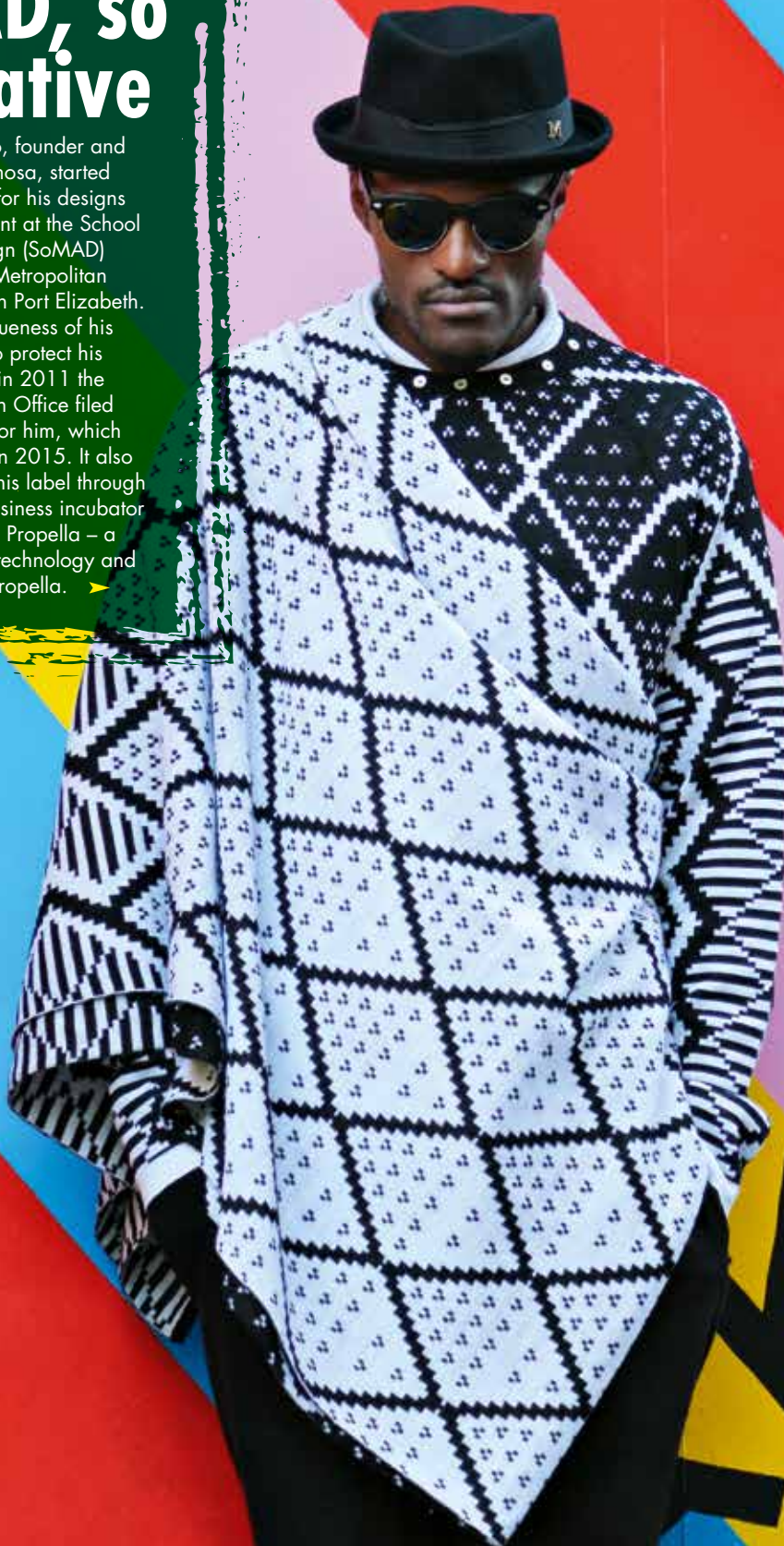


# Lifestyle

## SoMAD, so innovative

Laduma Ngxokolo, founder and designer of MaXhosa, started winning awards for his designs while he was a student at the School of Music, Art & Design (SoMAD) at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth. Recognising the uniqueness of his work and the need to protect his Intellectual Property, in 2011 the university's Innovation Office filed design registrations for him, which it transferred to him in 2015. It also helped him develop his label through its entrepreneurial business incubator for the arts, the MAD Propella – a satellite of NMMU's technology and business incubator, Propella. ➤

Laduma in his shawl, which was voted the Most Beautiful Object in SA.





By Sbu Mkwanazi (@sbumkwanazi)



SoMAD post-graduate student Nishil Vagmaria at work in his Bird St Campus studio.



SoMAD post-graduate student Sarah Walmsley's kiln-formed glass and bronze titled *Disconnected*.



Beanie Boy by SoMAD post-graduate student Pola Maneli.

➤ The MAD Propella has also assisted several other creatives to strategically develop and market their talent. It's based at the recently restored Bird St Campus – an innovative arts pivot in Port Elizabeth's inner-city Central precinct. The gallery, which was opened last year, is on the ground floor of an elegantly restored Edwardian building. Fine arts graduates and illustration students work here, including rising stars Pola Maneli, Siya Ngaki, Jono van der Walt, Sarah Walmsley, Bamanye Ngxale, Michael Wedderburn and Nishil Vagmaria.

The Bird St Campus is also home to the NMMU's Jazz Unit & Music Conservatory, where pupils whose schools don't offer music lessons can receive instruction from university students and lecturers. SoMAD's roots date back to the first-ever art school in SA, the Port Elizabeth Art School, which opened in 1852 in the historic Athenaeum Building in nearby Belmont Terrace.

Today, SoMAD promotes enquiring, Africanised curricula and exhibitions. Similarly, Ngxokolo's international fashion label is inspired by traditional beadwork and motifs in the Eastern Cape. NMMU's Bird St Gallery hosted Johannesburg-based artist and cultural activist Marcus Neustetter's exhibition, *Into the Light*, which challenges concepts of darkness and light in SA, the broader continent and beyond. This month, in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, the gallery will be hosting the multi-disciplinary exhibition *Fantastic*, co-curated by Nomusa Makhubu and Nkule Mabaso, which aims to subvert the colonial fetishisation of African art in Western contexts and re-examines notions of "the dark continent". – Heather Dugmore

## Flying off the wheel

Zahier Davids is a sculptor and painter, but also expresses his creativity in an unconventional way: he owns and runs Flywheel Custom Chariots, a company which designs and manufactures custom bikes and trikes.

"I see a bike's frame as a blank canvas begging to be painted. I use airbrushing,

vinyl and spraying to produce a piece of art everyone will be ecstatic about. Although my clients give me an idea of what they want in the end product, I provide direction. I suggest characters, colours and other artistic preferences to ensure they have a unique bike," says Davids.

To some, his creations may appear to be simply bikes. To Davids, however, they're a passion and a lifeline, as he started the business after he'd been retrenched. His creations include a wooden bike for the Fifa 2010 World Cup in SA, a cargo bike for a logistics company, a cooler box bike for a wine farm and various designs for the film industry. He's also worked with the Cape Town Carnival for a number of years, providing colourful bikes for the event.

"One of my highlights has to be



© Ference Isaacs

the bike or 'jogger' that I designed for a disabled participant in this year's Comrades Marathon. As with most of my projects, I had about a week to complete it – and she finished the race in less than 11 hours. Knowing that my dream made someone else's come true makes my work that much more special," he says. Davids' workshop is at 123-12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kensington, Cape Town. Tel: 076 501 2300. Email: flywheelbikes@gmail.com

## RACE RELATIONS UNPLUGGED



Bruce Norris's play, *Clybourne Park* – a spin-off of Lorraine Hansberry's iconic work, *A Raisin in the Sun*, drawing on events in Chicago, USA – has won four global accolades. It now makes its debut at Cape Town's Fugard Theatre from 16-August-1 October. Norris's hilarious, but searingly honest script reveals the fault lines undermining race relations and political correctness, while exploring the subtexts of language, the issue of heritage and the boundaries of ethnic identity. For further information, tel: 021 461 4554.

Tickets cost R120-R240 from Computicket – tel: 0861 915 8000 or visit: www.computicket.com

## CD REVIEWS

### REPUBLIEK VAN ZOID AFRIKA VOL 3 BY KAREN ZOID (4/5)

Dis mooi, man! Hopefully your Afrikaans is up to scratch, as Zoid hits as hard with her lyrics as she does with her rock melodies. The opening track, *Dis 'n Land*, takes a bitter-sweet look at heritage and patriotism. She also sings in isiZulu in her own rendition of *Asimbonanga* and brings out the big guns in collaborations with Vicky Sampson,



Snotkop, Claire Johnston, Koos Kombuis and Rocco de Villiers.

### SELF-MEDICATED BY ROSS JACK (4/5)

For songs that will haunt and taunt you, Jack's sophomore album has few equals. The rapper unleashes scathing lyrics in *Blow and Rock 'n Rolla*. It's a tough, but rewarding pill to swallow. Listen at your own risk!

