

# Virtual National Arts Festival to showcase visual art online

As part of its exploration of the digital realm, the Virtual National Arts Festival will be showcasing this year's visual art segment with online works from South African and global artists - which will be available to view and explore between 25 June and 5 July 2020.

The National Arts Festival's annual Makhanda take-over normally includes the transformation of dozens of spaces in the city into temporary art galleries. This year, it will all happen digitally with visitors able to view the work from the comfort of their own homes.



"Never let a good crisis go to waste"- National Arts Festival CEO Monica Newton chats the new virtual format

Ruth Cooper 31 Mar 2020



Using a variety of technologies, the curated programme includes 2020 Standard Bank Young Artist for Visual Art, Blessing Ngobeni; Pitika Ntuli's solo exhibition Azibuyele Emasisweni (Return to the Source), which features works sculpted in bone; and Phumulani Ntuli's Frequencies of a Birthmark\_Episode 1, a creative digital art exhibition that explores clan name lineage and histories in a virtual reality architectural walkthrough. This is just a taste of the selection of works soon to be announced.



2020 Standard Bank Young Artist for Visual Art, Blessing Ngobeni

## Fringe visual art

There will also be a vibrant Fringe visual art element to the Virtual National Arts Festival this year, and artists are invited to exhibit their work online as part of vFringe 2020.

Says National Arts Festival Fringe manager Zikhona Monaheng: “We have facilitated this space for artists to showcase their work and also for buyers to be able to connect directly with artists and potentially even commission works. This is a great opportunity for artists who may not ordinarily be able to attend the Festival to exhibit through this virtual channel.”

Artists will be provided with a page on the Festival's [website](#) where they can display examples of their artwork in a digital exhibition format. While the festival will not provide e-commerce facilities, viewers wishing to commission or purchase artwork will be able to access the contact details, websites and social media details of the artists.



### Virtual National Arts Festival gives artists a platform to monetise their work with vFringe

18 May 2020



Says Virtual National Arts Festival CEO Monica Newton: “The idea is to provide a showcase platform to enable visual artists to exhibit their work and for festival viewers to experience a user-friendly virtual exhibition. We hope that audiences that may not traditionally visit art exhibitions during the live festival, will, this year, find time to browse through these virtual galleries.”

Note for visual artists: Registration to participate is free of charge – artists need to complete the [participation form](#) on the festival website's Artist Zone, submitting good quality images and other details that will appear in their virtual gallery. Work will be pre-moderated to ensure that images comply with universal guidelines for online presentation.



### What you need to know about the 1st digital National Arts Fest

23 Apr 2020



Submissions for artists' work are now open and will close on 15 June 2020. The full programme will be announced mid-June and the festival will run from 25 June-5 July 2020. Queries can be directed to [fringe@nationalartsfestival.co.za](mailto:fringe@nationalartsfestival.co.za)

For more see [www.nationalartsfestival.co.za](http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za).