

VALHALLA ARTS

"When the burning flame of spirit is ignited, it will transform any soul - no matter what the circumstances."
(MUSA E. ZULU, 1999)

2010 SOCCER ART EXHIBITION



In the year 2010 South Africa hosted the FIFA Soccer World Cup spectacle – the first on African soil.

As an artist I decided to celebrate this milestone with an exhibition of artworks that depict the beauty of soccer and its meaning to African history, relationships and culture. This was not only to celebrate the beautiful game but also to pay homage to Africa and her soccer-mad people. I named this exhibition, which features a collection of 8 soccer-themed-artwork accompanied by poems and (compiled between 2002 – 2010), *"For the Glory of the Games"*.

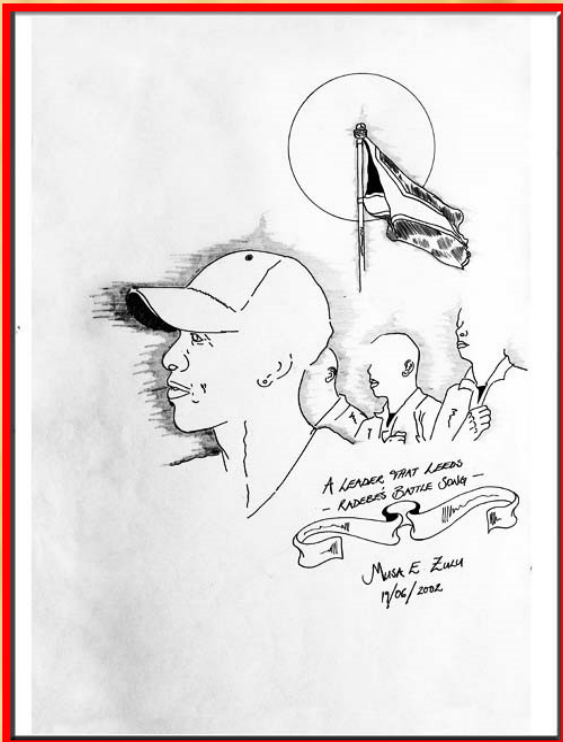
I have always been amazed by how global the influence of the game of soccer is. Each nation has its own soccer stories to talk about. With this exhibition I wanted to give my own African perspective of the influence that the game of soccer has stirred deep inside the African community's heart, mind and soul. I was also hoping for an exhibition which would also influence those that get a chance to view its pieces to come out with their own perspectives and emotions that each evokes. I decided not to stage this exhibition at an Art Gallery but to harness the power of the net. Because soccer is 'a game of the people' I decided not to stage this exhibition at an Art Gallery but to place it in my website for the wider public to access it without exclusive boundaries.

The year 2010 was also very special milestone for me as it marked 30 years since I started drawing and entertaining the wonderful landscapes of the world of the arts. I needed to celebrate this journey in a way that best pays tribute to this amazing talent I have been nurturing and developing during this period.

Join me *"For the Glory of the Games"* – an exhibition of timeless classics!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2010)

A LEADER THAT LEEDS: Radebe's Battle Cry!



Lucas Radebe is one of the greatest South African soccer icons. He is former Kaizer Chiefs and Bafana Bafana Captain. Later in his career he invaded England where he went on to become Captain for Leeds United, a giant in the English Premier Soccer League. Radebe gave South African soccer an international branding, in the process inspiring many young aspiring players to entertain and follow a dream of possibilities. He harnessed opportunity and enjoyed global football stardom. The man is legend.

I dedicate this artwork, “A Leader that Leeds” to Lucas ‘Rho’ Radebe – my Captain, for the image of Africa that he has represented and presented so gracefully to the world – a duty he executed so selflessly, and on our behalf. This salute is for his love of his country and for employing the tool of the

beautiful game as an agent for change. I give it to him in the sweetest melodies of ‘Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrica’ the South African national anthem since 1997.

Music is to Africa what a breath of air is to life – here music is us. Africans sing to the rhythms of their evolving moments and are renowned for dancing their nights away. This is how we bring spark to our multicultural celebrations. South Africans need to come together and get to know the words and music of our national anthem. The anthem is symbolic of a nation’s desire for reconciliation and unity as equal countrymen and women. These are a people’s words of sacrifice for a common cause – to live together in prosperity and harmony. Lucas knew the words and could sing his country’s national anthem, all the way to its majestic crescendo. As Captain of the national squad, Lucas knew that this is how a nation demonstrates its solidarity and unity to friends that come from afar to visit.

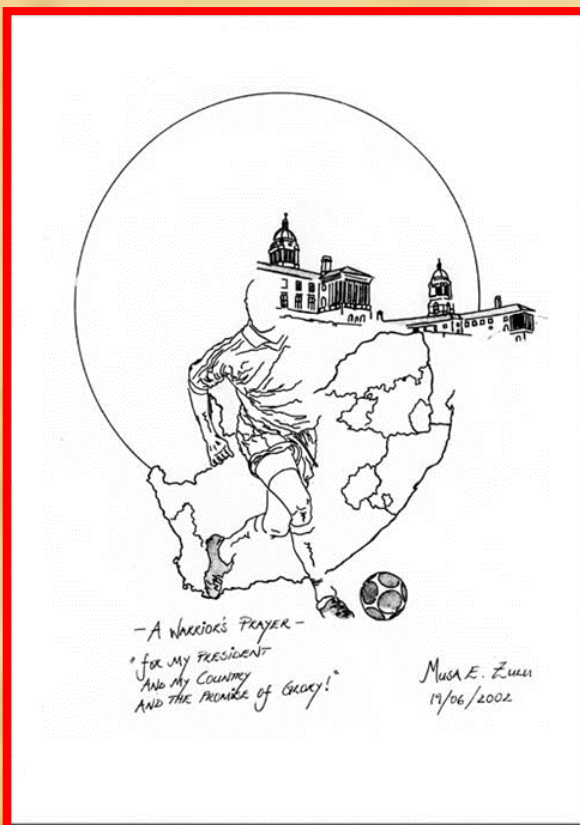
The song ‘*Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika*’ was composed by Enoch Sontonga, a Methodist school teacher, in 1897. It was originally sung as a church hymn but later became an anthem sung as an act of political defiance against the apartheid government in old South Africa. In 1997, post-apartheid, it was combined with ‘*Die Stem van Suid-Afrika*’ a poem written by C.J. Langenhoven in 1918 and set to music by the Reverend Marthinus Lourens de Villiers in 1921. ‘*Die Stem*’ was the Republic of South Africa’s co-national anthem with the British ‘*God Save the King/Queen*’ from 1936 to 1957. After that it became the sole South African national anthem until 1995. The South African government under Nelson Mandela adopted both ‘*Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika*’ and ‘*Die Stem/God Save the King/Queen*’ songs as national anthems from 1995 until they were merged in 1997 to form the current anthem.

NKOSISIKELELI’AFRICA!	English
(Xhosa) Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo, (Zulu) Yizwa imithandazo yethu, Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.	God [Lord] bless Africa May her glory be lifted high Hear our petitions God bless us, Your children
(Sesotho) Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso, O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho, O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso, Setjhaba sa, South Afrika - South Afrika.	God we ask You to protect our nation Intervene and end all conflicts Protect us, protect our nation, our nation, South Afrika - South Africa
(Afrikaans) Uit die blou van onse hemel, Uit die diepte van ons see, Oor ons ewige gebergtes, Waar die kranse antwoord gee,	Ringing out from our blue heavens, From our deep seas breaking round, Over everlasting mountains, Where the echoing crags resound,
(English) Sounds the call to come together, And united we shall stand, Let us live and strive for freedom, In South Africa our land.	

Let us sing our national anthem longer and even higher for the world to hear when it comes – and sing it over and over, again and again - and forever more - so that our children will get to know and sing it well for their children’s children. This is our history and heritage as told in the tale and message of this beautiful rendition. ‘*Nkosi Sikelel’iAfrika!*’

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2002)

A WARRIOR'S PRAYER



"A Warrior's Prayer", another 2002 Classic!

Every National Team that represents its country carries its citizens' aspirations to win in unity – against all odds. Every warrior does not go to the battlefields of the 'war games' for themselves and with only their individual interests at heart. A warrior goes to battle as the mirror of his country's needs, knowing that country comes first – its pride, its challenges and its victories.

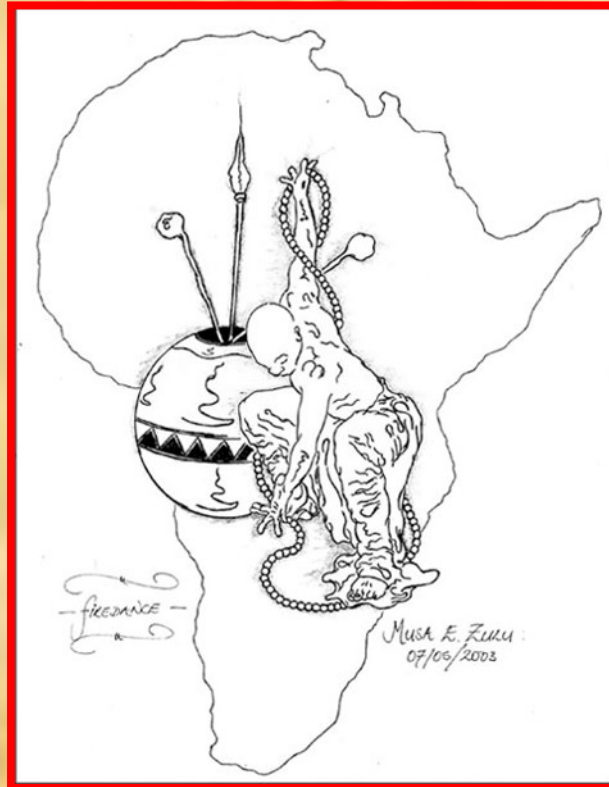
We all want to win. Winning is about making commitment to serve – with honor, discipline and hard work. Bafana Bafana is the mirror of my country's need and aspirations to win in unity. Their participation in international games is an opportunity to usher a new era of the promise of glory days to come for the Rainbow Nation - and assist us in finding solutions to our enormous development challenges and social divisions. This

opportunity also signals the possibility of immortality for Bafana Bafana, as ambassadors here at home, all over Africa and throughout this mighty globe.

The battlefield is where legends are born – this is where a child playing in a distant dusty third-world soccer pitch can find inspiration to represent their country and follow the possible dream of global glory! I drew and wrote *"A Warrior's Prayer"* for our boys in South Africa – together with the 'entire army of world warriors' who grace our soccer battlefields with absolute magic – all over the world.

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2004)

FIRE DANCE - AFRICA RISING!



Africa rise and stampede in fire-dance
A new harvest of freedom has finally come
South Africa, Angola, Chad
Ghana, Morocco, Botswana
Cameroon, Gabon, Togo
From the DRC Congo to the Republic of Congo

Africa rise in thunderous celebration
Sing and rhyme your names
Ethiopia, Namibia, Somalia
Tanzania, Zambia, Eritrea
Tunisia, Algeria, Nigeria
Beat your drums from Libya to Liberia

Africa rise and experience the gentle breeze of harmony
Your children are crying 'No More War!'
Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Burundi
Cote d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Sudan
Djibouti, Uganda, Burkina Faso
Peace in Guinea Bissau – Love in Equatorial Guinea

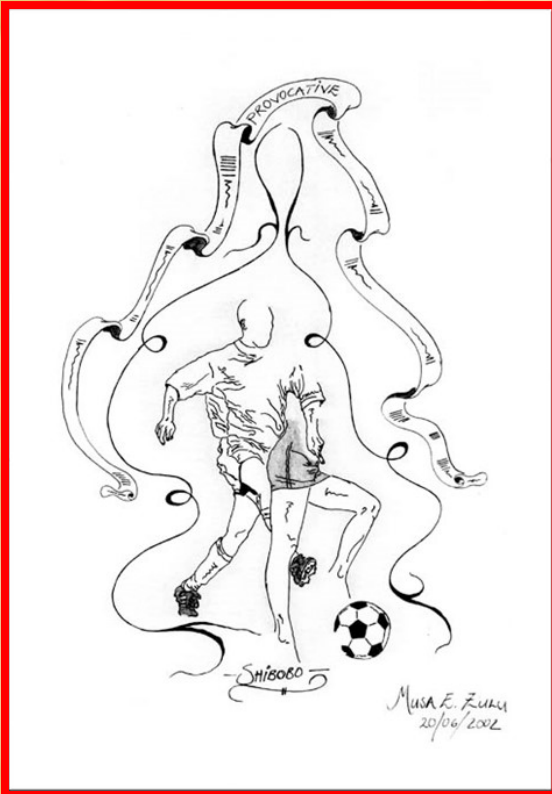
Africa rise for this moment is your renaissance
Plough lands that steal away fear and hunger
Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mali
Lesotho, Benin, Senegal
Niger, Malawi, Mauritania
Prosperity from Central African Republic to Western Sahara

Africa awake and rise to your occasion
Boast the colorful rainbow of your arts and culture
Egypt, Gambia and Kenya
Let your heritage be your honor and pride
This time your dignity should forever take centre stage!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2006)

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PROVOCATIVE – Shibobo!



Back in July 2002 Robert Marawa, a good friend, invited me as a guest at the MTN Soccer Zone program which he hosted on SABC 1. I had earlier met with him and told him that I was working on soccer artwork that I wanted to exhibit on television. He said ‘yes’ – just like that, like a true friend that believes in the beauty of my talents.

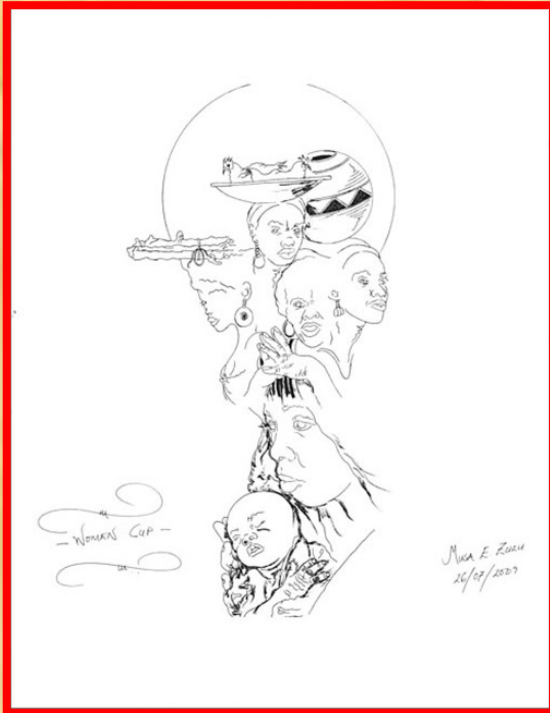
I assembled the collection and set out for the SABC studios in Auckland Park, Johannesburg to fulfill a longstanding dream of a ‘televised’ art exhibition. We spent the entire morning recording the works and interview. Each artwork was placed on a tripod and filmed. One of the pieces in the collection was “Shibobo!” which Marawa and his other guests in the studio simply fell in love with. They remarked that it was a naughty take on one of the best moves by a player to disarm an opponent on the field.

When the recording played on television later in the evening the telephone lines in the studio and SMS messages on the TV screens went crazy with people passing their congratulations and some wanting to purchase it right there and then. Everybody got talking about “Shibobo!”. An old friend who had travelled with me to the recording, summed it up later and said; *‘I guess I can understand the soccer public’s frenzy, this piece is a provocative and sexy masterpiece indeed’*. This is exactly what I wanted this artwork to portray – soccer is a masculine and sexy game. I was over the moon – I have achieved a dream and the reception was rippling.

“Shibobo” was a revelation and start of other opportunities still to come my way. Today I have drawn a few artworks for local soccer heroes and personalities, football organizing bodies and private sector organizations like BP that have a stake in local soccer matters. One of the best moments of my creative storms was when, in 2007, the South African 2010 Local Organization Committee commissioned me to develop an artwork for Sepp Blatter, the then FIFA President. I created it with pride and named it “Sepp’s African Dream”. It was taken to the FIFA Headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland where it hangs proudly with my name!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2008)

WOMEN CUP



In 2004, when FIFA announced South Africa as the 2010 Soccer World Cup hosts, I was reading a newspaper when a friend remarked that the golden Soccer World Cup trophy is the most magnetic piece of art the world over.

I agreed. Its magical shape leaves one with a sense of unity and its beauty gets better with every time one looks at it. That golden glow of the infused planet Earth at the top creates a sense of equal world elevation. I have always thought to myself that it takes natural flair for an artist to achieve that degree of perfect execution and delivery. Later my friend asked me to draw him a sketch of the trophy. I told him *'I wouldn't dare!'* adding that *"a foolish artist sometimes fails to tread carefully, only to find themselves desecrating holy monuments"*. He never bothered to

ask me why I would not – in fact he never made the same request again.

In 2009, with *'World Cup fever'* pitching, I thought it would be brave of me to take up my old friend's 6-year-old challenge'. I plucked-up the courage and readied myself to draw this mighty golden trophy. Instead of trying to draw it as it physically appears, I settled down on an idea to give it my own interpretation. I wanted to allow it to teach me about its symbolism – one that unites nations. I started searching for my own emerging interpretations – and I went out drawing.

The coming of the FIFA Soccer World Cup to Africa in 2010 has inspired hope and determination to let the world know of our culture, historical developments and future aspirations. One of our hopes as we host this global spectacle is that it will lift us all from our poverties and underdevelopments to our prosperities and developments - giving us a voice to tell our stories of hardships and breakthroughs with a sense of dignified accomplishment. This is particularly so with our brave women – African women are awaiting the arrival of our visitors to regale them with a noble treat of inspirational stories about how they have always found light in the dark. I wanted to produce an artwork that pays tribute to our women's courage and contribution – one that says *'this is their moment'*.

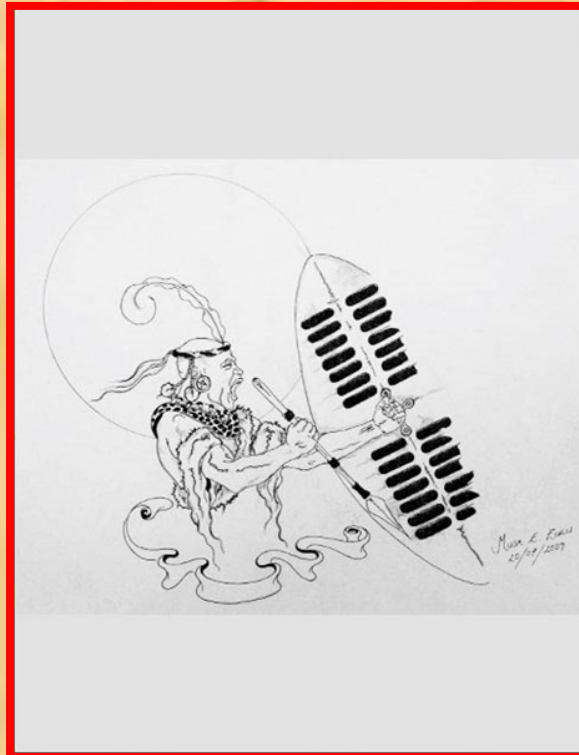
"Women Cup" was born. This is how I chose to interpret and depict the Soccer World Cup trophy and settle the old score set by my friend back in 2004. I called him and unveiled this portrait and his jaw dropped in slow motion. I guess he was blown away amused by the fact that I still remembered his long-time dare. He said he was drawn by how *"Women Cup"* resembles not only the Soccer World Cup trophy in shape but also in mastery - later referring to the artwork as *'magnetic and golden'* – I was pleased.

This artwork is my gift to the women of Africa – and the beautiful game!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2009)

IMBONGI'S CRY

- Sebengaphakathi, They Have Arrived! -



Sebengaphakathi
They have arrived!!

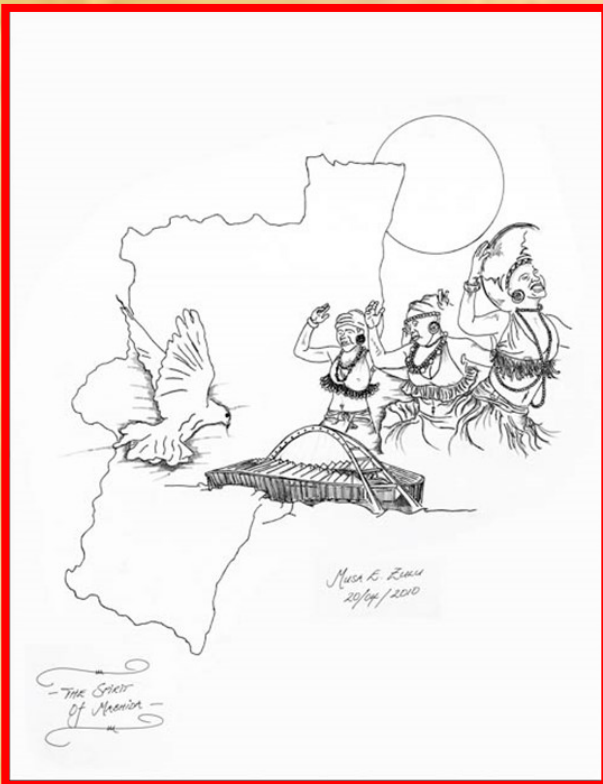
The ambassadors of the world
Have in their numbers descended upon us
We are called upon to welcome them with thunderous drums
Our shield towering their shadows

Sebengaphakathi – they are here!
Let us usher them to the centre of the kraal
Where we will thrill them with song and dance
Let the calabash of our tastes change hands
As we engage in the celebration of life
The nectar of the gods borne out of the African soil

Sebengaphakathi – they are home!
We shall open our doors even wider for them all
It will be our honor to host this Mother of all Parties
For them to leave embraced, rewarded and knowing
That Africa is the Cradle of Humankind
Sebengaphakathi!!!!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2009)

THE SPIRIT OF MABHIDA



Moses Mabhida was a freedom fighter who lived, fought and died in exile to free his people, in South Africa and the whole world. It is an honor to his quest for freedom that the government of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa named the stadium to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup in the city of Durban the Moses Mabhida Soccer Stadium. This arena is a monument that represents my people's resolve – to live together and look ahead in harmony.

This Stadium is a world-class facility that completely flies in the face of negative African perceptions. This jewel, with its capacity to hold 80 000 screaming fans, leaving everyone dazed – it is beautiful. It towers the Durban skies and hovers above the Indian Ocean in gigantic majesty. Its architectural flair has brought a spark of life to a

city that is already busting with energy, movement and multi-cultural celebrations - the sun never sets in Durban.

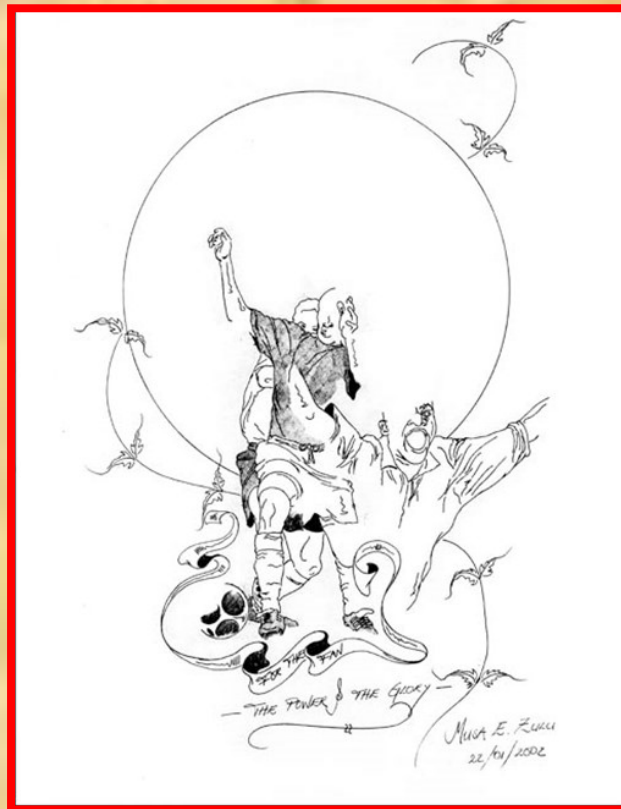
I love drawing because it allows me to create my own scenes, scenarios. Drawing enables me to employ my creative talents in positioning things differently, my way. KwaZulu-Natal is a magical scene of mountains and plains, rivers and intertwining streams, blue skies and stretching forests. I travel a lot by road and have at times driven through to breathtaking places that capture my imagination and thoughts. KwaZulu-Natal boasts the world renowned Drakensberg Mountains, a monument of God's creation. Sometimes I drive by the blue sea on a sunny afternoon and marvel at its raging waves.

I have often found myself intrigued by the naughty thought to 'uproot' the Moses Mabhida Stadium together with its neighboring sea and take them to the Drakensberg – just to unite these three giants of creation – two by God and one by man. Here I would unleash the storms of the beautiful game and let the soccer warriors of the world to slug it out until sunset. Would that not just be an amazing spectacle?

"The Spirit of Mabhida" is my attempt towards realizing this little naughty thought that sometimes passes my mind.

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2010)

FOR THE FAN!
(The Power & The Glory)



After all is said and done
And the dogs of war have qualified
When the arenas of steel and stone have been erected
And the final date of doom is drawn on the sands
When the schedules have been drawn
And all is ready and waiting
For the Fan!

After all the armies have arrived
With their barrack tents pitched on stone
When the whole world holds its breath
As the lens sniper is poised for a shot
And the countdown begins
It will be the beginning and the ending
For the Fan!

After the nations' flags have been hoisted high
And the anthems of the heavens sung
When the referee blows his whistle
As crowds unite in one thunderous voice
And a hailstorm from hell pelts the pitch
Announcing Africa's one moment in time
For the Fan!

As blood is spilled on the battlefield
And a sole gladiator screams a war cry
When shields are locked in final defense
As smoking guns of fire are blazing
And magical volleys of lightning are unleashed
It will be scars forever etched in stone
For the Fan!

When the dust finally settles
And battered warriors sit up to head home
When brothers in arms embrace in tears
And the world pauses to reflect
Praying that the storm is all over and done
Leaving only monuments of power and glory
A moment in time for the Fan!

(MUSA E. ZULU; 2010)