

the dense soil in the installation

2017; *Untitled (Of Occult Sensibility)* [Feelings],
2016-2018; artist portrait

reflects what has been aptly termed "this world."

NOMTHUNZI MASHALABA

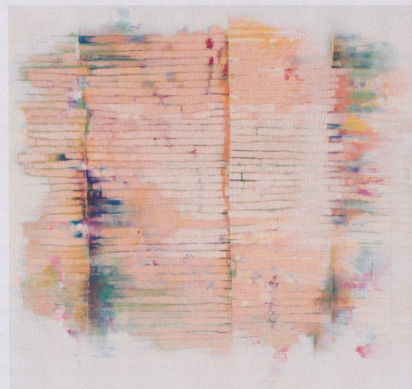
NomThunzi Mashalaba is one of a few visual artists in this new generation of female artists who are working with paint as a medium. Mashalaba's work, rendered in delicate colouring and visual layering, represents what Kingston refers to as "the age of self-actualisation", as her paintings draw on biographical elements, often representing moments from her personal diaries.

Her artistic concerns revolve around ideas of exploring personal stories, thus often visually transferring her diary onto large-scale works. The works allude to story-boarding and sketch-booking, yet are often created in the traditional fine-art media of oil painting and drawing.

"In some of the paintings the colour induces a sense of calm, inviting meditation and reflection. At best, her colour operates as a form of storytelling in the way in which she uses tertiary hues alluding to the complexity of the identity she embodies," Kingston says. "Even the subtlety and nuances of her brush strokes lend to this idea of reflection and contemplation."

Mashalaba is a commanding figurative and abstract painter, Kingston says. Her ability to oscillate between the two different yet interrelated forms of artistic expression is what makes this young artist stand out among her peers. It is encouraging for a young woman to be painting at a time when most of her contemporaries are caught up in the fever of performance art, video art, and new technologies.

"As exciting and promising as her work is, from my view it would benefit from an immersion in experimentation with alternative forms of painting and a greater variety of materials," Kingston says.



Clockwise from left: nomThunzi Mashalaba, Feelings, these well up from somewhere and are mixed together inside me, 2014-2018, artist portrait; Page Series 2017 On the History of Childhood Memories, 2018

