

MBOKODO AWARDS CELEBRATES WOMEN IN THE ART AND SOCIAL CHANGE

CAPE TOWN, DECEMBER 9, 2017- Amongst the 12 phenomenal 2017 Mbokodo awards winners is an actor, musician and a visual artist, women who have gone far beyond the call of duty to highlight, safeguard and shape South Africa's arts and culture heritage and are rocks to be reckoned with, women such as Terry Pheto, Sandra Prinsloo and Zanele Muholi.

“Since 2012, we have been honouring women in the arts, and celebrating their enduring spirit. The 2017 theme, Applauding Women’s Excellence in the Arts”, continues this trend,” said Carol Bower, the founder and organizer of the awards held at The One and Only Hotel in Cape Town.

“For many years for women in the arts their work was expected to be a part-time diversion until the late 1980s. Women were involved in craft making, home decor, fashion and beauty. Fortunately taking inspiration from those who have gone before, the new generation of African women artists have been radical and deliberate in their artistic endeavours,” said Bower.

The 12 winners by category are: Koleka Phuthuma (Rising Star), Zizipho Poswa (Traditional and Indigenous art), Zanele Muholi (Visual Arts), Elsabe Brits (Literature), Linda Bukhosini (Theatre), Siphamandla Yakupa (Opera), The Edgars Unite Orange Day Initiative (Humanitarian Award), Karien Trengrove (Architecture), Gcisa Mdlulwa (Music), Jane Raphaely (Media), Terry Pheto (Film) and Sandra Prinsloo (Lifetime Achievement).

“These are women who have allowed arts to speak for itself in their lives, you don’t have to scrutinize them to see what they are made of because their artistic souls express who they are and so we must celebrate the story-tellers in our midst today,” said Shado Twala, one of the panel of adjudicators.

One lucky award recipient chosen from 12 categories will showcase their art at China’s Chenshia Museum, thanks to the bilateral agreement between the founder and organizer of the awards, Carol Bower Productions and the museum.

“For now we have committed to one winner but we hope in the future we will be able to send more artists to China and other parts of the world- we are striving to see Mbokodo awards growing and improving every year,” Bower said.

Since 2012, the Mbokodo Awards honoured women across multiple cultural disciplines from Opera to Sculpting, Architecture to Ballet. Amongst the illustrious list of past winners were the late author Nadine Gordimer who was delighted to accept the award a few weeks before she sadly passed, South African signature voice Sibongile Khumalo, Letta Mbulu, Mary Sibande, Gcina Mhlophe, Antjie Krog and many others.

Issued by The Media and Writers Firm on behalf of Carol Boucher Productions.

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