



MONKEYBIZ SOUTH AFRICA



THE MONKEYBIZ VISION

The Monkeybiz vision is to build an iconic, world renowned brand acknowledged for its poverty alleviation efforts. Through up-skilling the people within the impoverished communities in which we work, Monkeybiz hopes to build a brighter future for our artists. As a not-for-profit organisation all proceeds from the sales of the beadwork return directly to the communities and the bead artists' benefit.

ORIGINS

The Monkeybiz Bead Project began as a shared vision among three ceramic artists to regenerate the indigenous art of beadwork, while creating employment opportunity for women in the most under-resourced areas of the Western Cape.

The artists date the origins of Monkeybiz to late 1999, when Mathapelo Ngaka - Mtati, then a domestic worker and part-time student at the late Barbara Jackson's Cape Town ceramic studio, approached Jackson and fellow ceramic artist Shirley Fintz with some beaded bracelets that her mother, Makatiso, had made. Recognizing the need for job creation and convinced of the possibility for economic development through the arts, Fintz and Jackson gave Ngaka a bowlful of glass beads, thread, and two beaded dolls that Jackson had purchased at the 1994 Grahamstown Arts Festival. When Ngaka returned to the ceramics studio with a small doll that she and her mother had beaded, Jackson and Fintz were hooked.

Over the past ten years, this thriving women's economic development initiative has established a vibrant and growing community of nearly 450 bead artists, many of whom are the sole breadwinners within their households. Monkeybiz provides beads, thread, cotton and skills training for the artists, who are paid according to the merit of their work. Monkeybiz then markets the artworks in galleries and shops worldwide.

As one of the social responsibility programmes of the iconic CaRRoL BoYeS FUNCTIONAL ART brand. Monkeybiz values the privilege of operating out of donated office space. The artists however, bead at home, allowing them to look after their families, manage the household and avoid transport costs.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

“One man's trash is another man's treasure” is taken to heart in this project as Monkeybiz uses discarded off-cuts from clothing manufacturers as the filler for the beaded dolls and animals in an effort to up-cycle.

Monkeybiz has also assisted in the creation of a line of recycled rubber products. RUBBERPRO's range includes jewellery, figurines, belts and bags made with recycled rubber from old car tyres. These products are available for purchase through MONKEYBIZ.

BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Legislation passed in South Africa in 2003 encourages firms to adopt Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) strategies that promote diversity in the management and ownership of businesses. Monkeybiz is proud to have achieved the second highest BEE accreditation in South Africa.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

PURCHASE PRODUCTS

Each Monkeybiz artwork is a unique, one-off creation, the unaffected and often playful expression of local African talent.

Every sale at Monkeybiz assists an artist as all proceeds are used to sustain the project which in turn provides financial stability for our talented artists.

Products can be purchased through Monkeybiz on-line, via email or by visiting our vibrant Monkeybiz retail outlet at 43 Rose Street situated in the historic Bo-Kaap area of Cape Town, South Africa.

Products can also be purchased locally and internationally at one of the stores listed in the retail store locator on our website www.monkeybiz.co.za



NOMHLE NKOLOVANA, AGE 50

In 1982, Nomhle moved from Centani in the Eastern Cape to Cape Town because she desperately needed a job. After explaining to a neighbour how she was suffering, the neighbour advised her to go check out the Monkeybiz project because she had heard that they did beading and might be able to help her. Since she began working for Monkeybiz Nomhle says, “Now I have bread on top of my table and when I need to borrow money from someone, they know I will always pay them back after the next Market Day.”



SUPPORT AN ARTIST

For approximately R2500 or USD340 a month you can sustain the purchase of the artworks produced by one artist.

FOOD PARCELS

For people who do not have the financial means, healthy living is often neglected. Food donations improve their lives considerably and build into the Monkeybiz ethos of good nutrition. For approximately R300 or USD\$40 you can buy a food parcel of non-perishable groceries to sustain a household for one month.

SOUP KITCHENS

For R2000 or USD\$268 p/month you can purchase the food needed to feed the artists at one of our Market Days held in the community.

*Exchange rates used from 2010.01.13 09:06:17 UTC 1USD = 7.4 ZAR

**Please note that we can provide tax exemptions for US citizens.

VOLUNTEERING AND INTERNSHIP

Through the years, many volunteers and interns contributed their time, knowledge and services on a regular basis to Monkeybiz. If you would like to use your time to work with Monkeybiz, please visit our website at www.monkeybiz.co.za and download the application form in MsWord, PDF or HTML format and mail it, together with supporting documentation to monkeybiz@monkeybiz.co.za



**ZISIWE
LUMKWANA,
AGE 48**



Moving away from the long-established figurative pictures of Monkeybiz, Zisiwe has transformed and contemporized the art form with her creative talent and untapped sense of colour. Her enthusiasm for beadwork has helped her overcome her dependency on alcohol and the money she receives is now used to raise her children, put food on the table, and have a funeral policy.

