

# Nkosi Blake Art CV

Waterloo, London

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Nkosi's specialism is photorealism; he also likes to experiment with different materials, often working on large canvases. He takes artistic inspiration from Michael Angelo and Frank Frazetta, who both mastered the art of drawing the human figure. Their combination of realism with fantasy is evocative of comic book art. He is very passionate about art and feels there are no boundaries for his creativity.

One of the high lights of his career thus far, was when he presented The President of Kenya with a realistic pencil portrait on his trip to London 2017! His Excellency personally invited Nkosi to the Kenyan State House after being amazed by the realistic likeness of himself and being impressed by the level of skill.

You can find his most recent body of work, a series of A1 realistic pencil drawings, of inspirational public figures entitled "Push the pencil to the limit" exhibiting in galleries across London.

## EDUCATION

**BA (Hons) Digital Media Productions** **2005 - 2008**  
London College of Communication

**Access to illustration and graphics**  
**2002 - 2003**  
London College of Printing

**Foundation Art and Design** **1998 -1999**  
Croydon College

**(Distinction/AAA Level) GNVQ Advanced Art and Design** **1996 - 1998**  
John Ruskin College

**GCSE's (Grades AA\* - C)** **1991 - 1996**  
The Archbishop Lanfranc School

**BA (Hons) Digital Media Productions**, London College of Communication

**Access to Illustration and Graphics**, London College of Printing

**Foundation in Art & Design**, Croydon College

**GNVQ Advanced Art & Design**, John Ruskin College

**GCSE**, The Archbishop Lanfranc School

## **Achievements**

### **President Uhuru Kenyatta accepts portrait on his recent visit to London (Recent)**

In his recent visit to London for the Somali conference, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta accepted a portrait of himself drawn by Nkosi Blake. Nkosi presented a realistic pencil portrait to HE Uhuru Kenyatta and the president was so happy about it that he invited Nkosi to the Kenyan State House after being impressed by the skill.

“Meeting His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and him accepting my portrait, was great honour for my family and I. I thanked Kenyan High Commissioner HE Lazarus O. Amayo, for believing in me and giving me the opportunity to present my artwork to His Excellency.

### **Public Announcement Poster (Illustration Award)**

Whilst Nkosi studied for his GNVQ in advanced Art & Design at John Ruskin College his teacher at the time thought he had what it took to enter a competition called ‘Keep Safe’. Croydon Council was doing a campaign to raise commuters’ awareness about keeping safe on London transport so they put on a competition for artists to come up with a winning poster. The poster Nkosi designed had an urban style that spoke to a youth target audience – it played a key role in highlighting the importance safety on the transport network. As the winner Nkosi got to meet the Mayor, appear in the local press and his winning posters were displayed on local modes of transport. He also got the opportunity to go to the pressing plant where the posters were being printed and so got an insight into the printing process.