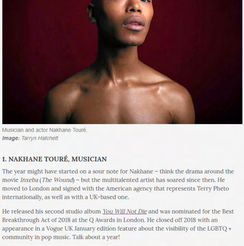
LIFESTYLE

Mzansi shines bright in the global spotlight: 9 creatives who slayed 2018

We celebrate talented South Africans who flew our flag high as they dominated in their fields, both locally and abroad

27 December 2018 - 00:00
BY ZOLA ZONKWA

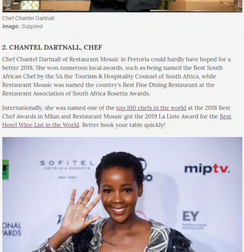


Musician and actor Nakhane Touré.
Image: *Tarryn Hatchett*

1. NAKHANE TOURÉ, MUSICIAN

The year might have started on a sour note for Nakhane – think the drama around the movie *Inxeba (The Wound)* – but the multitalented artist has soared since then. He moved to London and signed with the American agency that represents Terry Pheto internationally, as well as with a UK-based one.

He released his second studio album *You Will Not Die* and was nominated for the Best Breakthrough Act of 2018 at the Q Awards in London. He closed off 2018 with an appearance in a Vogue UK January edition feature about the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in pop music. Talk about a year!

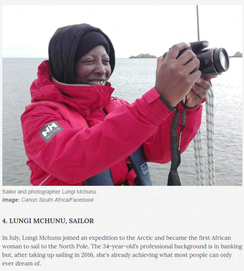


Chef Chantel Dartnall.
Image: *Supplied*

2. CHANTEL DARTNALL, CHEF

Chef Chantel Dartnall of Restaurant Mosaic in Pretoria could hardly have hoped for a better 2018. She won numerous local awards, such as being named the Best South African Chef by the SA the Tourism & Hospitality Counsel of South Africa, while Restaurant Mosaic was named the country's Best Fine Dining Restaurant at the Restaurant Association of South Africa Rosetta Awards.

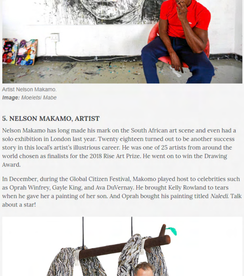
Internationally, she was named one of the top 100 chefs in the world at the 2018 Best Chef Awards in Milan and Restaurant Mosaic got the 2019 La Liste Award for the Best Hotel Wine List in the World. Better book your table quickly!



Thuso Mbedu at the 2018 Emmy Awards in New York.
Image: *Astrain Cedoli/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images*

3. THUSO MBEDU, ACTRESS

Thuso Mbedu was nominated for an Emmy for the second year in a row. The actress was nominated in the International Best Actress category for her role as Winnie in the Mzansi Magic TV show *Ashumi*. She was the only African to be nominated for this year's ceremony and only the third South African ever to be nominated for the award. Locally, she bagged the Safta for Best Actress in a drama series.

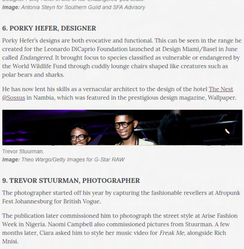


Sailor and photographer Lungi Mchunu.
Image: *Canon South Africa/Facebook*

4. LUNGI MCHUNU, SAILOR

In July, Lungi Mchunu joined an expedition to the Arctic and became the first African woman to sail to the North Pole. The 34-year-old's professional background is in banking but, after taking up sailing in 2016, she's already achieving what most people can only ever dream of.

Mchunu can also add photographer and documentarian to her resume – Canon sponsored her with equipment to capture the perils of climate change as experienced during her trip.

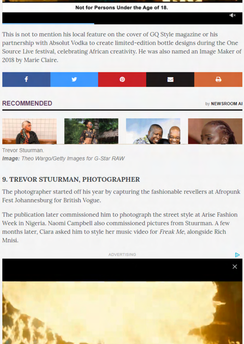


Artist Nelson Makamo.
Image: *Moleleto Mabe*

5. NELSON MAKAMO, ARTIST

Nelson Makamo has long made his mark on the South African art scene and even had a solo exhibition in London last year. Twenty eighteen turned out to be another success story in this local's artist's illustrious career. He was one of 25 artists from around the world chosen as finalists for the 2018 Rise Art Prize. He went on to win the Drawing Award.

In December, during the Global Citizen Festival, Makomo played host to celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Gayle King, and Ava DuVernay. He brought Kelly Rowland to tears when he gave her a painting of her son. And Oprah bought his painting titled *Naked*. Talk about a star!

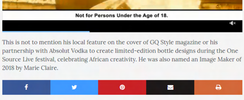


Designer Porky Hefer in one of his 'Endangered' pod seats.
Image: *Antonia Steyn for Southern Guild and SFA Advisory*

6. PORKY HEFER, DESIGNER

Porky Hefer's designs are both evocative and functional. This can be seen in the range he created for the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation launched at Design Miami/Basel in June called *Endangered*. It brought focus to species classified as vulnerable or endangered by the World Wildlife Fund through cuddly lounge chairs shaped like creatures such as polar bears and sharks.

He has now lent his skills as a vernacular architect to the design of the hotel The Nest @Sossus in Nambia, which was featured in the prestigious design magazine, Wallpaper.



Trevor Stuurman.
Image: *Theo Wargo/Getty Images for G-Star RAW*

9. TREVOR STUURMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer started off his year by capturing the fashionable revellers at Afropunk Fest Johannesburg for British Vogue.

The publication later commissioned him to photograph the street style at Arise Fashion Week in Nigeria. Naomi Campbell also commissioned pictures from Stuurman. A few months later, Clara asked him to style her music video for *Freak Me*, alongside Rich Mnisi.

ADVERTISING

Not for Persons Under the Age of 18.

This is not to mention his local feature on the cover of GQ Style magazine or his partnership with Absolut Vodka to create limited-edition bottle designs during the One Source Live festival, celebrating African creativity. He was also named an Image Maker of 2018 by Marie Claire.

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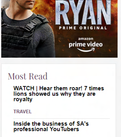

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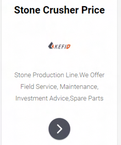

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