

MARY SIBANDE

SCULPTURE ARTIST

Mary Sibande is a visual artist from South Africa who uses her artwork to look at the stereotypes and intersections of race, gender, and labor in the wake of Apartheid.



▲ Somerset House, "Mary Sibande: I Came Apart at the Seams." YouTube.

**"IF OUR MOTHERS
QUESTIONED THINGS,
THEY WERE THROWN IN
JAIL. BUT SUDDENLY WE
WERE ABLE TO QUESTION
THINGS. PART OF WHAT
I'M DOING IS CELEBRATING
QUESTIONING."**

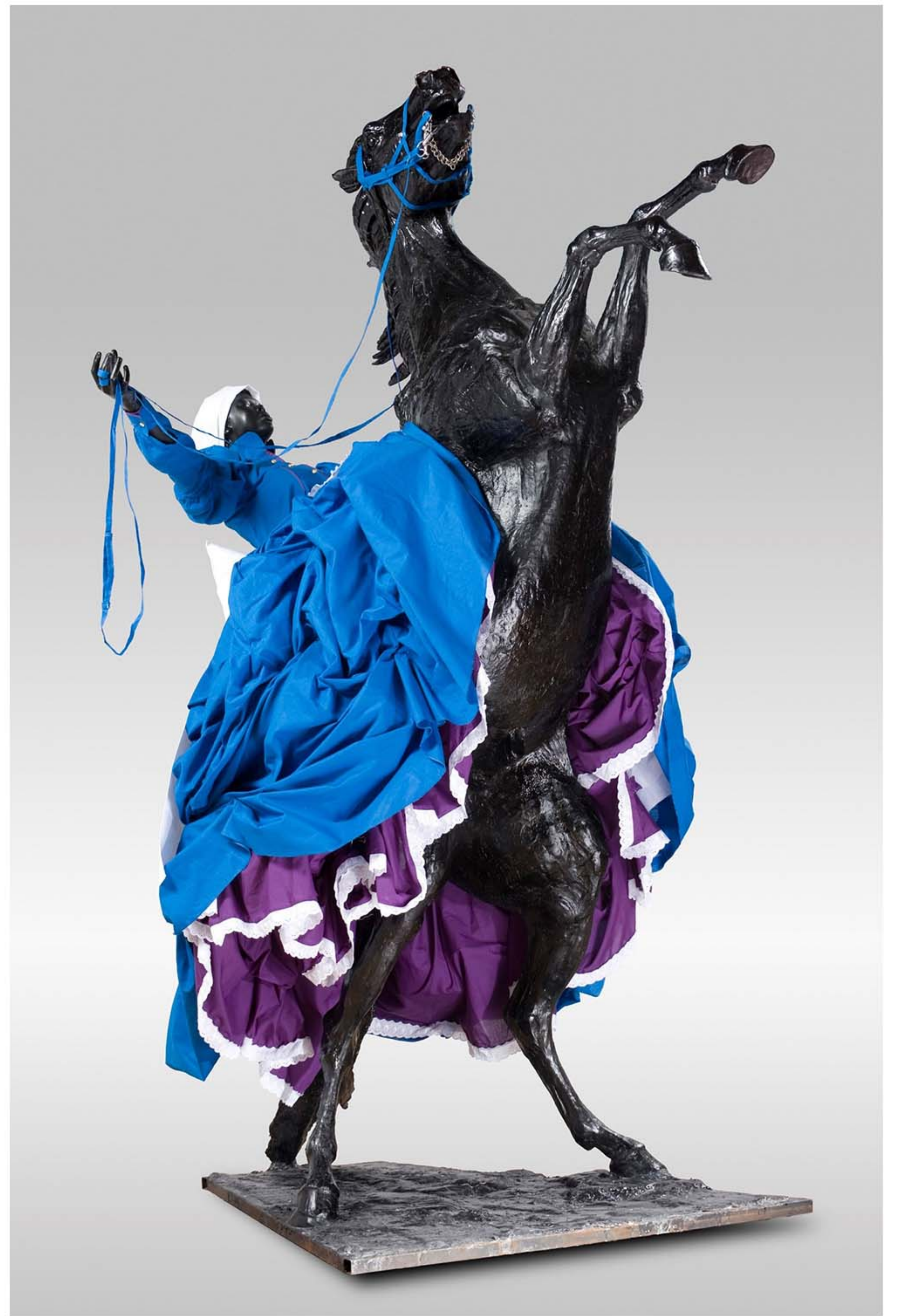
▲ *Sophie/Elsie*, 2009, lifesize fiberglass mannequin and textile. © Mary Sibande

BIOGRAPHY

- Born in 1982 in Barberton, South Africa
- Earned Diploma of Fine Arts in 2004 at the Witwatersrand Technikon and Honours Degree in 2007 from the University of Johannesburg
- Represented South Africa in 2011 at the Venice Biennale
- Won the 2017 Smithsonian National Museum of African Arts Award
- Currently lives and works in Johannesburg

A Terrible Beauty, 2013, archival digital print.

▼ © Mary Sibande



▲ *The Reign*, 2010, lifesize fiberglass mannequin, lifesize fiberglass stallion, steel, cotton. © Mary Sibande

- Aims to rewrite her family's legacy of forced domestic labor as a result of Apartheid
- Uses an alter ego, "Sophie," to create a fantasy counter-history of her family's life
- Uses blue, purple, and red as symbols for different facets of her characters; red for anger, blue for servitude, and purple for power, wealth, and protest