

Meeting the Makers: Contemporary Craft of KwaZulu-Natal

List of Participating Crafters

GROUP	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	AREA	MATERIAL	BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Nkwezela Beading Group	Jabulile	Mthembu	Donnybrook	BEADS	Jabulile Mthembu and her group of crafters make traditional beaded accessories and garments to order.
The Underberg Studio	Catherine	Brennon	Underberg	CERAMIC	Catherine's ceramics vary from delicate lace and basket inspired forms to sculptural work and tableware. She works in both earthenware and stoneware and utilizes a number of different techniques such as Raku and smokefiring.
Lynette Morris-Hale Ceramics	Lynette	Morris-Hale	Westville	CERAMIC	Lynette is an established ceramicist having exhibited in a number of national and regional ceramic exhibitions since 1996. Her work is included in a number of private and public collections, both locally and internationally. There is a very sculptural quality to Lynettes pieces which vary from tea pots to interpretations of African myths.
ELC Art and Craft Centre	Gordon	Mbatha	Rorke's Drift	CERAMIC	Gordon Mbatha was originally employed as a weaver at Rorke's Drift. In 1986 he trained as a potter at the Art and Craft Centre. Mbatha is represented in art museum collections in SA and abroad. While his focus is on ceramics he is also an accomplished linocut artist.
-	Laurentia	Dlamini	Hlabisa	FIBRE	Laurentia Dlamini first learned to weave at the age of nine from her father. Now in her early 70s she is considered a world class Grand Master weaver, producing museum quality work. Her signature basket is an <i>Isichumo</i> , a water vessel, and she is most famous for her multicolored, banded zigzag pattern. Dlamini is the only weaver in the Zulu nation to produce a flush-fitting, straight-sided storage bowl known as <i>Iqoma</i> .
Isipethu Group	Sheila	Mabaso	Newcastle	FIBRE	Sheila Mabaso is a member of the Isipethu group, which was formed in 1999 when a group of women from Madadeni and Osizweni came together to embroider appliqué images for a Woman's Day project organized by the Carnegie Art Gallery. Since this project the reputation of the group has grown to the point where their work has been exhibited in a number of galleries both locally and abroad.
	Cynthia	Msibi	Newcastle	FIBRE	Cynthia is one of the embroidery artists who makes up the Isipethu group. Cynthia is making a name for herself in the art world and was placed second in the 2009 Nivea Art Awards.
-	Angeline	Masuku	Zululand	FIBRE	Angeline Masuku weaves traditional coiled and overstitched Zulu baskets with plant fibre, which are then dyed with roots and berries. In 2007 she won the FNB Vita Award, which catapulted her to world notice. In December 2008 Masuku held her first overseas exhibition in New York, to great acclaim.
-	Humphrey	Modibedi	Newcastle	FIBRE	Humphrey Modibedi works primarily with papier mache constructing furniture and other objects from this eco-friendly material. He has exhibited his work at the Carnegie Art Gallery and at the Durban Art Gallery.

-	Beauty	Ngxongo	Newcastle	FIBRE	Beauty learned basket making from one of the most celebrated weavers in the last hundred years, Laurentia Dlamini. Considered a world class Master Weaver, Beauty's work forms part of the permanent collection of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as appearing in all the major South African museums including the South African National Gallery in Cape Town. Beauty is also the recipient of the South African National Best Artist award.
-	Florence	Shezi	Donnybrook	FIBRE	Forence Shezi used to make brooms for John Brown, a distributor from Bulwer. In a dream her ancestors ordered her to make animals from the same materials. Her work is displayed in several craft shops in the Southern Drakensberg.
-	Sibusiso	Mbhele	Northern Drakensberg	METAL	Sibusiso Mbhele is most famous for his life-size, fish-shaped helicopter that he constructed himself and called home until it was destroyed by his neighbors. Mbhele has exhibited his scrap-metal sculptures of airplanes and other vehicles in both London & New York, and has had a book written about his unusual home and other art works entitled <i>Sibusiso Mbhele and his Fish Helicopter</i> .
-	Willis	Nxumalo	Empangeni	SHELL & HORN	Willis Nxumalo is an award-winning self-taught sculptor who has participated in numerous group exhibitions. His work is represented in the Durban Art Gallery collection and in a number of private collections in South Africa. Nxumalo currently works and teaches art in Empangeni.
-	Ali	Agushito	Pietermaritzburg	WIRE	Ali Agushito works on a street corner in College Road, Pietermaritzburg. His soccer players and Moses Mabhida soccer stadium featured in the Jabulisa 2010 exhibition at the Tatham Art Gallery.
Mdukatshani	Rauri & Creina	Alcock	Weenen Msinga	WIRE	Managed by Rauri Alcock, Mdukatshani is an organisation that helps support African farmers and their families through a metal and beadwork project. Women working from home produce a variety of crafts - some are needlewomen making jewellery, others work with fine gauge industrial copper making items such as woven beaded eggs and bowls. In the 35 years since the project has started, Mdukatshani's customers have included celebrities such as Elton John, Paloma Picasso and Aretha Franklin. The crafters have also produced jewellery for two <i>haute couture</i> collections for the French designer Yves Saint Laurent.
Mona Market			Nongoma	WIRE	The traditional Mona Market takes place once a month near Nongoma. The Nongoma Publicity Office can be contacted to confirm dates and will also take visitors around on request.
-	Jabu	Mnguni	Central Drakensberg	WOOD	As a woman who works in wood, Jabu Mnguni is an exception to the rule in Zulu culture. She works on a farm and can be contacted through Judy Jordan, curator of Carnegie Art Gallery, Newcastle.
-	Bheki	Myeni	Melmoth	WOOD	Myeni started carving wooden spoons, knives and walking sticks when he was in Standard 6, his last year of schooling. His work has since been shown by the African Art Centre, Things Gallery, Portfolio Art Foundation and the KZNSA Gallery in Durban, as well as the Goodman Gallery in Cape Town. In 1985 Myeni travelled to Chile for the opening of the Valparaiso Biennale.
	Gabisile	Mazibuko	Bergville	BEADS	

African Art Centre	Nomakholishi	Mbhele	Bergville	BEADS	Gabisile Mazibuko and Nomakholishi Mbhel were part of the Amangwe Beaded Doll Project run by the African Art Centre in 2010 in Bergville. The aim of the workshop was to produce dolls dressed according to the cultural practices and dress codes of the Zulu people in this area. One of the facilitators of the workshop was well-known doll-maker Lobolile Ximba.
-	Christy-Anne	Bestwick	Durban	METAL	Christy-Anne is a Durban-based jeweller who is inspired by the fusion of culture, people and life in her hometown. Her jewellery is distinguished by its intricate patterning and detail. The unique style of her work takes reference from past eras, interpreting it in a modern context.
-	Eunice	Cele	PMB	BEADS	Eunice Cele was one of 11 crafts people from South Africa to participate in the Smithsonian Folk-Life Craft exhibition that took place in Washington in 1999. More recently Cele has collaborated with well-known Durban artist, Andrew Vester, for an exclusive range of necklaces for the Tatham Art Gallery. Cele has also recently worked with Juliette Armstrong, producing beadwork for an exhibition at the Tatham Art Gallery.
-	Andrew	Verster	Durban	BEADS	Andrew Verster is one of Durban's most famous art exports. He has had over fifty solo exhibitions, is represented in numerous major public and private collections, and has been awarded two retrospective exhibitions organized by the Durban Art Gallery. In addition Verster has been commissioned to produce art for the Reserve Bank, the Durban Hilton Hotel, the ICC Durban, Rhodes House in Oxford as well as the Constitutional Court. Andrew's wide creative interests are reflected in the collection of paper designs for necklaces that he created for the African Art Centre in Durban and the Tatham Art Gallery in Pietermaritzburg. These were turned into beaded jewellery by expert beaders such as Eunice Cele.
Hillcrest Aids Centre: Woza Moya	Paula	Thomson	Hillcrest	BEADS	The Little Travellers is an income-generation initiative run by the Hillcrest Aids Centre, under the leadership of Paula Thomson, the Income Generation Coordinator for the centre. Women from the Valley of a Thousand Hills who are affected by HIV and Aids make these little dolls that bring in approximately R1.5-million annually.
-	Dee	Hoets	Hilton	BEADS	Dee Hoets, who is married to potter Garth Hoets, makes intricate, exquisitely crafted jewellery and bags from top quality glass beads.
-	Ceaser	Mkhize	Durban	BEADS	Ceaser Mkhize works in collaboration with his common-law wife, Thafa Dlamini. Mkhize attended a doll making workshop at the Durban Art Gallery in 1988, which provided him with the inspiration to use beads to decorate his sculptures of animals. Ceaser makes the wire armatures and Thafa finishes them off with beads. Together they have held a number of exhibitions both locally and abroad. In 1999 they won the Merit Award at the South African Vita Crafts Exhibition.
-	Doris	Mwelase	Richards Bay	BEADS	Doris Mwelase uses traditional techniques and quality glass beads to produce jewellery in soft tones that has a lace effect. Mwelase sells her work at the small-craft harbour in Richards Bay.

Ubuhle Beads	Zondile	Duma	Nottingham Road	BEADS	Ubuhle Beautiful Beads has stunned the art world with its innovative, beaded fine art. What started as a humble project, using traditional skills to create independence and give rural artists hope, has evolved into a dynamic project, creating fine art through individual African artists. Ubuhle has been awarded prestigious commissions by a number of high profile organisations and art collectors, as well as having exhibited at top South African and international galleries.
-	Lobolile	Ximba	Muden	BEADS	Lobolile Xima learned the art of doll making from her mother, Hluphekile Zuma, who was one of the traditional fertility doll makers in the Keats Drift area. Xima is considered to be a master craftswoman and represents the Siyazama Project in Umsinga, which creates beaded dolls to promote HIV/AIDS awareness in rural communities. She has taken part in the Santa Fe International Folk Art Market on several occasions, and will be doing so again this year. Xima's work is sold through various galleries both locally and internationally.
Ardmore Ceramic Studio	Victor	Shabalala	Ardmore	CERAMIC	Victor Shabalala was born on the now-famous Ardmore Farm in 1973. Victor's unusual pieces have found their place in Ardmore's exhibitions around the world. His work has been shown at the Christie's London exhibition in 2003 and 2004, at the City Arts Council exhibition in Edinburgh to celebrate ten years of democracy in South Africa and at the 'Men of Ardmore' exhibition at the Gallery on the Square in Johannesburg.
	Jabu	Nene	Ardmore	CERAMIC	Jabu Nene was introduced to the colourful world of Ardmore at the age of 15 and has since become one of Ardmore's leading painters. Her pieces that were included in the Christie's exhibition in London in 2004 received high acclaim, assuring her of a special place at Ardmore. She also represented Ardmore at the Edinburgh exhibition to celebrate 10 years of democracy in South Africa.
	Benet	Zondo	Ardmore	CERAMIC	Benet Zondo was born in Lesotho in 1988. He is thrower at Ardmore Ceramic Studio.
-	Lorinne	De Richelieu	Gillitts	CERAMIC	Lorinne de Richelieu moved from Gauteng to Gillitts a few years ago. From her home she teaches pottery and runs regular raku workshops. De Richelieu recently displayed a series of victorian jugs at the Ceramics South Africa exhibition at artSPACE
-	Barry	Dibb	Munster	CERAMIC	Born in 1940 in Durban, Dibbs ia ceramic artist who works primarily in porcelain. Dibbs's work is for sale through the Africa Art Gallery in Umhlanga and The Art Gallery in Pretoria
The Studio Pottery	Garth	Hoets	Hilton	CERAMIC	Garth Hoets produces both electric-fired stoneware and gas-fired reduction stoneware. Decorative inspiration and stimulation for his work comes from aspects of nature, and in particular from the African bush and wildlife. Hoets lives in Hilton, where he runs a pottery studio, teaching and producing ceramic pieces for various exhibitions and galleries.
-	Buzephi	Magwaza	Eshowe	CERAMIC	Buzephi Magwaza learned ceramics from her in-laws at the Magwaza household. The Magwaza family is famous within ceramics circles for making <i>imbiza</i> , large brewing vessels. There are no less than 18 practicing potters within the family. In 2006 the Vukani Museum added a particularly large iphangela serving and storing vessel by Buzephi Mgwaza to its permanent collection.

-	Khonzeni	Magwaza	Eshowe	CERAMIC	Khonzeni Magwaza was taught the techniques of making and firing pots by her mother-in-law, Ngcongoshe Magwaza . Ngcongoshe was responsible for teaching all the current potters working in the homestead. Their work includes all the pottery associated with the sorghum beer drinking ceremony. These vessels range from the smallest pot or <i>umancishane</i> to the largest brewing pot or <i>imbiza</i> .
-	Brian	Mkhize	Eshowe	CERAMIC	Pottery in the zulu tradition is the work of women, so it's unusual to find an acclaimed male ceramicist such as Brian Mkhize. Mkhize experiments with new shapes and often decorates his pots with copper wire, reminiscent of archeological finds in South Africa.
-	Bongekile	Nala	Eshowe	CERAMIC	Ceramicist Bongekile Nala is the oldest daughter of the late Nesta Nala and the only Nala sibling still living and working at Oyaya in the Thukela Valley.
-	Ntombi	Nala	Ntumeni	CERAMIC	Ntombi Nala lives in a rural area near Eshowe, and comes from a long line of potters. Nala constructs very large clay beer pots that take four to six weeks to construct and are fired in a pit, using the same technique her grandmother, Mmaza Zuma, used. Nala's pots are in the traditional shapes of <i>ukhamba</i> and <i>uphiso</i> using classic <i>amansumpa</i> decorative patterns.
-	Thembisile	Cashile	Thukela Valley	CERAMIC	Thembisile Cashile is a member of the Nxumalo family who live and work in the Thukela Valley.
-	Fahmeeda	Omar	PMB	CERAMIC	Fahmeeda Omar produces laboriously hand-coiled vessels, high-fired in an oxidised kiln. "These coils give me a certain amount of control but also expose me to chance, which I enjoy", the Pietermaritzburg-based artist said of her work, which because of its delicacy and high firing, results in a subtle gradation of colour and translucency. Omar's work was on display at the Artisan gallery in May this year.
Hillfold Pottery	Lindsay	Scott	Howick	CERAMIC	One of the founder members of the Midland's Meander, Lindsay Scott's work features in many South African art galleries including The Tatham and the Johannesburg Art Gallery. Scott makes high temperature stoneware and porcelain, as well as terracotta garden pots.
-	Andrew	Walford	Shongweni	CERAMIC	Internationally acclaimed artist, Andrew Walford, is one of the few potters who digs his own stoneware clay and meticulously prepares it to his own high standard. Working in the Japanese tradition with thick chun glazes sifted by hand from wood ash, colours of rich resonant tenmokus, fatty whites and shades of celadon, he then decorates the pots with specially imported Japanese brushes. The kiln, which he designed and built himself, is fired about eight times a year with paraffin oil to a temperature of 1380 degrees Celsius. It takes 18 hours to fire and 3 days to cool. Andrew holds regular open days at his home and studio and has exhibited worldwide from Japan to Holland, and most recently showed his pieces at an exhibition in Germany.
Martha Zettler Ceramics	Martha	Zettler	Durban	CERAMIC	Internationally acclaimed ceramicist, Martha Zettler, works exclusively in the medium of bone china producing refined and tactile vessels of delicate beauty and fragile translucency.

-	Sue	Akerman	PMB	FIBRE	Sue Akerman is a member of Fibreworks, a group of about 50 artists in South Africa who work in fibre and textile mediums. Akerman says she takes her inspiration from the country she loves (SA): "my roots are well entrenched in its soil. My concern is for the environment. I am saddened by the power and greed of individuals who continue to destroy our heritage for personal gain".
Amazizi Co-op	Nonhlanhla	Mabanga	Bergville	FIBRE	Nonhlanhla Mabanga is part of the Amazizi Co-op in Bergville, a cooperative producing and marketing craft work of locals who then share in the profits. The Amazizi Co-op sell their work at Thandanani Handcraft Centre.
-	Elaine	Barnard	Newcastle	FIBRE	Elaine Barnard has exhibited widely both in South Africa and abroad. A member of Fibreworks, Elaine says that she has a continuing fascination with travel, especially exotic places such as North Africa and Turkey. Her work is a synthesis of memories and observations that celebrates these special places and the people that inhabit them.
Baskets from Africa	Paul & Karen	Theunissen	Dundee	FIBRE	Paul & Karen Theunissen run Baskets from Africa. They produce a huge selection of over-sized woven baskets and urns which they sell from their guesthouse in Dundee.
-	Jennie	de la Hunt	Newcastle	FIBRE	Jennie de la Hunt, born 1944, Dordrecht, creates colourful garments from wool and other fibres.
-	Machel	Erasmus	Newcastle	FIBRE	Machel Erasmus started making felted objects as a therapeutic exercise when she hurt her shoulder. She has since made several innovative and eye-catching handbags.
Fab Designs	Cornel	Eloff de Koker	Scottsville (PMB)	FIBRE	Fab Designs was founded in May 2003 by Cornel Eloff de Koker, a trained fashion & textile designer. Fab Designs specialises in traditional and contemporary ethnic designs. De Koker aims to empower every person working with her with life and job skills, thus uplifting her community.
Fancy Stitch Group	Sphiwe	Dlamini	Northern Zululand	FIBRE	Fancy Stitch, an organisation which provides employment to over 400 women in Northern Zululand, is the brain child of Maryna Heese. The Fancy Stitch group is a self-help, income generation and skills development initiative for women living in the deep rural hamlet of Ingwavuma, KwaZulu-Natal. The crafters produce high quality, artistic greeting cards, picture frames and clothing.
	Sibongile	Maziya	Northern Zululand	FIBRE	
-	Josephine	Mdungwa	Shongweni	FIBRE	Josephine Thokozile Mdungwa lives and works with her husband, Buyayo, in the Shongweni Hills. Andrew Walford, who lives nearby, keeps some of their work for sale at his home.
-	Francis	Mncwane	Underberg	FIBRE	Francis Mncwabe is a fibre artist whose work is available through John Brown. Brown distributes craft in the Southern Drakensberg area of KZN.
ROOTZ CREATIONS	Carey	Moran	Valley of 1000 Hills	FIBRE	Carey Moran, the inspiration behind Rootz, has always wanted to make a difference to the lives of less empowered women. From training one young artist in 1994, Rootz has grown into a dynamic organisation where more than 20 women and 5 men derive their income from producing a range of contemporary African-inspired gifts. Most designs are done in-house and are made using clay, wire, beads, leather, wax and card.
	Emma	Dammann	Dundee	FIBRE	weaver from the Rorkes Drift Art and Craft Centre

Rorke's Drift Art & Craft Centre	Sarah	Molefe	Dundee	FIBRE	The Art & Craft Centre was established in 1962 by missionaries from the Church of Sweden. A Fine Art School was established, and its 20 years of existence has produced some of SAs most famous artists. The Centre has three different studios, the largest and most established of which is its weaving studio, which helped to build the reputation of the Centre.
Shaw Sisters	Angela	Shaw	Durban	FIBRE	Founded in 2010 by sisters Angela Shaw of Koop Design and Janet Shaw of The Zulu Beadwork Project, The Shaw Sister's vision is to identify, source and develop quality crafted goods for the South African and international market. The Shaw Sisters has been a resounding success winning the Most Innovative Product award for their Folded Book Light at the Durban Decorex Trends and Tastes show in March this year.
Shuttleworth Weavers	Andy & Helen	Shuttleworth	Nottingham Road	FIBRE	Andy and Helen Shuttleworth began to weave in 1976, having taught themselves the art by speaking to people who were experienced, reading books and through trial and error. Today they employ nine Zulu people, and have been joined by their son, Robert and daughter-in-law, Julia. Shuttleworth Weavers use natural fibres, making throws and carpets in mohair, wool and cotton which is mostly hand-spun and hand-woven. These are sold from their shop on the farm and on export to America, Canada. and Italy.
	Robbie & Julia	Shuttleworth	Nottingham Road		
Tunga	Beulah	Meintjes	Hluhluwe	FIBRE	Tunga was formed in 2003 by Beulah Meintjes with the help of the late Goodness Basolivumeleni. Based on the north coast of KZN, the studio specialises in embroidery and provides employment to over 30 local artists. Tunga means needlework in isiZulu and is the inspiration for knitting a community closer together, creating art and improving lives.
Zimelini	Zibeleni	Radebe	Donnybrook	FIBRE	Zimelini is a community development project driven by the Christian welfare group, Hlanganani Ngothando Organisation (HNO). The project is coordinated by Mary Orpwood and is based in Donnybrook in the Southern Drakensberg. The four local artists involved in the project chose the name "Zimelini" (which means "to be independent") to capture what community development means to them. The group produces cushion covers, table cloths, bags and wall hangings that are embellished with fabric appliqué, beading and hand embroidery. Each piece is unique and each woman has her own set of designs on which she continually expands.
	Venancia	Cele	Donnybrook	FIBRE	
	Basolile	Ndlovu	Donnybrook	FIBRE	
	Sizakele	Mncwaba	Donnybrook	FIBRE	
-	Sicelo	Ziqubu	Newcastle	FIBRE	Spier Contemporary 2010 winner, Sicelo Ziqubu, creates intricate paper-mâché thrones and chairs. Largely self-taught, Ziqubu says that he was inspired by crafts made by prisoners at the Waterval Prison where his father was a warder. A rising star, Ziqubu's work is represented in the collections of the Carnegie Art Gallery (Newcastle), Museum Stadthof Zwolle (Netherlands), the Tatham Art Gallery (Pietermaritzburg) and the Johannesburg Art Gallery. In addition to this latest accolade, Ziqubu also placed second in the 2007 Start Nivea Art Awards and was a regional finalist in the Absa L'Atelier Art Award in 2008. He was also among the 100 artists at the 2008 Spier Contemporary.

-	Guido & Coralie	van Besouw	Kloof	GLASS	Glass artist Guido van Besouw is one of the few glass blowers in South Africa. Guido produces a wide range of work including tabletop glass, glass lighting and architectural glass. Every piece is hand blown by Guido at his studio and is uniquely different in colour size and shape. He is recognized as one of the leading glass artists in South Africa and his work is regularly featured in exhibitions and magazines. He was awarded the 2003 SA Elle Deco International Design Award for tabletop glass.
-	Bianca	Ladds	South Coast	BEADS	Bianca Ladds has been making jewellery since the age of thirteen and is mostly self taught, with the exception of an apprenticeship in the lost-wax process, an ancient African technique whereby pieces are modelled in wax and moulded in sand. Ladds combines silver and pewter with metal beads made from old Kenyan currency. Bianca has exhibited at several exhibitions in the Cape and has recently exhibited in Durban at the Artisan Gallery.
-	Tessa	Carlyle Mitchell	Durban	METAL	Tessa Carlyle Mitchell has been self-employed since 1986, working primarily as a jeweller. Mitchell works in a variety of mediums, from silver and gold to recycled materials such as bottle tops, plastic lids, pull tags from cooldrink bottles and fabric scraps which she beads.
Egg Designs	Greg & Roché	Dry	Bothas Hill	METAL	Egg Design are a great success story. Founded in 1996 by Greg and Roché Dry, their work has appeared in a huge variety of local and international publications: Visi, House & Leisure, Elle Décor (SOUTH AFRICA, UK, ITALIAN, RUSSIA, FRANCE), Metropolis, AD&D design issue, Icon, World of Interiors to name a few. Egg won the local arm of the Elle Décor Designer of the Year Award in both 2004 and 2005, as well as Best Seating in 2008. Their signature "yellow desert rose locker" was auctioned at Christies' prestigious 20th Century design auction in New York in 2007.
-	Daniela	Ferreira	Durban	METAL	Danielle Ferreira, a DUT Jewellery graduate, says that her focus is on earth-friendly jewellery that uses nature as its primary reference. Ferreira was one of the recipients of the group prize, Best Student Collection in the 2009 PlatAfrica jewellery competition for a piece designed by Vernon White.
-	Dominic	Cele		OSTRICH EGGSHELL	Dominic Cele works primarily with natural materials such as ostrich eggs. His jewellery has been exhibited at Artisan in Durban.
Perusha Naidoo Jewellery	Perusha	Naidoo	Durban	RESIN, METAL	Perusha Naidoo's work is distinguished by her use of brightly coloured resin which she sets in silver, the result of which seems to emulate beautiful pieces of old enamel jewellery. Naidoo, a graduate of DUT, stocks the very popular store, Tinsel.
-	Bonginkosi	Tshabalala	Durban	COWHORN, METAL	Bongi Tshabalala works primarily in cowhorn & silver. One of only 20 jewellers to stock Tinsel, his work is described by owner Geraldine Fenn as "functional, masculine style."
-	Songezo	Baleni	Durban	METAL	Baleni's jewellery, although inspired by his African routes, has something of a classic look about it. Baleni, a graduate of DUT, says that his memories of hand weaving grass and reed into mats and baskets as a child led him to play with the technique in gold and silver. A pair of Baleni's earrings appeared on the cover of the December 2010 Top Billing magazine modelled by Anele Mdoda.
-	James	Katiyo	Northern Drakensberg	WIRE	James Katiyo lives in Winterton, and sells his wire and bead animals through the Tatham Shop.

-	Simba	Khumbula	Pietermaritzburg	WIRE	Simba Khumbula works and sells his wares opposite the Medical Centre in Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg.
Threads of Africa	Julia	Meintjes	Tugela Valley	METAL	Threads of Africa began its life in 2002 when Julia Meintjes was assembling an art collection for a Sydney-based finance company. The MD of the company saw a woven copper bowl by an artist from the Tugela Valley, and asked whether a similar bowl could be made in gold wire. The commission was given to Mzonzima Dladla, but because of technical and logistical challenges it was more than two years before the first gold bowl was completed. Other bowls soon followed, some in 18-carat gold, some combining gold with various coppers, silver and brass. In 2008 the project was formally named Threads of Africa when the University of Stellenbosch commissioned a special edition of six bowls for a select group of donors.
Mdukatshani	Gcinani	Duma	Weenen Msinga	WIRE	Established in 1975 Mdukatshani is a non profit, non governmental organisation based in the Weenen Msinga area, one of the poorest rural areas of KwaZulu Natal. The organisation works to support African farmers and their families through a metal and bead work project, which involves men and women working from home to produce sought after pieces for the international fashion and decor markets. Gcinani Duma and Mgongo Ngubane produce beautifully crafted bowls from copper, silver and gold and form part of the Threads of Africa project.
	Mgongo	Ngubane	Weenen Msinga	WIRE	
-	Buyayo	Mdungwa	Shongweni	WIRE	Buyayo Mdungwa makes easily recognizable telephone wire trays in a variety of colours. He works closely with his wife, Josephine, who weaves table mats from grass. They live near Andrew Walford and exhibit their work in his grounds on open days .
Wezandla Crafts and Sensokuhle Wire co.	Ben	Makhanya	Elandskraal	WIRE	Wezandla, established in 1996, is the creation of Egmund and Siggie Dedekind, whose KwaZulu-Natal dairy farm serves as the hub of activity for Wezandla's work. Most of the people they work with are housebound as they have other chores to attend to such as fetching water, collecting firewood, tending to cattle and crops as well as seeing to the family needs.. The initial focus of Wezandla was to provide local women with bead work skills that they could use to produce pieces in their spare time at home. However it soon became apparent that there was also a growing need to address unemployment amongst the men and the youth. In 2002 an opportunity arose to learn the skill of telephone wire weaving which would provide the men with a craft skill. Sensokuhle Wire Co. was formed. Ben Makhanya is considered a master weaver of Zulu wire baskets. Part of the Sensokuhle Wire co. Makhanya has exhibited locally and internationally. In 2009 Makhanya took part in the Global Fayre, a Fair Trade organisation based in America.
Sizwe Umoya	Wendy	Hammond	Northern KZN	WIRE	Sizwe Umoya was started 8 years ago by partners Wendy Hammond and Jen Wright. Initially consisting of four women, the group has now grown to 14 women and 2 men working full time. The crafters work from home, thus enabling them to care for their children and attend to their household chores.The Sizwe Umoya gallery sells copper wire beaded items such as bowls, tea light holders and bracelets. Their unique pieces are also sold in galleries and upmarket shops around the world.
	Jennifer	Wright	Northern KZN		
	Douglas	Chepeta		WIRE	

Umcebo Trust	Robin	Oppermann	Durban		Douglas Chepata was one of the artists responsible for the bead, wire and copper artwork that adorns the VIP area of the Moses Mabhida Stadium.'To the Sea' was designed by Umcebo Trust Director, Robin Opperman together with Michael McFadyean. Other works created by the Umcebo Trust are featured in collections owned by the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Richard Branson, Rita Marley and King Goodwill Zwelethini. The organisation was originally started to assist skills development among mentally challenged youth, and has now extended to include a wider range of crafters. It is based on economic empowerment and self respect through creativity.
Usisi Designs	Stella	Pretorius	PMB	WIRE	Stella Pretorius grew up in Bray, the daughter of a local car mechanic. Pretorius believes that her childhood experiences were the perfect training for what she does today. Now based in Pietermaritzburg, she runs the successful Usisi Designs, a craft group that supports between 35 and 45 impoverished women.Usisi makes beaded jewellery, interior accessories, lampshades and cushion covers that enjoy a following all over South Africa, as well as overseas. Their unique selling point is that the crafters crochet with thin copper wire.
Zenzulu	Ntombifuthi	Magwaza	Durban	WIRE	ZENZULU™ is a design-led craft business, renowned for its fusion of contemporary design with traditional craft skills. Initiated 12 years ago by designer Marisa Fick-Jordaan, under the auspices of the BAT SHOP, the business now provides sustainable incomes for more than 350 home- based crafters. This design symbiosis has become a South African design classic, receiving numerous accolades and awards, including an Elle Decoration International Design Award in 2002. Over the past two years, ZENZULU™ vessels have been showcased in Design Made in Africa, an international travelling exhibition of contemporary African design, selected by Li Edelkoort for her North Meets South exhibitions in Paris and Stockholm, and featured in The Conran Shop's <i>Harare to Higgovale</i> exhibitions in London, New York, Paris and Tokyo.
	Alfred	Ntuli	Durban	WIRE	
	Vincent	Sithole	Ladysmith	WIRE	
The Woodturner	Andrew	Early	Dargle	WOOD	John's father, Aubrey Early, was a farmer and a keen and skilled cabinet maker who used only hand tools. It was through him that John learned the skills of his trade. John focused on cabinet making until 1987, when his love for wood steered him towards the more creative art of turning. John has now passed his knowledge onto his son, Andrew, who has joined his fathers' business. Andrew has introduced a contemporary dimension to the business with his unique, simple style in both turning and furniture design, attracting attention from local and international buyers. It is in their Dargle Valley studio that most of their work can be found. Their pieces are also sold through various New York, Hamptons, Los Angeles and London shops. Their work has been featured in a number of top decor magazines, and earned them a Conde Nast Award as well as an Elle Decor international Design Award.

Koop	Richard	Stretton	Durban	WOOD	Richard Stretton, an architect by training, started Koop in 1999 out of his home in Glenwood. His first project was a game lodge in Northern KZN, where he lived on-site and built the buildings and furniture by hand. In 2001 Stretton developed a lodge unit that was prefabricated in a workshop and later installed in the bush, ensuring as little impact to the environment as possible. This grew Koop's design ethos - to produce buildings and products that are environmentally sensitive and energy efficient. In 2004 Koop won an Elle Decoration Design Award for its kitchen organ unit. Architectural projects include residences in the Midlands and private game reserves around the country, as well as Durban's first bar built on a pier for the restaurant Moyo, and the redevelopment of the Addington amenity on Durban's beachfront.
-	Siphamandla	Makhanya	Durban	WOOD	Siphamandla Makhanya sells his work through Artisan Contemporary Gallery, Durban
-	Chris	Morewood	Pletermaritzburg	WOOD	Chris Morewood turns beautifully crafted wooden bowls. His bowls have been exhibited at the Artisan gallery in Durban and are also sold through a US based website, Zambezi Exotics.
-	Widas	Mtshali	Maputaland	WOOD	Widas Mtshali, born 1964 in Mangusi, makes wooden objects from mpengende wood, using the burnt-wood technique. He was recently celebrated as an African Art Centre Artist of the Year for 2011.
-	Sibusiso	Ndlazi	Maputaland	WOOD	Sibuso Ndlazi lives and works in Maputaland, where he carves and paints animals and other objects which he uses to create colourful mobiles.