

The logo for KNY SNA FINE ART is displayed in a dark red, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: 'KNYSNA' on the top line and 'FINE ART' on the bottom line. The logo is centered within a light grey rectangular background.

KNYSNA FINE ART

SHANY VAN DEN BERG

ABOUT

Shany van den Berg (full name Delene Roché van den Berg) was born in Riversdale, South Africa on 31 October in 1958.

Specialising in contemporary portraiture and figurative work with a strong central theme on womanhood, van den Berg works in oil paint on board and linen, mixed media on paper and perspex as well as sculpture.

After a studying for a diploma in nursing for 3 years, she did a part time ceramic course under Ralph Johnson at Paarl College in the 1980s, after which she worked as a ceramist for 10 years. Van den Berg then studied life drawing and painting part-time at the Ruth Prowse School of Art in Cape Town in 1990.

Since then, van den Berg has been working as a full time artist.

She was a finalist in 2005 in Sasol New Signatures.

Out of more than 2000 applicants, van den Berg was chosen as one of 50 finalist artists for the 2009 and 2010 BP Portrait Awards show at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Her 2010 oil on board painting, 'Bloedlyn - Sannie en Leah', shows two woman at very different stages of their lives.

Shany has had 11 solo exhibitions from 1999 to 2012, the most recent at the Everard Read Gallery in Johannesburg. She also participates in many group exhibitions, both locally and internationally.

Among several projects, she was part of '10', a collaborative workshop in 2004 with 9 other artists in the Castle of Good Hope, exploring the first 10 years of democracy, as well as an Art Exchange with the Hubei Institute of Art China in 2008, both through Everard Read, Cape Town.

In March 2013, she was awarded a Fellowship from the Ampersand Foundation, to spend a month in their artist residence in New York. Van den Berg was one of ten women artists selected for the project 'Femininity' curated by Eva Roer in Germany in October 2013.

At the same time, van den Berg was part of the 100 Year Commemorative exhibition 'Universal Suffering' at the War Museum of the Boer Republic in Bloemfontein.

In December 2013, she was part of the Centenary exhibition of Everard Read Gallery in Cape Town. In January 2014, she took part in Cape Town's Suidoosterfees exhibition, 'Cape Town Re-imagined', which formed part of the Design Capital 2014 project. In March 2014, she is part of 'Magicus', a group exhibition at the D-Street Gallery in Stellenbosch which forms part of the annual 'Woordfees'.

Shany is a mother of 4 children and lives and works as a full time artist in Stellenbosch.

Van den Berg's ethereal, sensitive oil paintings and artwork capture a mood reminiscent of contemporary mannerism and romanticism with a strong focus on womanhood. She succeeds in communicating the multi-layered emotions, ideas and modern concepts with a classical approach to portraiture and captures these ideas with a meticulous attention to detail, simplicity and subtle symbolism.

Shany van den Berg's body of works includes monumental oil paintings inspired by the Old Masters and many other art forms, such as music and poems. They are often portraits, primarily of women, whose features morph into a composite of the artist and her loved ones, serving as portals to an internal narrative of sacrifice, struggle and ultimately transcendence.

The references are delicate and ambiguous: a nude atop a gallery plinth is transposed from stone into flesh and blood, or vice versa; a sheet draped shroud-like across an ethereal form emerging from or entering an abyss; hands depicted in gestures of supplication, prayer, self-protection or release; a red scarf or fragile scarlet thread seeming almost to flutter across and beyond the canvas. In fact, the colour red serves as a recurring literal and symbolic refrain throughout this body of works. Alongside black and white, red is an archetypal hue, suggesting rites of passage, states of mind and in-between spaces.

A sense of layering pervades her works, both in terms of the imagery itself and van den Berg's painterly process. Despite their air-brushed appearance, the surfaces are built up of swathes, painted not onto the board but rather, absorbed into it. Shadows are imbued with texture and skins exude an almost viscous sheen. Although unmistakably feminine, some of her forms evoke a sense of animalism through their attenuated bone structure, and an underlying sexuality pervades many of the forms. They suggest recognition, confirmation and the bitter-sweet knowledge of love, loss and letting go.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

- 2014 Centenary Group Exhibition Everard Read Gallery / December / January
Exhibition Ebony Longstreet First Thursdays / February
Magicus / Woordfees Group Exhibition D-Street Gallery in March (voted best visual exhibition of festival)
Sculptures on the Cliff /Hermanus FineArts from 7 July to March 2015
Winter Group Exhibition Everard Read Gallery Mid-July
Group Exhibition @ IS ART Gallery (opening of gallery in new premises) Mid –July
The Grand / Group exhibition Rust-en-Vrede Gallery July
- 2013 SAADA ANTIQUE FAIR, Cape Town in conjunction with Pier Rabe Antiques 8/9 February
HIERNAMAALS / HEREAFTER / Group show at the SLEE GALERY During WOORDFEES in Stellenbosch 1 - 10 March 2013
BINNEHEMELS / Group Show at Red,Black&White Gallery at Pier Rabe Antique Warehouse during Woordfees in Stellenbosch 1 - 10 March
GROUPSHOW at IMIBALA Galery Somerset West opening 6th March 2013
FELLOWSHIP granted by THE AMPERSAND FOUNDATION IN NYC during March 2013
- 2012 "A Summer of Sculpture" at Mount Nelson by Everard Read Gallery Cape Town

COMPETITIONS

- 2010 BP Award Portrait Gallery London / finalist
- 2009 BP Award Portrait Gallery London / finalist
- 2005 Sasol New Signatures / finalist
- 1990 Corobrick Ceramic Competition Cape Town / finalist

ARTIST RESIDENCES

- 1998 Lauenberg Germany
- 2007 Hubei Institute of Art / China
- 2013 Fellowship to the Ampersand Foundation in New York

SOLOS

- 2015 The Gallery at Grande Provance Franschoek – AL(L)EEN 8th March to 29th March
- 2012 Everard Read / Johannesburg "Hinterland"
- 2011 Everard Read / Cape Town "...om te vervel..."
- 2010 IS Art at Le Quatier Francais / Franschoek "in gesprek met II"
- 2008 Smellick & Stokking Den Haag / The Netherlands "in gesprek met I"
- 2007 Everard Read / Cape Town "(h)erken, ken, en..."
My Own Choice Gallery / Amsterdam "gedagtes wat reis"
- 2006 Grande Provance Gallery / Franschoek "dwaaltuin"
Cultivaria Fees / Paarl at Vrede en Lust Wine Estate "die feesgees"
- 2003 Limeline Design / Cape Town "constructionsite"
- 2001 Dorp Street Gallery / Stellenbosch "vlug in tyd"
- 1999 Bang the Gallery / Cape Town "my shadow,my echo,me"

DUO SOLOS

- 2009 Red, Black & White Gallery at Pier Rabe - Shany van den Berg / Roche van den berg
"halfmens / heelmens"
- 2008 Everard Read Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Wang Quingly (China)
"confluence"
- 2006 Grande Provance Gallery / Franschoek - Shany van den Berg / Strijdom van der Merwe
- 2002 Bang the Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Alex Hamilton
- 2001 Bang the Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Alex Hamilton
- 2000 Bang the Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Alex Hamilton

PROJECTS

- 2011 Light from Africa Foundation / Art Project Everard Read
- 2011 Rendezvous Focus Painting Project
- 2010 Collaboration between Mogalakwena art en craft centre in Limpopo and Shany van den Berg for Waterkloof Wine Estate.
Growing and being / designed by Shany van den Berg and made in conjunction with the Mogalakwena Art and Craft Centre in Limpopo for Waterkloof Wine Estate in Somerset West / textile art / 6m by 1m
- 2011 Light from Africa Foundation / Art project Everard Read
Rendezvous Focus Painting Project
- 2008 ART EXCHANGE: Hubei Institute of Art China
Artfair Utrech / My Own Choice
- 2007 AAF Amsterdam / My Own Choice
- 2004 Community Arts Workshop at Castle of Good Hope / Everard Read Gallery
- 2000 Hewlett Packard Project and Auction Johannesburg in support of Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

Participating in numerous group exhibitions since 1990.

- 2015 Cape Town Art Fair exhibition at Everard Read Gallery in February.
- 2015 Group Installation Fear&Loss - Industrial Karoo at Pretoria art Museum with Katie du Toit in March
- 2015 Group Exhibition Toorwoorde / Woordfees Stellenbosch at D-Street Gallery in March
- 2015 Group Exhibition Portretteer / Woordfees Stellenbosch Oude Libertas Gallery / Distell in March
- 2015 Group Exhibition Die Burger - 100 Jaar Uitstalling Kaapstad in April
- 2015 Summer Sculpture Exhibition at Mount Nelson Hotel by Everard Read till April
- 2014 Group installation Fear&Loss - Industrial Karoo at Oliewenhuis Art Museum in Bloemfontein (with Katie du Toit) in August
- 2014 Magicus / Woordfees Group Exhibition D-Street Gallery in March (voted best visual exhibition of festival)
- 2014 Sculptures on the Cliff /Hermanus FineArts from 7 July to March 2015

2014 Winter Group Exhibition Everard Read Gallery Mid-July

2014 Group Exhibition @ IS ART Gallery (opening of gallery in new premises) Mid –July

2014 The Grand / Group exhibition Rust-en-Vrede Gallery July

2014 Sculptures on the Cliff /Hermanus FineArts from 7 July to March 2015

2014 Centenary Group Exhibition Everard Read Gallery / December / January

2013 Centenary Exhibition of the Women's Memorial / Universal suffering / The War Museum of the Boer Republics /Bloemfontein

ARTIST EXHIBITIONS

2009: Red ,Black & White Gallery at Pier Rabe - Shany van den Berg / Roche van den berg - halfmens / heelmens

2008: Everard Read Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Wang Quingly (China) - confluence

2006: The Gallery at Grande Provance / Franschhoek - Shany van den Berg / Strijdom van der Merwe

2001,2002,2003 :Bang the Gallery / Cape Town - Shany van den Berg / Alex Hamilton

COLLECTONS

Works included in private collections in South Africa, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Caymen Islands and U.S.A.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is a monologue from within my life as a woman and an artist. Sometimes calm and reflective, other times obsessively reliving the pain of birth as I rebirth, remake and reform a newly woven tapestry of family and connectedness. I draw and paint, make collages, weave and sculpt to bind together the map of my interior landscape while I investigate and interrogate critical contemporary themes. My artwork are passages of time and of memories that constitute my passing life.

These journeys are reminders that while we walk solitary roads, we are inescapably part of the human race

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