

Ubuntu Connectedness

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The three paintings, dubbed “*Ubuntu Connectedness*” (Images 1-3), were put on display from May 21 to August 28, 2021 at a community exhibition at the Museum of Grand Prairie for the Pandemics as Portal for Change: A Community Exhibition sponsored by Krannert Art Museum, the Museum of the Grand Prairie, The Urbana Free Library, Urbana Arts and Culture Program, the College of Fine and Applied Arts at Illinois, and Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center.

The pieces explore the current struggles—COVID-19, systemic racism, and other social injustices, which led me to visualize a world without violence, but where peace, justice, and unity thrives. I recalled the philosophy of *Ubuntu*, a Zulu, Xhosa and Ndebele word for humanness used to capture ways of being moral, ethical, and advances communal relationships. These pieces highlight the essence of how, in the spirit of *Ubuntu*, we are connected, especially to our ancestors and those who have recently passed on, but are forever present in our midst even though absent. The silhouetted haziness of each painting reflects their invisibility and omnipresent nature.



Image 1: *Ubuntu Connectedness*



Image 2: *Ubuntu* Connectedness



Image 3: *Ubuntu Connectedness*