

Katlego Mashiloane and Nosipho Lavuta,
Ext. 2, Lakeside, Johannesburg



Being Seen

Through their images, visual activist Zanele Muholi challenges those who believe lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA) individuals are “un-African.” Their series “Being” focuses on moments of comfort, joy, and laughter from couples’ everyday lives.



Katlego Mashiloane and Nosipho Lavuta, Ext. 2, Lakeside, Johannesburg, 2007

Take a closer look

While **Zanele Muholi (b. 1972)** also depicts the results of violence committed against the South African LGBTQIA community, this image focuses on love. See if you can identify all the points where Katlego Mashiloane's and Nosipho Lavuta's limbs touch and intertwine.

Something to talk about

Muholi describes the individuals they photograph as "participants." They build trust and comfort by using familiar locations and seeking participants' input. What do you see that could reflect this couple's comfort with the photographer, their setting, and one another?

In their own words

"I don't represent. I document to make sure that our voices are included in the canon."

Who knew?

In December 2021, the visual activist established the Muholi Art Institute, a mobile organization based in Cape Town, to support artists. The institute seeks to educate and serve as a community space for creatives to come together.

Zanele Muholi, *Katlego Mashiloane and Nosipho Lavuta, Ext. 2, Lakeside, Johannesburg, 2007*; Chromogenic color print, 30 x 30 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Museum purchase: The Paul and Emily Singer Family Foundation with additional support from Nancy Nelson Stevenson; © Zanele Muholi; Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson, New York

