

Sudhata Jurakan – Artist Biography

Sudhata Jurakan (b. 2001, Durban) is a Johannesburg-based artist working across painting, installation, and performance. She holds a BA in Fine Arts from the University of the Witwatersrand (2023).

Jurakan's practice began in rhythm before it found form. She started studying Hindustani classical music at six at Drisha Music Academy, and later trained in Kathak at Darpan Dance Studios, where she now teaches. Taal, the cyclical structure of Indian classical music, runs through her practice not just as technique but as a way of thinking about time, always fragmenting, subdividing, and folding back into itself.

It was her Nanima, the matriarch of her family, who first catalysed her into creating. After her passing, Jurakan found saree strips among her belongings, a discovery that became the material centre of her practice. The pleats of the fall make taal visible, while the same fabric doubles as a bandage, binding what has been broken even as it repeats the fragmentation it tries to heal. Through this material, Jurakan explores inherited histories of womanhood, patriarchal violence, and colonial time. How fragments of the past shape the present unrecognised, mistaken for tradition rather than consequence.

Her work was most recently included in *Entangling Paths of Consciousness* (2023), part of New Work 23 at the Wits Art Museum, extending into a performance at the Wits School of Arts. Since graduating, she has continued to exhibit and perform, including *Kathak Chronicles* (2024), a duo with her sister, and *Kathak Canvases* (2025) at Crawford International School.