

## **Igshaan ADAMS**

Igshaan Adams's (b. 1982, Cape Town, South Africa) practice encompasses weaving, sculpture, installation, and performance, creating works that trace the movement of bodies through space and time, reflecting personal and collective experiences. Born to a Muslim father and a Christian mother of Nama-Khoisan descent, Adams was raised as a mixed-race person during the final decade of apartheid, when racial classifications enforced systemic inequality and segregation. His practice draws upon the racial fissures and social realities of South Africa's past. These histories are translated into intricately layered tapestries that function as both archives, mapping the traces of individuals who traversed social and geographical boundaries. Central to Adams's working method is an engagement with the body as a site of memory, movement, and transformation. His works center on how movement and dance serve as vessels for embodied knowledge and ancestral inheritance, as well as a means of processing trauma, resilience, and resistance. Adams is further informed by his interest in Sufism, a mystical practice within Islam that emphasizes the interconnectedness of the internal and external.

Collaboration lies at the heart of Adams's artistic process. His works are handwoven with a group of weavers in his Cape Town studio, including relatives and members of his local community. Through the interweaving of threads, fibers, beads, and found objects, Adams constructs richly layered surfaces that are at once intimate and expansive, transforming personal narratives into meditations on memory, movement, and belonging.

Adams was a participating artist in the 59th Venice Biennale— "The Milk of Dreams". His solo exhibitions took place at Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (2026), Mudam Luxembourg (2026), Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (2025), Hill Art Foundation (New York, 2025), ARoS Aarhus Art Museum (2025), The Hepworth Wakefield (2024), The Institute of Contemporary Art Boston (2024), Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (Cape Town, 2022), The Art Institute of Chicago (2022), Kunsthalle Zurich (2022), Hayward Gallery (London, 2021), SCAD Museum of Art (Savannah, 2020), and Iziko South African National Gallery (Cape Town, 2018).

Adams currently lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

- 2026 "in situ: Igshaan Adams. Unsettling Dust: The Body's Archive", Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain  
"Between Then and Now", Mudam Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- 2025 "Lulu, Zanele, Zandile, Savannah", Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA  
"I've been here all along, I've been waiting", Hill Art Foundation, New York, USA  
"Verkenning", Casey Kaplan, New York, USA  
"Igshaan Adams — Weerhoud", ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark

- 2024 "Holy Terrain", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 "Weerhoud", The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK  
 "Igshaan Adams", Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Boston, USA
- 2023 "Primêre Wentelbaan", Thomas Dane Gallery, London, UK
- 2022 "Vastrapplek", Casey Kaplan, New York, USA  
 "Not Working (Working Title)", Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa  
 "Desire Lines", The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
 "Skarrelbaan", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 "Kicking Dust", Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2021 "Kicking Dust", Southbank Centre, Hayward Gallery, London, UK  
 "Veld Wen", Casey Kaplan, New York, USA
- 2020 "Getuie", SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA  
 "Stukkinne stories", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 "I am no more", Akershus Kunstsenter, Oslo, Norway  
 "When Dust Settles", Johannes Stegmann Gallery, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa (tour to Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Gqeberha, South Africa; Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa)
- 2018 "When Dust Settles", National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa (tour to Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa; North West University Gallery, Potchefstroom, South Africa)  
 "Al Latîf", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016 "Oorskot", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 "Please Remember", A Tale of a Tub, Rotterdam, the Netherlands  
 "Parda", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 "Have you seen Him?", blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 "If that I knew", Rongwrong Gallery, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2026 "Soft Borders", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong  
 "10th Biennial of Painting", Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium  
 "Present Tension: Contemporary Art from the Speed Art Museum Collection", Speed Art Museum, Louisville, USA  
 "Looking Back - White Columns Annual", White Columns, New York, USA  
 "América", Diasporic Connections in the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, Seville, Spain
- 2025 "Stockholm Cosmologies", Liljevalchs, Stockholm, Sweden  
 "Recipes for Broken Hearts", Bukhara Biennial, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

- “Structures”, Joburg Contemporary Art Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 “Sightlines”, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Black Earth Rising”, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, USA  
 “We, the people: 30 Years of Democracy in South Africa”, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstractions”, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
- 2024 “Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics”, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA  
 “Unravel - The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art”, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
 “Leaps of Faith”, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, Hasselt, Belgium  
 “Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art”, Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK
- 2023 “Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstractions”, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, USA  
 “Choreographies of the Impossible”, Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil  
 “Stranger in the Village: Reflecting on Racism with James Baldwin”, Aargauer Kunsthhaus, Aarau, Switzerland  
 “How do we know the world?”, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, USA  
 “Collector's Focus: The Kilbourn Collection”, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “IO”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Narrative Threads: Textile Art Now”, Moody Center for the Arts, Houston, USA  
 “Awwal Bayt (First House)”, Islamic Arts Biennale, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia  
 “If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future”, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
- 2022 “Dreamhome: Art and Shelter”, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
 “Unknown Unknowns: An Introduction to Mysteries”, 23rd Triennale Milano, Milan, Italy  
 “Customs”, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “The Milk of Dreams”, 59th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2021 “A Line Beyond”, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Slowly Arriving”, Kunsthhaus Baselland, Basel, Switzerland  
 “I have made a place”, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Step Out of Your Body, Enter New Ones”, Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2020 “Who Are We Are Who”, BRAUNSFELDER, Cologne, Germany  
 “Allied with Power”, Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), USA  
 “Tomorrow there will be more of us”, Stellenbosch Triennale, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2019 “Risk”, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Ngoma: Art and Cosmology”, JAG, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 “the head the hand”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Mapping Black Identities”, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, USA  
 “Kubatana”, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Øvre Eiker, Norway  
 “Matters of Concern”, La Verrière, Brussels, Belgium

- “Material Insanity”, Le Al Maaden Museum of Contemporary African Art (MACAAL), Marrakech, Morocco  
 “Filling in the Gaps”, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “CONDO London”, blank projects, London, UK
- 2018 “open agenda”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Soft Power”, Transpalette, Bourges, France  
 “In This Imperfect Present Moment”, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA  
 “Pulling at Threads”, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Sculpture”, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius  
 “Da Uno a Dieci”, Galleria Massimo Minini, Brescia, Italy
- 2017 “Les jour qui vient”, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France
- 2016 “Figure”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “The Quiet Violence of Dreams”, Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
 “3 881 days”, blank lab, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Furniture: a sculpture exhibition”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 “Sacre du Printemps”, Grazer Kunstverein, Graz, Austria  
 “Barriers”, Wanås Konst, Knislinge, Sweden  
 “next thing you know”, blank projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “No Fixed Abode”, The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 “Blind Spot”, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa  
 “Between Subject and Object”, Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town, South Africa  
 “Bismillah”, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa  
 “Three Abdullahs”, Centre for African Studies, Cape Town, South Africa

### **Selected Awards**

- 2018 The Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Art

### **Residencies**

- 2022 “Not Working (Working Title)”, Atelier residency, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 “Open Production, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 I.D.E.A. – Independent Domus Exhibiting Art, Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects, Milan, Italy
- 2015 A Tale of a Tub, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 2014 Sommerakademie im Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland
- 2013 IAAB / Pro Helvetia residency, Basel, Switzerland

### **Collections**

- ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, Denmark  
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia

The Art Institute of Chicago, USA  
The Baltimore Museum of Art, USA  
The Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, USA  
The Hepworth Wakefield, UK  
The Inhotim Institute, Brazil  
Iziko South African National Gallery, South Africa  
Minneapolis Institute of Art, USA  
Moderna Museet, Sweden  
The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), USA  
Standard Bank Corporate Art Collection, South Africa  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, USA  
Speed Art Museum, USA  
Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
Tate, UK  
University of Cape Town, South Africa