

FLORENCE
BIENNALE

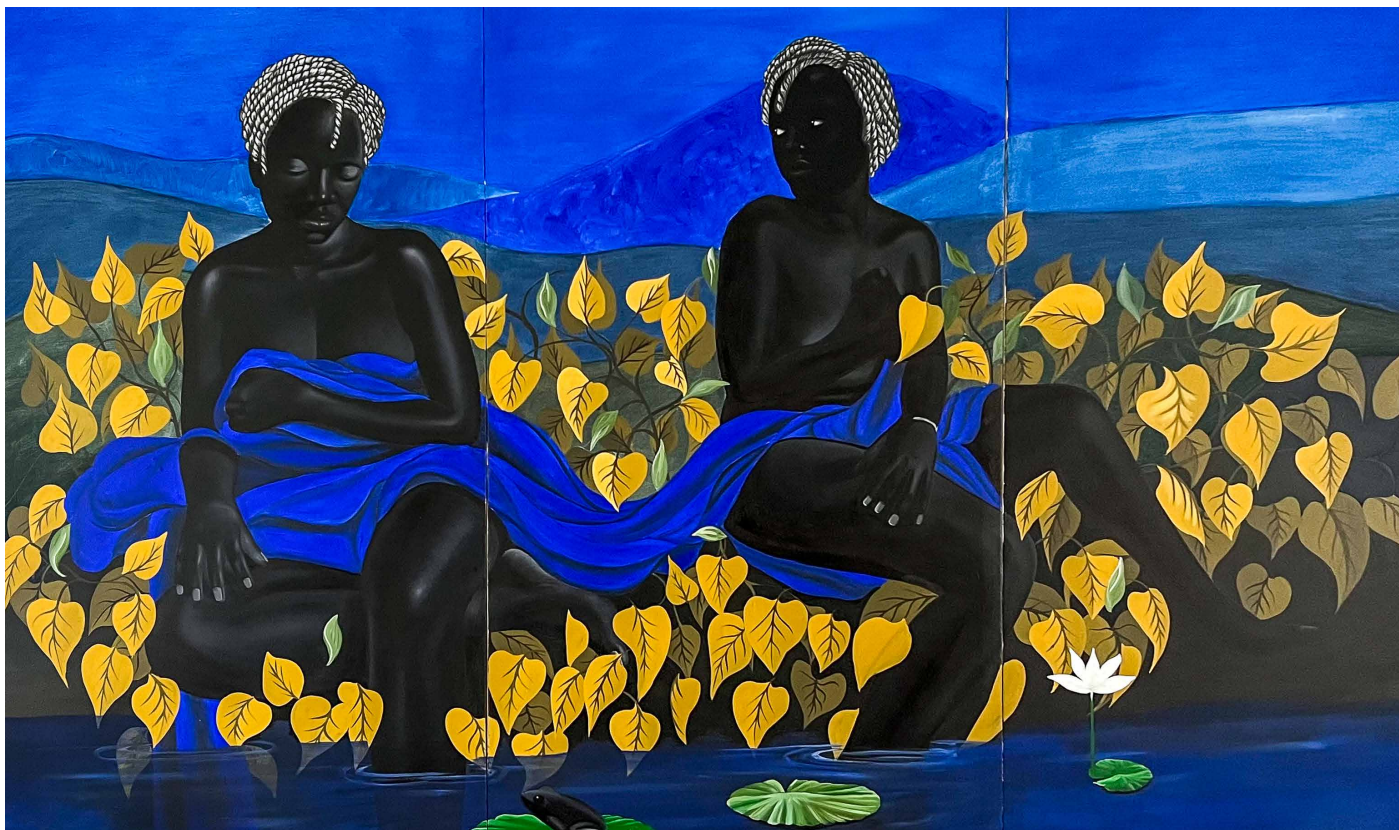
NEDIA WERE

eclectica
contemporary

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Eclectica Contemporary is pleased to present the work of Kenyan artist, Nedia Were at the Florence Biennale 2023. The artist specialises in oil painting and portraiture to engage nuanced notions of blackness and black beauty. This is deployed in the recurring motif of black paint and how the artist meticulously renders the sharp pigmentation of the black skin of his chosen subjects. The subtleties of tonal variation in the human skin is a conscious act of the artist to amplify and question the meaning of black beauty within our contemporary context. In response to the overt absence of the black body in art history, Were places his subjects in natural environments that offers a refreshing representation of the fluidity, growth and rebirth of the African Figure in the realm of portraiture. Through his work, Were hopes to inspire a deeper appreciation for the beauty and diversity of the African figure and to challenge the established ideas of what is considered beautiful in art.

Nedia Were has featured in local and international solo exhibitions with Eclectica Contemporary, Mitochondria Gallery and the Ross-Sutton Gallery. Were has also featured in several group shows both local and international, as well as exhibiting at Cape Town Art Fair, FNB Art Joburg, Art X Lagos and AKAAs Paris.



Nedia Were

*The Goddesses of the
River*

Oil on canvas
280 x 180 cm
\$ 24 600

eclectica contemporary

With an increasing focus on African Art around the world, Eclectica Contemporary aims to present a carefully selected and focused collection of art from the continent that interrogates issues facing us in a globalized world. The art at Eclectica Contemporary often showcases practices and materials from art history but which push these boundaries and explore uncharted territories of representation, technique and theory.

Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Eclectica Contemporary sees itself as an African gallery with an international vision. We celebrate the diversity and depth of art making on our continent while aiming to contextualize it for a growing global market.

Our program of exhibitions shows a mix of solo shows by gallery artists alongside curated group shows. In addition, the Eclectica Contemporary exhibition space has facilities for experimental, new media and project-based works.