original art pieces by Ben Nsusha, a prolific artist with a rich history of print making, ceramics and painting, has had art lovers eating out of the palm of his hand at MuseuMAfricA in Newtown, Johannesburg.

On until December 24, the concept comes from the Zulu word, *thunga*, which means "to sew" but here it also describes the act of passing a pot of traditional beer from one person to the next with participants seated in a circle.

Thimule denotes the sneeze of a Sangoma in response to a query.

How did you get involved in creating art?

I cannot specify when my interest started, but I know it was in the early stages of my youth and

as I grew, it became stronger. It soon became clear that I had a knack for handling tools that was different from others, and I believe that hereditary and environmental factors played a big role in this regard.



I have been greatly supported and inspired by my family to walk this long thorny path with love, passion and purpose.

Is there a common theme in this collection?

The collection sums up my own observation of people and soci-



REFLECTIVE ART: The Son of Man.

ety in general. It invites people to respond to what they are seeing and feeling.

What helped you build your body of work?

Over my 40-year career, I have been greatly supported and inspired by my family to walk



PROLIFIC ARTIST: Ben Nsusha.

this long, thorny path with love, passion and purpose.

Got any exciting upcoming projects in the works?

I have the ability to work across many disciplines, namely painting, sculpture, print making and ceramics, so my next show

will incorporate all these into a theme that's still to be inspired. Besides, the world changes so much every day and as an avid observer of my surroundings, I am excited as to what will come to life on my next canvas.

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