



## Lineage

R 36,800.00



Lineage (2026) is a contemporary acrylic painting by South African artist Shana Ellappa, created on 100% cotton canvas and anchored in her ongoing exploration of ancestry, memory, and inherited identity. The work uses the metaphor of a “carried jacket” to reflect the layered experience of lineage; what is passed down, what is protected, and what must be consciously transformed.

In this work, the jacket becomes a powerful symbolic structure: a protective layer woven from ancestral strength, resilience, and survival, offering warmth and guidance as one moves through life. At the same time, it carries the weight of historical trauma, unresolved emotional inheritances, and

generational patterns, acknowledging that lineage is never purely celebratory, but complex and embodied.

Ellappa frames inheritance as something both worn and shaped by the self. The jacket is not fixed; it is tailored through lived experience. It becomes an active negotiation between inheritance and self-determination, where the wearer is both shaped by history and capable of reshaping it. In this sense, Lineage speaks to the idea that we are the continuation of all those who came before us, “the leading edge of all that has been”, with the capacity to consciously transform inherited narratives into self-awareness, healing, and empowerment.

Referencing symbolic archetypes such as the technicolour coat of Joseph, the painting situates the jacket as: a visual language for the emotional and spiritual complexity of ancestry. Through this lens, Ellappa invites viewers to consider how identity is constructed through what we carry, what we release, and what we choose to make visible.

Frame	Framed in Oak
Medium	Acrylic on 390 gsm 100% Cotton Canvas
Location	Cape Town, South Africa
Height	91.40 cm
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Artist	Shana Ellappa
Year	2026

