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TAKE A SEAT

Furniture designer Bonga Jwambi creates pieces that celebrate colour and craftsmanship.



ABOVE This kiaat chair is finished with linseed oil, and features a seat and backrest made of black, white and red nylon rope. **BELOW** Also crafted from kiaat, this contemporary armchair features a nylon rope seat in bright green.



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FORMER Design Indaba Emerging Creative, Bonga Jwambi is always on the lookout

for something to challenge him creatively. To him, embarking on a journey into furniture design was the next logical step. "I think it has a lot to do with my background as a visual artist during my school days," he explains. "I felt like there was a gap that needed to be filled: a product doesn't have to be badly designed to be affordable to the person on the street."

Bonga enjoys working with natural materials, primarily kiaat, and makes use of colour as a means of expression.

Art may serve as his primary inspiration, but he is also moved by a desire to create items that can provide solutions to societal challenges, including a lack of space. "Households are becoming smaller," he says, "and I try to design products that are functional but that take up less space."

For Bonga, it's important that his designs - which include contemporary armchairs, stools, benches and coffee tables - are seen both as works of art and as practical items. "They must still claim their place wherever they are, in a home or a public space."

What's next? Bonga has been invited to exhibit and sell his creations at Milan Design Market in April 2019, where he will be revealing a new collection.

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