



FLYING COLOURS



Now is the time to treat yourself to wares by Windsor creative Lisa Todd, a winner in the 2021 Living Etc style awards & exhibitor at Chelsea Flower Show



ucked down a Windsor lane, inside a quintessentially English cottage, a kaleidoscope of creativity bursts with colour, positivity and sunshine.

The joyful pieces designer Lisa Todd creates, both with and on behalf of her "African family" of talented artisans, can't help but make you smile. They have also earned a wave of plaudits and attention over the last remarkable few months, including a star turn at Chelsea Flower Show, being stocked in The Museum Of The Home in London and featured in the *Financial Times How To Spend It* supplement, as well as in *Harpers Bazaar*.

“I became determined to use my passion for colour”

As a girl growing up in South Africa, Lisa drew houses and patterns on any surfaces she could get her hands on, including the onion-skin thin pages of telephone directories. She says: "After a long stay in hospital aged 11, staring at pea-green walls I was determined to use my passion for colour to make the world a better place! Growing up in South Africa provided the perfect tropical canvas to develop a vibrant decorative style. The country, people and crafts have always provided inspiration." Lisa's first collection was inspired by iconic African artist Esther Mahlangu and the patterns of the Ndebele people.

After moving to the UK, Lisa studied at Hornsey College of Art and graduated in interior design at Middlesex University. Her award-winning Ubuntu Collection was created during lockdown. "We were shielding with our personal health conditions on both sides of the globe," explains Lisa. "A wonderful friend Xhosa the bead artist was unable to work so she recreated one of paintings at home in beadwork... and the project began." This has grown to involve a constellation of talented female bead and wire artists all over Kwazulu Natal, many of whom work with the African Art Centre, a not-for-profit organisation who teach traditional skills and economic empowerment.

Hlengive Dube is one of the globally acclaimed artists who had her first Zulu beaded love letter shown in a museum collection aged 12. She now teaches globally on Zoom and curates Yale University's African art collection. Lisa's pieces start as paintings, and evolve, whether beading by hand or to enamel mugs in Durban or printing on British velvet at Glasgow School of Arts' award-winning print facility. All celebrate sustainability, too, recycling materials such as telephone wire and recycled glass into objects of beauty. Her current bestsellers are her award-winning organic British melamine plates, followed closely by the hand-beaded mugs. Shop now at lisatodddesigns.com