

## FNB Art Prize awarded to Peju Alatise

Nigerian artist, Peju Alatise, has been announced as the 2017 recipient of the highly coveted FNB Art Prize at the media launch of the 10th instalment of the FNB JoburgArtFair.

Alatise joins the ranks of previous winners such as Nolan Oswald Dennis, Turiya Magadlela, Portia Zvavahera and Kudzanai Chiurai. She receives a cash prize as well as the opportunity to create a new project that will be showcased in a dedicated exhibition space at the FNB JoburgArtFair this September.



Peju Alatise

Alatise, who holds a degree in architecture, is a mixed-medium artist, poet and published writer whose interdisciplinary work has garnered attention on the global art stage. She was selected as the 2016 fellow at the Smithsonian Institute of African Art and exhibited at the Venice Biennale's 57th edition. With several international solo exhibitions to her name, Alatise's work can be found in private and institutional collections around the world. She's passionate about addressing social, political and gender-related issues as her primary subject matter, through artistic work that also captures the joys and pain of womanhood in modern life-African traditions.

Mari Van Niekerk, Senior Communication and Sponsorship Manager at FNB says that the FNB Art Prize honours exceptional artistic talent and, at the same time, provides many local and international opportunities beyond the Fair, often resulting in a springboard that catapults the artist's career to a higher level.

### Investing in the arts

"There is a great need to continue investing in artists that tell us more about ourselves, and art in this sense is a commodity that isn't simply a good financial investment, but a social dialogue that enables us to reflect. Our decade of continued support of the FNB JoburgArtFair is recognition of the varied roles that art plays in our society, from being a form of expression which offers a much deeper and intrinsic look at the world

around us, to an alternative investment option,” says Van Niekerk.

“Our commitment to the FNB JoburgArtFair continues to ensure that in the years to come, we will continue introduce African artists to an international audience, galleries, collectors, writers, thinkers and art lovers,” she says.



Peju Alatise - o is the new + (cross)

All galleries participating in the FNB JoburgArtFair are given the opportunity to nominate one of their artists for consideration by the jury. This year, Red Door Gallery – one of the leading galleries based in Lagos – nominated Peju Alatise for the prize. Red Door’s founder, Bola Asiru says, “Peju’s work is filled with strong societal narratives on the realities of life in Africa; her message has been heard in West Africa, at the Smithsonian in the United States and the Venice Biennale in Europe. We feel that it’s time for this message to be taken to the rest of Africa and there is no better platform for this than the FNB JoburgArtFair.”

The 2017 judging panel for the coveted FNB Art Prize consisted of Nicole Siegenthaler, Producer of FNB JoburgArtFair, Pulane Kingston, partner at Webber Wentzel Attorneys and active patron of the arts and RosaLee Goldberg, New York University professor and Founding Director of Performa, a non-profit arts organisation committed to the research, development and presentation of performance by visual artists from around the world.

“The quality of each of the shortlisted candidates' proposals this year was high,” says Pulane Kingston, “but we were ultimately unanimous in our decision around Alatise's proposal – it stood out. The innovative, universal social relevance and poignancy in the themes underpinning her work were some of the deciding factors in tipping the scales in her favour. The overall body of her work over the years is varied and compositionally strong, palpably reflecting the intense vibrancy of the African continent. We have no doubt that the integrity of the overall body of her work will propel her career meaningfully.”

## **FNB JoburgArtFair**

The FNB JoburgArtFair takes place at the Sandton Convention Centre, Exhibition Hall 1, 161 Maude Street

Sandton, from the 8 to 10 September 2017. Tickets are R150 and can be purchased through [tixsa.co.za](http://tixsa.co.za).

For more information, please visit: [www.fnbjoburgartfair.co.za](http://www.fnbjoburgartfair.co.za)

For more information on Peju Alatise, please visit: [www.pejualatise.com](http://www.pejualatise.com)

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>