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Talent WATCH

Shereen Lurie meets
SA's leading creatives



ALEXIA KANIAS
CERAMICIST AND
FOUNDER OF
XOXOPOTTERY DESIGNS

XoXoPottery Designs is a range of bespoke art pieces, plates, platters, and

bowls handmade and designed in Cape Town. Founder Alexia Kania's intention is to create pieces of functional art that

can be used and enjoyed every day. She believes that each bag of clay holds endless possibilities – an adventure waiting to happen. Doing what inspires her daily motivates her and drives her business to greater heights.

Art permeates so many different spheres in my life. I've always been creative – as a child, I went to weekly painting and ceramic classes. My favourite pastime was colouring in with lovely thick, bright and bold pencils or pastels. Having done ceramics and art throughout my



Dainty Rose – vibrant gold ceramic orbit bowl.



Peruvian Flare – lime green and purple ceramic statement piece.

childhood, it's always been a part of my life. I joined a ceramics studio in 2013, attending a weekly class purely as a hobby. Little did I know that by 2017 my hobby would evolve into a full-time way of life.

My design aesthetic is unique, loud and bold. My pieces are brightly coloured with accents of gold. More is more in my world, and my pieces often don't feel finished until I've gilded them with gold. I love a statement piece and knowing that my pieces evoke conversations and strong emotions. Each piece is one-of-a-kind.

I grew up creating and building fairy gardens. I'd collect sticks, shells, petals, and anything that looked like it had a story to tell. I'd always use the brightest, boldest crayons, pastels and pencils I could find.

My journey along the El Camino de Santiago in 2016 was an incredibly definitive and life-changing experience. I was at a crossroads in my life, and as I walked through rural Northern Spain, the clarity on changing the trajectory of my life was becoming glaringly obvious. It takes bravery to live a life you love unapologetically – to do work you care about, that brings you joy and brings joy to others, in addition to paying the bills.

My travels have been hugely influential in my designs and colour palettes. I have walked two Caminos through Spain, covering over 1250km through villages, vineyards and forests. My visit to South America in 2019 and walking part of the Inca trail to Machu Pichu had a massive impact on me as well as on my work. The colour tones of South America will never leave my soul. My recent Mediterranean trip and Greek heritage also come through in many of my sculptures and ranges. 🏡

www.xoxopotterydesigns.co.za



Blushing Muses – femme fatale sculptures.