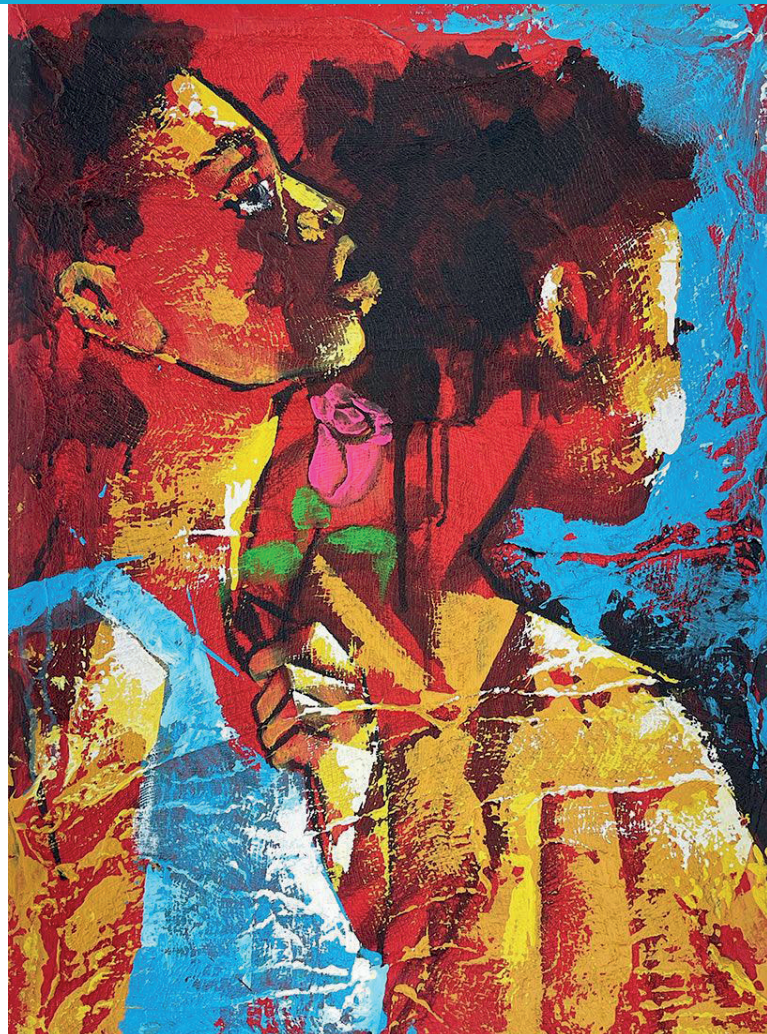




BEOPEN
art

Sebastião Coana

Tricks and tips from the vibrant and hardworking Sebastião Coana



The artist's studio: is a separate space necessary for productive work? What are the absolute essentials in your working space? What advice would you give to emerging artists in terms of setting up a studio/working space?

A large separate space isn't always necessary at the beginning. The key is to start with what you have and gradually invest what you earn through sales or grants into creating a space that fosters creativity. For example, in the early 2000s, I used my bedroom in a small neighborhood in Maputo as my studio, at that time I was focusing on buying quality art supplies rather than investing in infrastructure. The quality of my art contributed to winning a scholarship in Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) and by 2007, while studying at CAFA in Beijing, I shared a studio with friends, which offered more room for creative collaboration and exploration.

When I returned to Mozambique in 2016, I rented a house with a larger yard, which gave me more flexibility. As my income grew from various projects, I began investing in a large, warehouse-style studio with high walls, enabling me to experiment with different media and capture better photos of my work.

The essentials for any working space are good lighting, quality materials, and room to store your tools and works-in-progress. If you're just starting, focus on your tools and creating a functional, organized space—even if it's just a corner of your bedroom. Over time, aim to build a larger, more professional studio where you can fully expand your creative experiments. Always reinvest in your workspace as your sales increase — this will support your growth as an artist.

Earning a living from art: what steps are necessary to make a living selling artwork? Please share your experience of developing a website/social media pages, communication with wider audience and potential buyers, working with online and offline galleries, etc.

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Staying inspired: please tell us what you do to keep being an inspired creative. Is it necessary to take breaks from your work? How can an artist maintain their creative curiosity? Does your inspiration come from within or outside?

My inspiration comes from within while I look around me to get ideas. The process of making art itself requires discipline — there are days when I work from 8 am till 10 pm, but I usually take small breaks between pieces of work. These breaks are essential. Short regular breaks help refresh the mind and keep your creativity flowing.

Take good care of your body, hydrate and avoid any kind of stimulant substances, they will harm you in the long run.

To keep your creative curiosity alive, expose yourself to new environments and experiences, explore different media, and stay open to learning from everything around you. Curiosity is like a muscle — it strengthens when you use it regularly.

