

# State OF THE ART

Shereen Lurie interviews three South African creatives shaking up the local art and design scene

South Africa's art scene is exploding with local talent making waves both locally and abroad, and investors taking notice of our emerging and established local talent. Galleries, museums, art fairs and auction houses are championing the work of these contemporary artists, providing them with multiple platforms to display their work. We spoke to four top creatives currently making a name for themselves on South Africa's contemporary art and design scene.



Hooded Boy

## JUSTINE MAHONEY

Justine Mahoney creates collages and sculptures that mirror her upbringing in the 1970s in Johannesburg. Using her own memories as a source of inspiration, she alludes to both innocence and its loss, while simultaneously depicting an inner determination to move forward in the face of adversity.

**My love for sculpture** began in high school at the National School of the Arts in Braamfontein. I was taught to bronze-cast in a cuttlefish shell by Guy du Toit.

**My work with Southern Guild** has built me as an artist.

**My pieces are inspired by and fundamentally linked to** the process of growing up in Johannesburg during the '70s, '80s and '90s.

**My bronze army of soldiers** represents the fears, nightmares, dreams and aspirations of children. These are based on stories told to me by my childhood nanny, and embellished with elements taken from the media and African sculpture.

**My upbringing helped me to** form my ideas and imagination. The strong connection I have to my vision has been fuelled by my initiation into adulthood.

**My career highlights are** my shows Innocence and Tainted with Southern Guild; also being invited to talk as part of the Penny Stamps Speaker Series in Detroit last year.

**My favourite sculpture is** Louise Bourgeois' spider titled Maman. Visit [www.southernguild.co.za](http://www.southernguild.co.za)

Images courtesy of Southern Guild



Portrait photo: Mark Cameron



Mighty Ndebele, Edition 9. Photo: Adriaan Louw for Southern Guild



Hands up. Photo: Adriaan Louw for Southern Guild



Biolo Space Traveller. Photo: Karl Rogers



## GREATJOY NDLOVU

Zimbabwean-born Greatjoy Ndlovu's highly emotive paintings focus on portraiture figurative themes. The artist uses a variety of materials and an expressionist style to communicate a wide range of human emotions as well as the "inner tension of the African continent".



**I use my artwork to** express my inner emotional world but mostly to motivate and become a source of inspiration for the people around me – mostly the underprivileged. I want them to look up to me as a positive example of what we can do to make the world a better place.

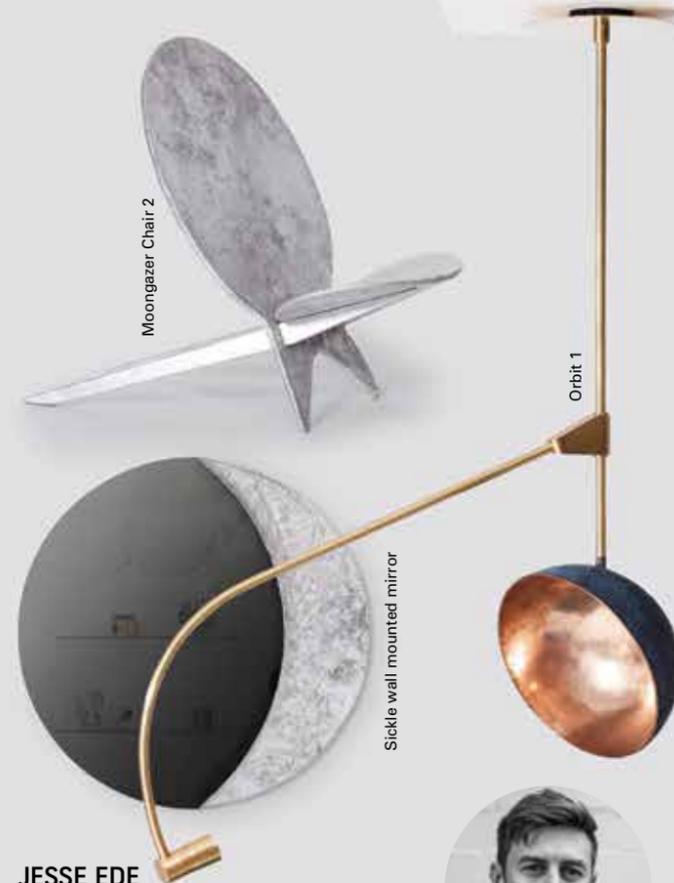
**I am inspired by** human emotions and anatomy.

**I believe my work ethic and creativity** was cultivated by my mother from a young age. She inspired and encouraged my siblings and me to be independent, creative thinkers with a thirst for knowledge.

**Career highlights thus far include** my solo exhibition with mmArtHouse, increased interest by overseas collectors and galleries, as well as the successful projects I have collaborated on with Moving Contemporary Art World at Turbine Art Fair and the charities Operation Smile and SOS Children's Villages.

**I am currently working on** my next solo show with the Julie Miller Investment Art Institute.

Visit [www.greatjoyart.co.za](http://www.greatjoyart.co.za)



Moongazer Chair 2

Orbit 1

Sickle wall mounted mirror

## JESSE EDE

Designer Jesse Ede favours exposing and highlighting the organic nature of his mediums – manipulating them to reveal the contrast between the material itself and the man-made processes that turn them into collectible furniture. His work for Southern Guild is the outcome of a great deal of experimentation with open-cast aluminium smelting.



**My interest in design** stems from being the child of an artist, and spans everything from furniture through to architecture and modern art.

**I would describe myself as** someone who stays true to the idea, no matter how cerebral or abstract it may be. I often come up with ideas that logically seem impossible to create. But, for me, that's the beauty of art, it's the challenge of bringing those somewhat abstract thoughts to life in a way I'm really proud of.

**I am inspired by** the universe, space and all the planets that inhabit it.

**My pieces reflect** a sense of wonder, a journey through space and time to create physical connections to the universe.

**My favourite piece** would probably have to be my Orbit light. It was definitely the most technically challenging piece I've made to date and the piece I am most proud of.

**The inspiration for my Lunar Nest tables**

was to mimic a cluster of moons, as can be seen orbiting around Jupiter. At the same time, when placed together, their tapering legs make them appear like extra-terrestrial spacecrafts.

Visit [www.jesse-edo.com](http://www.jesse-edo.com)

Images courtesy of Southern Guild. Product photo's: Hayden Phipps



Eclipse floor light