



## BIO

Jako Pretorius (b. 1994, South Africa), known professionally as OKAJ, is a mixed media artist whose work delves into the complexities of the human psyche. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Visual Multimedia Arts at the University of South Africa (UNISA), he explores the evolving state of humanness and the delicate balance between soul, mind, body, and nature.

OKAJ's art blends colour, texture, and emotion in both formal and conceptual ways, often using metaphor to reflect on mental health, addiction, depression, schizophrenia, and their broader social contexts. His process is experimental, combining diverse materials and techniques to create vibrant, bold, and layered works.

Drawing inspiration from community work, his practice seeks to convey strength, growth, and resilience — transforming deeply personal and challenging themes into powerful visual narratives.

Armed with professionalism, determination, and ambition, Jako has had a rapidly growing number of successful exhibitions and actively contributes to the South African contemporary discourse with the full intent of establishing his place in the contemporary gallery circuit.



## **Artist's CV:**

### **2025**

Selected works – on Display, Hout Bay Gallery, Hout Bay

Selected works – on Display, Rust en Vrede, Durbanville

Pop-Up Solo – Snag Gallery, Cape Town

Ont[BLOOT] – Group Exhibition ArtB Gallery, Bellville

Logitech International - Selected Works featured in Commercial, shot at Youngblood Africa (Currently in production)

Art10K Auction – Group Exhibition, Bowmans Cape Town

Comic Con Cape Town - Vendor

Shadows Of Self - Solo Exhibition, Mullers Gallery, Cape Town

### **2024**

December Art Expo - Group Exhibition, Yzerfontein Art Collective, Yzerfontein

*The Flowers are Still There* - Youngblood Africa, Cape Town

*REVE(!)ATION* - UNISA 3rd year graduate exhibition, ArtB Gallery, Bellville

Herman Van Nazareth Open House - Group Exhibition, Jakkalsfontein

Emerging Artist's Program - Comic-Con South Africa, Group Exhibition, Cape Town

*On Growth* - Group Exhibition, 91 Loop Street, Cape Town

Selected works - On display, Art Haus Sea Point, Cape Town

Members Exhibition - ArtB Gallery, Bellville

### **2023**

December Expo - Group Exhibition, Yzerfontein Art Collective, Yzerfontein

Yzerfontein Art Route - Group Exhibition, Cacao, Yzerfontein

Yzerfontein Art Route - Group Exhibition, Sand Flea, Yzerfontein

### **2022**

Evening Open Air - Group Show, Yzerfontein Art Collective, Yzerfontein

Yzerfontein Art Collective Launch - Group Show, Yzerfontein

### **2021**

Yzerfontein Art Route - Group Exhibition, Skuim, Yzerfontein

Yzerfontein Art Route - Group Exhibition, Wildflower, Yzerfontein

### **2019**

Humanity - Spoken Word Performance Group, Meta 2.0, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## **EDUCATION**

(BA) Visual Multimedia Arts, University of South Africa (2025)