

GRADE 4

FAMOUS ARTIST- ESTHER MAHLANGU

APRIL 2020 (LOCKDOWN)



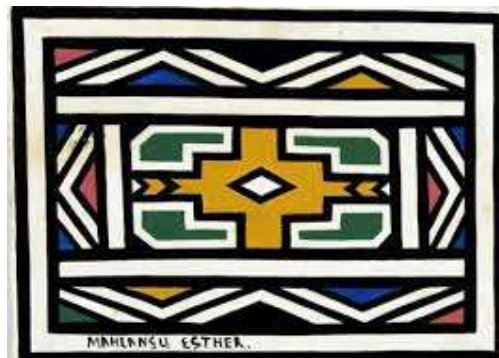
Esther Mahlangu is a South African artist and was born in 1935. She is from the Ndebele nation. She is famous for her bold, colourful artworks inspired by the traditional art of the Ndebele people.

Mahlangu began painting when she was ten years old and was taught the Ndebele practice of mural painting by her mother and grandmother.

It is traditional for the women in the Ndebele community to paint the outside of their houses. They use natural pigments mixed with cow dung, and bright acrylic paints outlined with black lines, to make large geometric patterns on the outside walls of their homes.



Mahlangu uses elements from the traditional Ndebele houses in her paintings. These traditional designs feature complex symmetry and repeating patterns. She uses geometric compositions such as rectangles and triangles.



Mahlangu was the first person to transfer the traditional Ndebele style of mural paintings to canvas. In 1991, she painted her geometric patterns on a BMW 525i.



Mahlangu now travels widely to promote the Ndebele culture. She is also the director of a school which teaches girls the Ndebele style of painting and bead work.
