

# UMBULUMAKHEQE



An art exhibition by **Mbali Malimela & Ande Magoso**

Featuring Ntobeko Chiliza

**28 Nov – 16 Dec 2025**



# UMbulumakheqe

An exhibition by **Mbali Malimela** & **Ande Magoso**

There is a way of being that existed, Emandulo. It was law amongst the people of the time, that praise songs, stories, chants, and the fundamental truths of the human condition could only be shared after nightfall, by the elders. They tended to preface every story with a caveat that these are fairy stories, Izinganekwane. It was advised that narrating these stories during daylight would cause the elders who tell them to grow horns. For this reason, the people of the land would only share these stories in the evening.

Sanibona.

To each and every one of you. Along with all of your ancestors, your stories, and the forces of light you carry with you. We honour and see you, all of you.

Welcome to the world of uBab'UMbulumakheqe. A story that has been around for millennia. And unbeknownst to Ande, was being told by usis'Mbali Malimela. The way she tells it, is breathtaking. Lenganekwane ka-bab'UMbulumakheqe explores the journey of a man who is always in two worlds, in more ways than one... his mother on the one hand, intombi yale, eMpuma nekapa, KwaMxenge. His father, on the other hand, udabuka phansi kwisizwe sika Majozi. He himself, ubab'UMbulumakheqe lives in one world, when the woman he knows is destined for him lives in a faraway world... eMumbe.

The duality you are beginning to sense in this story is a central theme of the kind of ancient magic that guided usis'Mbali Malimela to cross paths with Ande Magoso, a young man who is born of a Xhosa woman and a Zulu man, and as one half of a set of twins. So you see, this duality is coded into his being, too. And unbeknownst to sis'Mbali, Ande has been telling visual stories all his life, about existing and moving across multiple worlds. About the richness and depth of duality.

The characters depicted in Ande's stories possess characteristics and qualities that were unmistakably resonant with those described in inganekwane ka-bab'UMbulumakheqe. And so it began, worlds and stories that up until that point, had been shared in parallel with each other finally converged.

The auditory story and the visual scenes disappeared into, and emerged as one another. Inganekwane exoxwa emini, libalele... and carries on, deep into the night, and continues still when dawn breaks.

In their worlds, sis'Mbali and Ande, they discovered that the elders who possess the ancient knowledge systems that are fundamental to the thriving of a people could no longer afford to limit their storytelling to the evenings. And so they grew ram horns on their heads and sheep fur on their faces because of all the daytime stories that were being passed around.

This world you are about to experience, therefore, is the merging an existence of many worlds into one super-consciousness. Follow us, please, into this magical place. We have been intentional about cultivating it to be honest, sincere and the most authentic representation of themes such as love, and longing, and loss, and journey, and everything in between.

We hope you emerge on the other side with a sense of a renewed reality, through this mythology. We hope you interface with the alchemy of how ubab'UMbulumakheqe harnesses the ancient wisdom of the first people.

We hope the transformation is natural and effortless, as it was for usis'Mbali, NoAnde, no Ntobeko, noNdabezinhle, noHloniphani, noThulebona, and the legion birthed from the convergence of each of their lineages. We hope the rich spirit of these worlds stays with you as it has stayed with them, as they have navigated their way through this collaboration.

Sesiyivala,

Siyabonga. We honour you and we see you. All of you.

### **Collaborators:**

Ande Magoso	- Visual and Fine Artist
Mbali Malimela	- Poet and Storyteller
Ntobeko Chiliza	- Sculptural Artist
Ndabezinhle Mntungwa	- Vocalist
Hloniphani Mthethwa	- Guitarist and Vocalist
Thulebona Mcineka	- Vocalist



**Malimela Mbali** is an international award-winning Isizulu writer, performing poet and storyteller based in Durban. As a founder and Creative Director at Dani Creative Concepts and Bantu Origin, she holds a strong passion of restoring the love and use of vernacular language through art.

She has been invited to participate in numerous poetry platforms including the Lagos International Poetry Festival 2022 in Nigeria, 22nd and 25th Poetry Africa Festival, 25th Time Of The Writer Festival as well as the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Artfluence Human Rights Festival on behalf of S.A held by the UKZN Centre For Creative Arts. Mbali has been profiled as one of the 20 South African young and thriving poets by the Right To Speak catalogue.

She has also been a part of Ethekewini Municipality's Women's Dialogue (2020), the first KZN Poetry Festival as well as The Playhouse Company's Annual South African Women's Art Festival (2018-2021) & their Sundowners Jazz and Poetry concerts. She has had her writings published in the most loved African journals including the Sol Plaatje European Union Anthology, AVBOB Poetry, Imbiza Journal and Fundza literacy. Mbali's Visual poetry projects (available on her YouTube Channel) have been screened at The Durban Business Fair, a Television Programme held at the Durban ICC and "Ugubhu Lwami" on 1KZN TV. Mbali has been featured as a guest poet on Poetry Shows, Jazz Album launches, Radio stations and has more of her work on all digital stores.



**Ande Magoso** was born in Kokstad. Before the age of six, he moved to Umzimkhulu and later to Kwa-Ngcolosi. Though these places are all located within the same province, each is culturally distinct, and this diversity continues to shape and inform his artistic practice.

In 2020, Magoso earned a certificate in visual arts through The BAT Centre's Visual Art Artist-in-Residency (AIR) Programme. His journey into art began as a form of escape - a way to create an alternate reality in response to the complexities of the real world. Drawing deeply from his intercultural heritage, having a Xhosa mother and a Zulu father, Magoso uses goats and sheep as recurring symbols in his work. These animals, integral to both Xhosa and Zulu rituals, serve as metaphors for the similarities and differences between the two cultures, reflecting his personal experience of navigating both worlds.

Magoso's work acts as a window into his thoughts on what it means to be a young Black man in South Africa, a space where surrealism and absurdity often converge. His art imagines a parallel world, one accessed through creativity and symbolism, where he can simply exist as a "normal" being.

He draws inspiration from the sepia-toned portraiture of Gerard Bhengu and the layered mythologies found in Mazisi Kunene's *Amalokotho kaNomkhubulwane*. Storytelling and film also influence his practice, allowing his characters and themes to evolve beyond the canvas. For Magoso, each painting is not a final product, but a fragment of a growing universe where culture, mythology, and symbolism continuously unfold. His work has been acquired by collectors both in South Africa and internationally, with notable collections including the National Museum Bloemfontein, Phansi Museum, and The St. Claire Collection.





**Ntobeko Chiliza** is a South Coast-based wood carver whose practice is grounded in Zulu and African traditions, drawing on the forms, functions and symbolism of ancestral material culture. Working primarily with indigenous woods, he hand-carves traditional sitting panels, ceremonial chairs, izingqolo traditional wooden plates used for eating, izingqulo for hand-refining grain as well as expressive human head figures. His work reflects a deep respect for heritage, while reimagining traditional objects as contemporary cultural artefacts.

From 2019 to 2022, Chiliza worked with the African Art

Centre in Glenwood, Durban, refining his craft and expanding his body of work. In 2022, his traditional wooden pieces were commissioned for the Shaka iLembe production, where his carvings contributed to the visual authenticity and historical depth of the series.









Ande Magoso  
**Uphi Umalokazana?**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 130cm X 170cm  
 2025  
 R 51 500

A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 3 200



Ande Magoso  
**Ngishela Le eMumbe**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 114cm X 150cm  
 2025  
 R 44 500

A1 size limited edition  
 print: R 2 600



Ande Magoso  
**Liyozilahla eMbindolo**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 105cm X 150cm  
 2025  
 R 42 000



A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 2 400



Ande Magoso  
**Ungehlale Ingunaphakade?**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 110cm X 130cm  
 2025  
 R 47 500

A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 2 900





Ande Magoso  
**UThingo WaseMbumbhe**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 110cm X 130cm  
 2025  
 R 39 500

A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 2 100



Ande Magoso  
**Inqina Ka Mabuyaze**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 105cm X 130cm  
 2025  
 R 39 000

A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 2 000



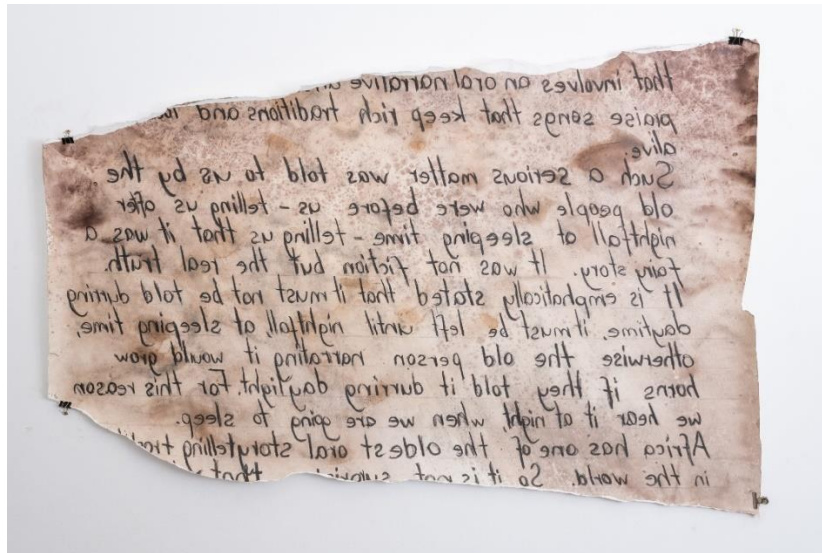


Ande Magoso  
**Indlela Ebheke eMumbe**  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 76cm X 83cm  
 2025  
 R 24 500  
 A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 950



Ande Magoso  
**Indlela KaMbulumakheqe**  
 Acrylic on paper  
 100cm X 70cm  
 2025  
 R 8 500  
 A1 size limited edition print:  
 R 550





Ande Magoso  
**Incazelo**  
 Mixed media on paper  
 113cm X 165cm  
 2024  
 NFS



Ande Magoso  
**Omega**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 112cm X 83cm  
 2025  
 R 29 000  
 A1 size limited edition print: R 1 100



Ande Magoso  
**Alpha**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 112cm X 83cm  
 2025  
 R 29 000  
 A1 size limited edition print: R 1 100



Ande Magoso  
**uMaMxenge**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uGela**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uMbulumakheqe**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uNgwadu**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500





Ande Magoso  
**uSgewu**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uZimisa**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uThingo**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



Ande Magoso  
**uLang'elihle**  
 Mixed media on canvas  
 38cm X 29cm  
 2025  
 R 4 500



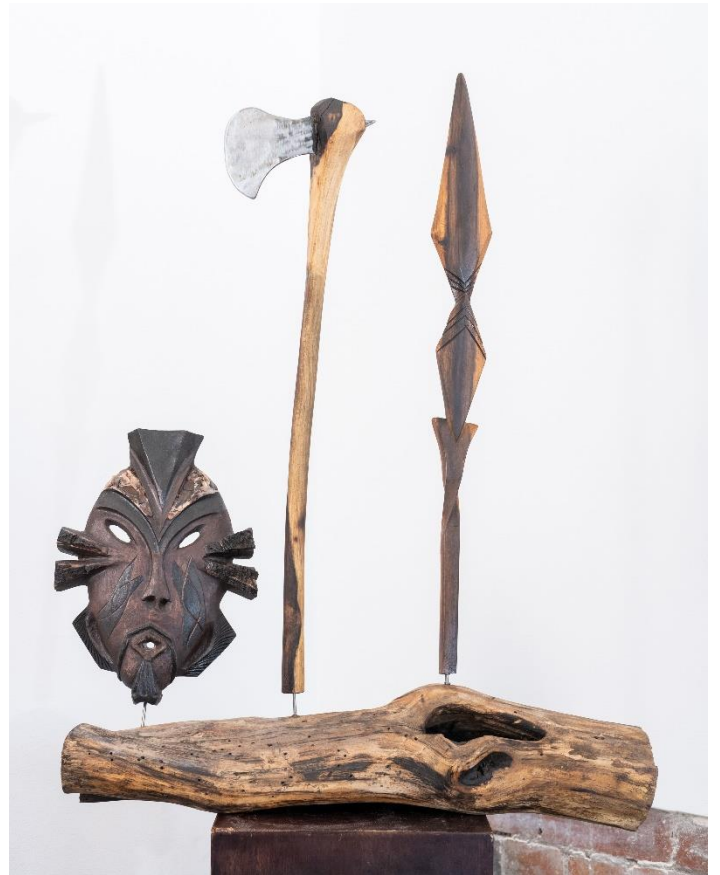


Ntobeko Chiliza  
**UMBulumakheqe**  
 Wooden sculpture  
 20cm X 23cm X 68cm  
 2025  
 R 7 500



Ntobeko Chiliza  
**Ithunga**  
 Wooden sculpture  
 27cm X 24cm X 48cm  
 2025  
 R 6 450

Ntobeko Chiliza  
**Amabhungu Akithi**  
Wooden sculpture  
20cm X 23cm X 68cm  
2025  
R 3 680



Ntobeko Chiliza  
**Ubhoko**  
Wooden sculpture  
6cm X 64cm X 6cm  
2025  
R 350



Ntobeko Chiliza

**Uggoko**

Wooden sculpture

22cm X 61cm X 8.4cm

2025

R 950



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