

**POLOKWANE ART MUSEUM**

**Wayne Barker**

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Karl Gietl

Karl Gietl

Diana Hyslop

Diana H

David Koloar

David Koloar

Amos Letsoalo

Amos Letsoalo

Kagiso Pat Mautloa

Samson Mnisi

Kagiso Pat Mautloa

Samson Mnisi

Sam Nhlengethwa

Andre Naude

Andre Naude

Sam Nhlengethwa

Maria van Rooyer

Maria van

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# Mokgabudi Amos Letsoalo

Amos Letsoalo's work is not obviously abstract or expressionistic but lies somewhere between these genres and fragments of memories of shapes, landscapes and figures. His work deceptively references African pots, Zulu dolls, calabashes and even West African masks but this is usually done through a few simple lines or through a pastiche of familiar shapes abstracted from their 'natural' contexts. In doing this Letsoalo creates hybrid forms and shapes that exist on differing planes within a world of their own, and yet seem to be in perfect harmony. His colours – burnt siennas, greens, oranges, ochres, umbers - vibrate off the canvas hinting at the Limpopo landscape of his youth etched into his subconscious, as does his brushstrokes that reform the simplistic murals that decorated his mother's house. This is not mere self-indulgence, but an attempt to find a vocabulary that expresses his African heritage and identity, his interrogation of the rural/urban dichotomy, conventional notions of sexuality as well as a negotiation with Western influences. Letsoalo does all of this navigating a fine balance between chaos and simplicity, between form and blank space, between the tactility of the paint and the smooth untouched surface of the canvas.

**- Sharlene Khan**  
*Artist & Curator*

Born in 1969 in Polokwane, Letsoalo studied fine arts at the Johannesburg Art Foundation 1992-4, completing his studies in Arts Management @ Wits School of Arts. Currently he works at the Wits University Art Gallery as a curatorial assistant.

His artwork is represented in several local and international public and private collections i.e. amongst others; Iziko Museum, Nelson Mandela collection, Development Bank, SAFC, Polokwane Museum, World Bank, South African Embassy Berlin-Germany, South African High Commission London-UK and many more.



*Space II*

121 x 90cm Oil on Canvas