



Love Cape Town

LIKE NO OTHER



THE GLOBAL BREAKTHROUGH ISSUE



AN MTU BASE & LOUECAPETOWN.COM COLLABORATION



SOUL FIBRE

TEXT :: JEZEBEL

Lizette Chirime was drawn to Cape Town to pursue a creative career. Jezebel threads the story of an independent African artist and fashion designer who knows how to make something out of nothing.



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I think we need an injection of new fashion ideas in our small city. Maybe we should import some other styles. Maybe we already have. Take an old coffee sack off the coast of Mozambique. Add Lizette Chirime's fine eye for shape. Throw in some stitches and snips. *Obrigado*. You have a new fashion favourite. Thank heavens the magnetic young woman heard her spirit calling and obeyed the urge to spread her wings. Otherwise I might drown in the tide of skinny jeans and poofy skirts slathering the streets like liberated lemmings.

Lizette is an independent, full-time artist with a different slant on things. Her epiphany came in 2003, after 5 years of a stifling role as secretary to an aluminium company in Mozambique. Gathering all her courage, she uprooted and came south to find out who she was. Cape Town opened its arms to her. She recycles, lives sustainably, puts art into the ordinary, and has a penchant for organic sentiment. She fits. Lizette is a self-taught creative who makes a living from her art and carves a positive and integrated life for herself in Cape Town through self-belief and networking.

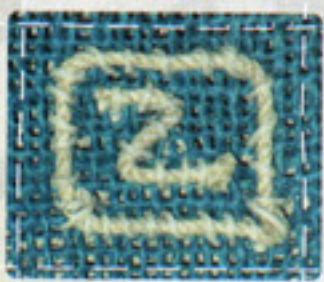
Her art incorporates stylised metaphors of emotion and dream that can be taken with you wherever you go. Using the moody, tensile fibres of hessian, she fashions garments that hold colour brightly and sculpt form simply and beautifully. Vivid colours play in skirts, blouses, table covers, bags and bed throws. Sometimes they call to be painted on, other times bold embroidery sets a piece apart. Her tastes have obviously been informed by the shaping of seas and sands unfamiliar to us.



and with them a whole paradigm and personality has developed through her life and borne itself into her art.

she was claimed by "voyage ensemble", an exhibition showcasing African artists working together to explore our heritage as children of this stark continent. then she launched an exhibition supported by the mozambique consulate. she participated in the cape town arts fest and much of the sponsorship that followed was both temporary and independently sourced. dreams led her to leave her country, destiny brought her to ours. and now, she makes cape town her home, exchanges riches with us, and is still lead by dreams

on the tip of Africa we're on edge. of boundary. of territory. of ourselves. we are on the edge of discovery. it is not a voyage. it is a right. in the aftermath of liberation's euphoria, we're learning to look at ourselves though others' eyes. Lizette is wonderful proof that life begins after thirty and that we can find the lost pieces through art. (and bring the city some style!) This empowered woman uses her own and others' power and diversity to say brightly and boldly, with a heavy measure of humility. we are Africa. ♡



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