

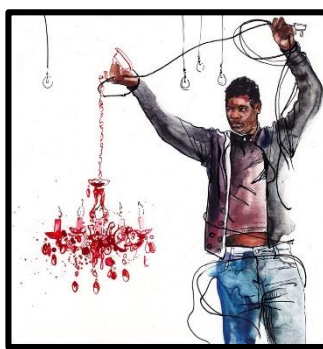
# Audrey Anderson



*'I try to spark viewers' imagination by creating works that offer open stories.'*



## Audrey Anderson (1982 - )



Audrey Anderson was born in 1982 in Sunnyside, Pretoria. She now lives and works in Johannesburg. She started her Arts education at Pro Arte Alphen Park. She graduated from the University of Pretoria with a BA fine arts (honours) degree, specializing in narrative drawing. After graduation she worked abroad as a Junior Art Director in Dubai on the Atlantis, Palm Jumeirah Project (2007). She has exhibited locally and internationally, including, project-solo shows at Gordart in 2008 in Johannesburg and Brundyn + Gonsalves in Cape Town in 2009-2010. In 2011 at the Amsterdam Affordable Art Fair.

She has also participated in a few projects connected with Jeanetta Blignaut Art Consultancy (Creative Block, Spier Architecture, Nandos UK, Holland). In 2013 Audrey was nominated as one of 5 artists to participate in the Nandos UK National Artwork project. She was selected as one of their three favorite African artists. Her work was exhibited at an Official Launch in London (2013).

Her studio is currently located at New ARC Studios (An Assemblage studio project) in Newtown, Johannesburg. Most of her artwork is ink on wood.

*'Everyday moments, like getting dressed, going to work, making coffee or waiting for a lift, are seemingly forgettable. They make up most of life and shapes patterns, identities, personalities and relationships. My work focuses on turning these 'slice of life' moments into narratives by complicating them in an illustrated or graphic novel-inspired way. In doing so, I emphasise the simplicity of these acts or events, how they represent a shared experience and relate to the South African context.'*

**Her personal manifesto is that art be accessible to everyone regardless of their art knowledge. 'Although I can't control a viewer's perception, my artworks are visual puzzle pieces which they will weave together with their own imagination and based on their own experiences.' Audrey is a mixed media artist.**

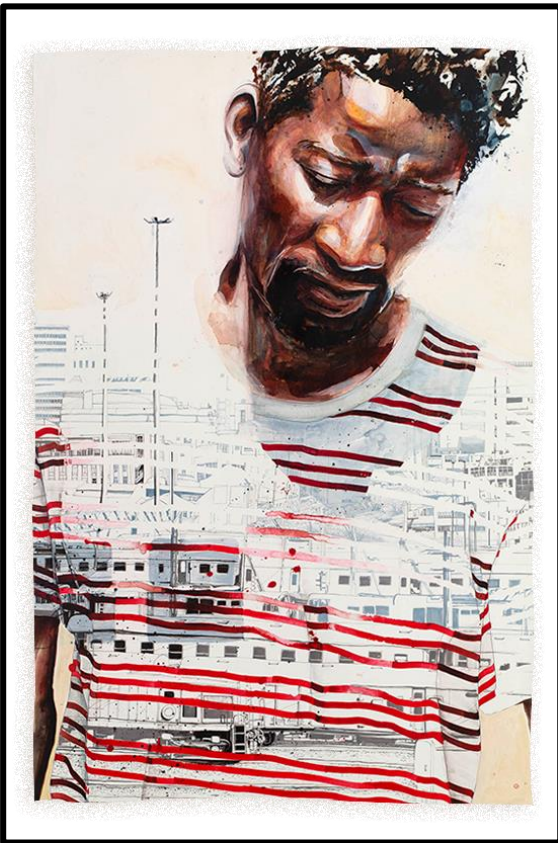


**Audrey often use spills as a starting point.** This relates to the fact that in life, accidents do happen (and often in the most banal of ways), causing an emotional reaction. Small moments can define big moments, like an emotional change that may affect the whole day. She sometimes use consumables (wine and coffee) on paper to create these 'accidents', using a technique requiring a balance between the mediums, nature and my control. In doing so, the coffee and wine works reflect the balance between what you can control in life and what you can't.



**You're working primarily with ink on wood at the moment. Why do these attract you?**  
*'Ink is not limiting, I get to draw and paint at the same time with ink. It allows mark-making possibilities the enable me to illustrate rather than replicate. With ink I get to express a story instead of recording or documenting. Wood already has a story and unlike paper or canvas it's not hiding it away. Wood shows it's growth process of how it came to be honestly and without disguise.'*





**You're still relatively new to Johannesburg and as an artist it seems only natural that you process and express your experience of living in this city through your artworks. You're also challenging people to think about how they experience the city and how a change of view could change that perspective. Tell us a little more about that.**

*Jo'burg has a frenzied pace about it. People move around the city constantly, earning money, spending money, solving problems and creating problems. People in Jo'burg come from everywhere, either out of necessity or to seek their fortune. Many are lured by the hope for success and wealth, however seeking success comes at a personal cost. We push ourselves hard to keep pace with the city, but as a consequence we end up missing what is right in front of us. A simple change in pace can change how we understand our context.*

**Your work has an architectural element. That's quite handy both in terms of creating an urban vibe and giving the viewer an angle into, or perspective on, the city. Where does this come from – have you previously studied architecture?**

*No, I didn't study architecture. I think the reason for being drawn to urban vibes and city perspectives is that I've always been intrigued and overwhelmed in these spaces. It's amazing just to think of the sheer volume of people per square meter horizontally and vertically.*

*As a teenager I spent most of my time commuting, exploring and making friends in a city space. The city was the place where I first felt a feeling of true liberation. The CBD space allowed me the freedom to choose a direction and destination, and the possibilities where endless. That's why I love it and why I draw so much inspiration from it.*











‘Portraiture in art has always been linked to the concept of Identity; for what stronger link is there between a sense of self and the human face?’

In this exhibition, *Id Entity II*, we strive to question and delve into portraiture, keeping this notion of identity in mind and asking ourselves, can we really define identity and in the same breath, can we define portraiture? Portraiture is more than a straightforward “head and shoulders” depiction of a sitting subject.’

