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MARLENE STEYN & GABRIELLE KRUGER

Garden Smoothie

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23 . 02 . 19

GARDEN SMOOTHIE

MARLENE STEYN & GABRIELLE KRUGER

SMAC Gallery is proud to present *Garden Smoothie*, a collaborative exhibition of the work of studio mates, Marlene Steyn and Gabrielle Kruger.

Created within and around a greenhouse within a gallery space, *Garden Smoothie* finds inspiration in the very idea of something growing – a fluid mush mash of thoughts and concepts, slithering freely across their environment – and, somewhat like a real smoothie, this exhibition presents itself as a selection of organisms with the potential to mutate into any form.

Their first exhibition together, Steyn and Kruger's recipe of work is intended to mirror their studio practice – a contagious space, literally overgrowing with art. And like the fruitful and well-watered character of their studio, *Garden Smoothie* comes as a thick and creamy exhibition – generous with gestures and information, yet cultivated, nurtured and contained within their very own greenhouse garden. Not set in stone (paint and ceramics rather), the work, like the artists, is experimental in nature and constantly in a state of becoming. They've taken the world, blended it up and condensed it, and swallowed it – inviting us into their unique synthesis of unconventional ingredients.

Taking direction from both the materiality of the paint and the opportunistic nature of plants, Kruger and Steyn have created an Eden of sorts; bushy and lush, feminine and full. It's almost a smoothie of forbidden fruit – tantalising and playful, the images are both blatant (nudity! Sex!

Snakes! Leaves!) and subtle (meaning concealed by a camouflage of plasticised shrubbery), making reference to the sensual, and framing Eden as a paradise of pleasure and delight.

And yet, what makes this garden so remarkable is its understanding of the immeasurable disposition of nature – their greenhouse is at once untamed and cultivated, sumptuous and contained, wild and stylised – while the viewer is both looking at, and existing within, the work. For Steyn, just like a woman domesticates her wild, natural self, *Garden Smoothie* comes as an exhibition somewhat “like shaving your leg hair.”

Adept at choosing telling details, Steyn reviews familiar objects to create uncanny motifs through repetition and unpredicable combinations, and, in *Garden Smoothie*, uses anchor points – such as the female figure (a biographical self), braided ropes of hair, and snakes – both to reinforce the symbolic visual language that has become synonymous with her method of working, and to elaborate on the visual generosity of this particular, collaborative recipe.

While Steyn's practice sees a playful and figurative approach to image-making, Kruger's is informed by the material itself – her plants growing from process. A blend of acrylic modelling paste (paint) and pigment, Kruger's plasticised natural environment formula has been developed solely for her use, and allows her to mix the contents to her liking (“it's like baking”) – the white of the acrylic, modelling paste diluting the pigment to create milkshake-like, smoothie-esque colours and textures.

In *Garden Smoothie*, the idea of growing comes as a movement to inform composition, where the growth of Steyn and Kruger as both studio mates and artists is central to the exhibition. For these two artists, painting is like gardening for your mind, and a conversation in the studio is a visual one. Here, there has been a deliberate blurring of boundaries – between studio and gallery space, between plant and human, between wild and contained – presenting the ecology of the garden as idea, place and action, and paint as concept, surface, image and medium. Theirs, truly, is a smoothie of all things wild, wonderful and of utmost deliciousness.



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Sprouty Green Thingers
2018
Acrylic on Board & Oil on Ceramic
65 x 40.5 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Her before retreat
2018
Oil on Canvas
190 x 160 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Waxy Laceleaf
2018
Acrylic on Board & Oil on Ceramic
46 x 30 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Fried Field
2018
Acrylic on Board & Oil on Ceramic
49 x 29 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Late Bloomer
2018
Oil on Ceramic & Acrylic
19 x 22 x 21 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
The Detoxer
2018
Oil on Ceramic & Acrylic
34 x 15 x 14 cm



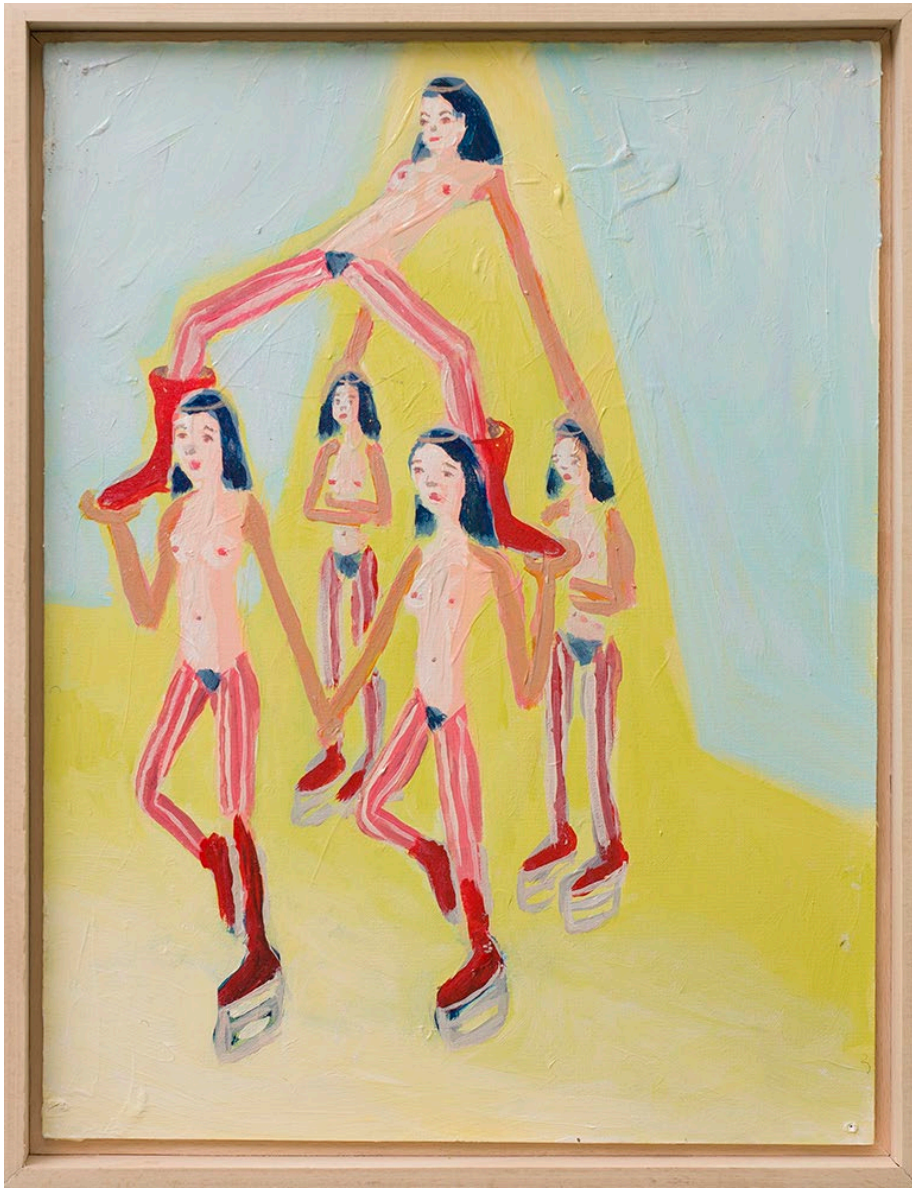
Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Rain on me dear
2018
Oil on Ceramic & Acrylic



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Rocking herself
2018
Acrylic on Canvas & Oil on Rock
42 x 60 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
The we in weedlings
2018
Acrylic on Board & Oil on Linen Board
93 x 31.5 cm



Marlene Steyn
Her flowers follow her flow
2018
Oil on Canvas Board
40 x 30 cm



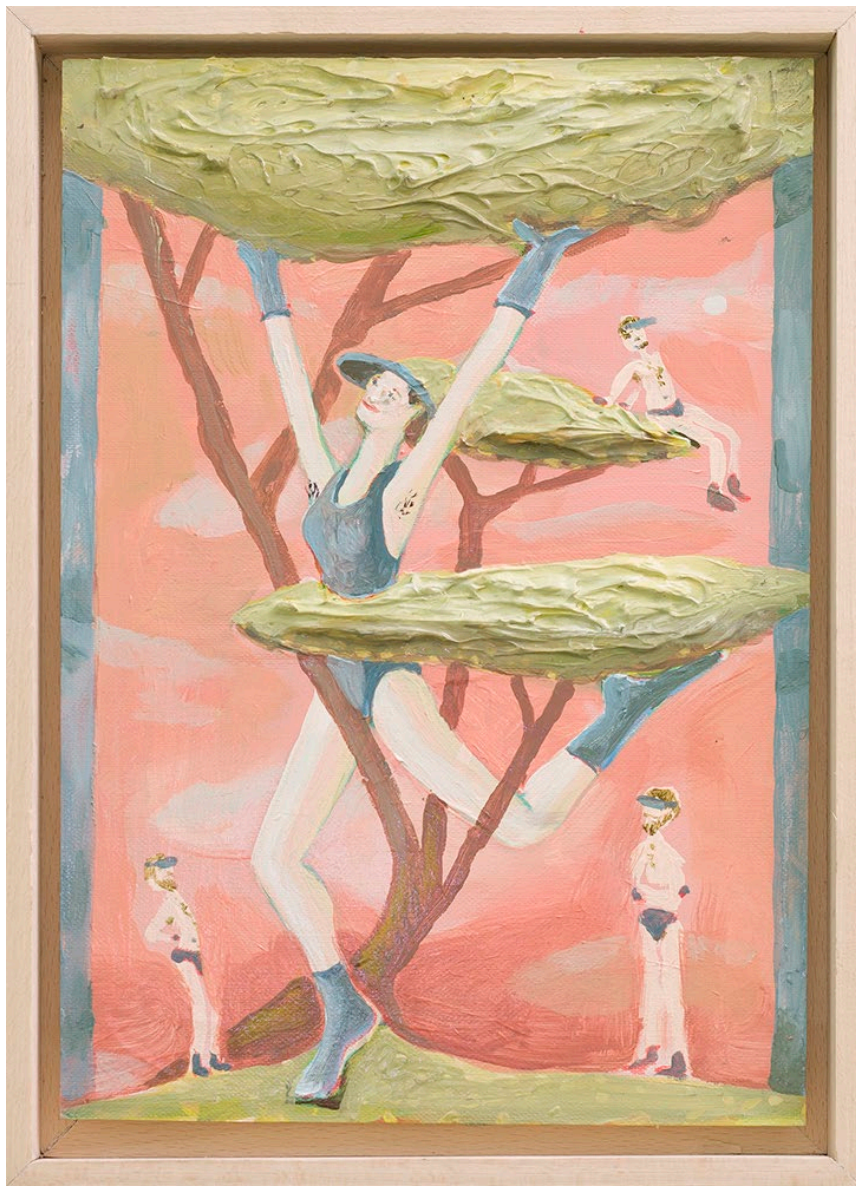
Marlene Steyn
A gaggle in the garden
2018
Oil on Canvas Board
51 x 40.5 cm



Marlene Steyn
How to be an incubator
2018
Oil on Canvas Board
45 x 35 cm



Marlene Steyn
Leaves of the Eves
2018
Oil on Canvas Panel
35.5 x 45.5 cm



Marlene Steyn
When I grow up...
2018
Oil on Canvas
30 x 21 cm



Marlene Steyn
Alfrescolada
2018
Oil on Linen Board
40 x 30 cm



Marlene Steyn
The Stalker Sister Wood
2018
Oil on Canvas Board
35.5 x 25.5 cm



Marlene Steyn
Twitchers of flamboyance
2018
Oil on Canvas
70 x 50 cm



Marlene Steyn
Water can fall in love too
2018
Oil on Canvas
30 x 21 cm



Marlene Steyn
When I vase
2018
Oil on Canvas
23 x 30 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
Pressed Posy
2018
Acrylic on Board
50.5 x 40.5 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
Spiraling Out Of
2018
Acrylic Paint on Board
130 x 130 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
The grass is greener when it's made out of paint
2018
Acrylic on Board
130 x 130 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
Garden Mesh
2018
Woven Strips of Acrylic Paint
140 x 130 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
Outgrowth II
2018
Acrylic on Canvas
122 x 152 cm



Gabrielle Kruger
Hanging Garden
2018
Ceramic & Mixed Media
82 x 30 x 34 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
She-leaves
2018
Ceramic & Mixed Media
63 x 17 x 10 cm



Marlene Steyn & Gabrielle Kruger
Creepier
2018
Experimental Mixed Media
14 x 18 x 16 cm

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

MARLENE STEYN

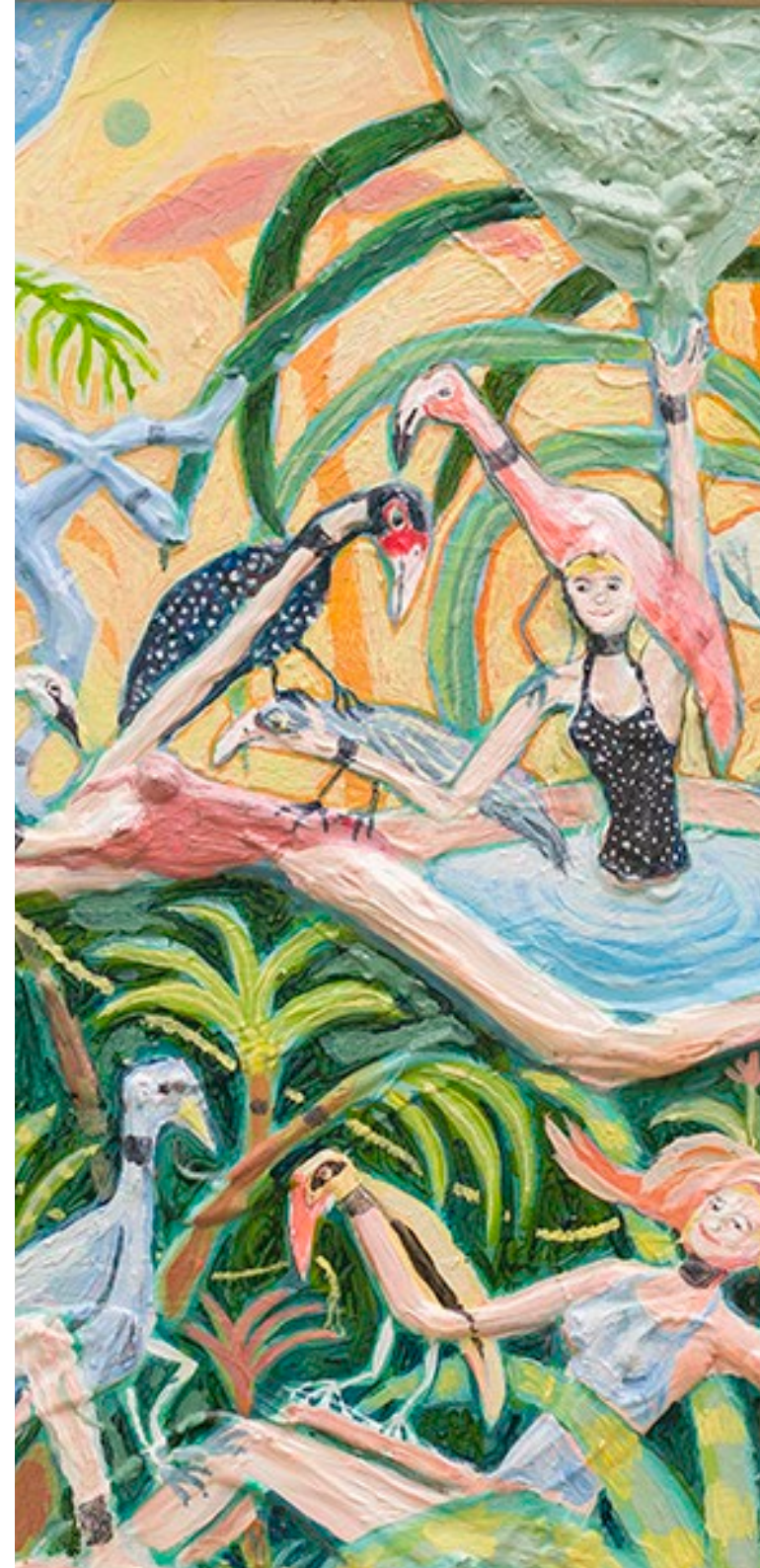
Marlene Steyn is known to produce immersive, installation-based experiences, cultivating an expectation for her ever increasingly fantastic, constructed worlds. Her distinctive iconography takes shape through unsettling established ideas surrounding themes of psychoanalytic theory, certain historical narratives of art as well as popular signifiers, borrowed from contemporary culture. Adept at choosing telling details, Steyn reviews familiar objects to create uncanny motifs through repetition and unpredictable combinations. Using anchor points such as the female figure, the fried egg, and braided ropes of hair, Steyn reinforces the symbolic visual language that has become the cornerstone of her practice.

Marlene Steyn was born in 1989 in Cape Town, South Africa, where she currently lives and works. She obtained her Master of Fine Art degree in 2014 from the Royal College of Art in London, UK. Steyn has since presented a number of critically acclaimed solo exhibitions, including: *How Cannibals Cuddle* at Cabin Gallery in London, in 2014; *Mad Love* at Lychee One in London and *The End is Located Underneath Her Third Armpit (if the muscle is flexed)* in Cape Town, both in 2015; as well as *Your Skin Is Not The Best Hiding Place* at SMAC Gallery in Cape Town; and *You Can't Cry When Your Head is Underwater* at Lychee One, London, both in 2016; *Knot I : I Knot* at SMAC Gallery in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2017, as well as her most recent exhibition, *Shouty Insides*, at Galerie DYS in Brussels, Belgium in 2018. Steyn also recently presented her solo exhibition at the MiArt Fair in Fiera Milano City, Italy in April 2018; and participated in a

two-month collaborative residency with Kay 16 and Artport Residency in Tel Aviv, Israel. The residency culminated in September, in an exhibition produced with the support of: Kay 16 – Community Gallery for Contemporary Art; Ministry of Culture Israel; Mifal HaPais; Yehoshua Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts; ArtPort; Beit Benyamini Ceramics Centre; and Maccabee Beer.

Recent group exhibitions include: *Faces & Other Scenarios*, a two-person show at Galerie DYS in Brussels, Belgium; *New Monuments* at Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa; *Paper, publication, performance* at Lychee One, London, UK; *Inside Out* at Castlefield Gallery in Manchester, UK; and *Across the Divide* at Rosenfeld Porcini in London, UK, all in 2016; *Where They Hum* (a three women show with Rose Wylie and Freya Douglas-Morris) at Lychee One, London, UK; *Another Antipodes*, at Urban Axis - PS Art Space in Fremantle, Australia; the FNB Joburg Art Fair; 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair both with SMAC Gallery in 2017 and her recent group presentation with SMAC Gallery at the 2018 Investec Cape Town Art Fair at the Cape Town international Convention Centre (CTICC) in Cape town, South Africa.

Marlene Steyn's work features in numerous public and private collections including the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), where the artist was featured in the museum's inaugural exhibition, *All Things Being Equal*, in 2017.



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MARLENE STEYN

CURRICULUM VITAE

MARLENE STEYN

C.V

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1989, Cape Town, South Africa.
Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

EDUCATION

2014 Master of Fine Arts in Painting Degree (MA), Royal College of Art, London, UK.

2011 Bachelor of Arts Fine Arts Degree (MA), University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2017 Kav 16 Collaborative Residency with Abraham Kritzman, curated by Angels Miralde Tena & Karni Barzilay, Kav 16 Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel.

2016 Collaborative Residency with Avantika Agarwal, Shoonya Space Centre for Art & Somatic Practices, Bangalore, India.

2015 The Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, Vermont Studio Centre, Johnson, USA.

Collaborative Residency with Abraham Kritzman, & Angels Miralde Tena, Odd Cultural Node & Atelier 35, Bucharest, Romania.

2014 Art Residency Programme in collaboration with the Royal College of Art & the British Council, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Finalist, Saatchi New Sensations, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.

Gordon Luton Award for Fine Art, The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainer's & Royal College of Art, London, UK.

2013 Bloomberg New Contemporaries, Top 46 most promising artists, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK.

2011 Noli Procrastinare Public Art Residency, Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA), Laingsburg, South Africa.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2018 *Garden Smoothie*, collaborative exhibition with Gabrielle Kruger, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

MiArt (SMAC Gallery), Fiera Milano City, Milan, Italy.

Shouty Insides, Galerie DYS, Brussels, Belgium.

2017 *Knot I : I Knot*, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2016 *Your Skin Is Not The Best Hiding Place*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

You Can't Cry When Your Head is Underwater, Lychee One, London, UK.

2015 *The End is Located Underneath Her Third Armpit (if the muscle is flexed)*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.

Mad Love, Lychee One, London, UK.

2014 *How Cannibals Cuddle*, CABIN Gallery, London, UK.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2018 [upcoming] *Wish You Were Here*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Papercuts, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.

Kneadingthetorsomakesabuzz, curated by Karni Barzilay, KAV 16 Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel.

FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Desires, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.

2017 *1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (SMAC Gallery), London, UK.

FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Another Antipodes Inc, PS Art Space, Fremantle, Australia.

X: Part I, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Where they hum, Lychee One, London, UK.

All Things Being Equal, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.

X: Part III, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

MARLENE STEYN

CV

- Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2016** *across the divide*, curated by Lu Chao & Ian Rosenfeld, Rosenfeld Porcini, London, UK.
- Summer Show '16*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Break the Spell*, Gallery University Stellenbosch (GUS), Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Inside Out*, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, UK.
- Faces & other scenarios*, two-person show with Sofi van Saltbommel, Galerie d'Ys, Brussels, Belgium.
- Paper | Publication | Performance*, Lychee One, London, UK.
- New Monuments*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015** *Defining the Narrative*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa.
- LUSH*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Island II - Nativel*, g39, Cardiff, UK.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair (Commune.1), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- His Sprinkled Blood Served to Fructify the Blood of Three Golden Apples*, collaboration with Abraham Kritzman & Angels Miralda, odd and Atelier 35, Bucharest, Romania.
- Art 15 (Lychee One), Delphina Foundation, London, UK.
- All S-He Ever Wanted to Be*, GalleriaM, Kolkata, India.
- Portretteer*, Oude Libertas Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Cape Town Art Fair (Commune. 1), V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa.
- "regARTs" sur "La piscin"*, Espace Croix-Baragnon, Toulouse, France.
- 2014** *Scintilla: An Alchemy Show*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Saatchi New Sensations Finalist Group Exhibition, Victoria House, Bloomsbury, London, UK.
- Artmagedon: an affordable art show*, West End Centre, Aldershot, UK.
- The Luminous Language*, The Assembly Rooms, London, UK.
- Artists in Transit: A Group Exhibition*, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa.
- Stewarts Law RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- An Inoperative Mythology*, Imperial College, London, UK.
- PNTNG NOV*, Henry Moore Gallery, London, UK.
- 2013** *Bloomberg New Contemporaries (BNC)*, Spike Islands, Bristol, UK.
- Dreamtime: New Surrealism*, Mirus Gallery, San Francisco, USA.
- Stewarts Law RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- Work in Progress Show*, Henry Moore Gallery, Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- Notes to Self 'Thinking Aloud and Making Moves'*, Dyson Building, Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 2011** *Bachelor's Graduate Show: Grandex*, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- VANSA 2010 Reasons to Live in a Small Town*, Goethe on Main Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- COLLECTIONS**
- Zeit Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.
- Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- Luo Yi, YIS Foundation, London, UK & Beijing, China.
- Springmeier Collection, Berlin, Germany.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

GABRIELLE KRUGER

Gabrielle Kruger's work explores the idea of a socially and materially constructed landscape, with reference to traditional Western landscape painting. Utilising the medium of acrylic paint, she reimagines the landscape by using a material that embodies plastic. Removing the dried and solidified acrylic paint from its ground, the landscape painting is liberated from its supporting canvas and frame in an attempt to deconstruct traditional Western landscape painting. Kruger's work aims to rearticulate the language and meaning that is associated with landscapes and the natural environment.

Gabrielle Kruger was born in 1993 in Cape Town, where she currently lives and works. After graduating summa cum laude from Stellenbosch University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2015, she went on to be awarded her Masters in Fine Arts from Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town in 2018.

Kruger has exhibited widely within South Africa, including a solo presentation at Turbine Art Fair 2018

in the Selected Graduates Section, as well as many group exhibitions, such as *Untitled 6.99*, 99Loop Gallery, Cape Town (2018); *SS17*, Gallery Momo, Cape Town (2017); *Growing Gatherings*, 99Loop Gallery, Cape Town (2017); *Between t[here] and then here and there*, Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town (2017); *Lady Bush*, Cavalli Gallery, Somerset West (2017); *Untitled 3.99*, 99Loop Gallery, Cape Town (2016); *Kingdom*, Cavalli Gallery, Somerset West (2016); and *Dreams Amongst Other Things*, Salon91, Cape Town (2015).

In 2018, Kruger was awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the 33rd Chelsea International Fine Art Competition, and participated in the collective exhibition at Agora Gallery, New York City, NY, USA in August 2018. Kruger has also been included in her first international exhibition; *Intersection* (July - September 2018), along with Gabriel Tendai Choto and Neo Image Matloga at Tyburn Gallery, London, UK.



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GABRIELLE KRUGER

CURRICULUM VITAE

GABRIELLE KRUGER

C.V

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1993, Cape Town, South Africa.
Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

EDUCATION

2018 Masters of Fine Art (MFA), Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

2015 Masters of Fine Art (MFA), Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2018 **[upcoming]** Artist in Residence, Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Certificate of Excellence, 33rd Chelsea International Fine Art Competition, Agora Gallery, New York City, USA.

Assistant Lectur on the subject of Environmental Art, with Prof. Virginia MacKenny Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa .

Assistant Lecturer in the subject of landscape painting, with Prof. Virginia MacKenny, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2018 **[upcoming]** *Garden Smoothie*, collaborative exhibition with Marlene Steyn, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

[upcoming] *What Do Painters Do All Day*, Banele Khoza Studio, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Special Projects, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ungrounding Landscape, Masters Graduate Exhibition, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

2016 *Growing Matter*, Academic Review Exhibition, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

2015 *Growing Intrusions*, University of Stellenbosch Visual Art Department, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2018 *ABSA L'Atelier Finalist Exhibition*, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

33rd Chelsea International Fine Art Competition Exhibition, Agora Gallery, New York City, USA.

Intersection, Tyburn Gallery, London, UK.

Untitled 6.99, 99 Loop Gallery, curated by Morne Marais & Katherine Bull, Cape Town, South Africa.

2017 *SS17*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa.

Between t[here] and then here and there, Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town, South Africa.

Lady Bush, Equus Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa.

Jan van Riebeck High School Alumni Exhibition with Frank Kilbourne & Pieter G Colyn, Welgemeend Manor House, Cape Town, South Africa.

Growing Gatherings, a two person exhibition by Gabrielle Kruger & Kevin Frankental, 99 Loop Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Naturalis | Neo Exhibition, curated by Mia Louw & Nicola Kaden Neo Venue Space, Bainskloof Pass, Wellington, South Africa.

2016 *Kingdom*, Equus Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa.

Untitled 3.99, 99 Loop Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2015 *GRADEX 2015*, curated by Gabrielle Kruger & Pierre Vermeulen, Visual Art Department of Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

GRADEX 2015 Auction, a group exhibition & auction, GUS Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Dreams Amongst Other Things, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa.

Scape, Stellenbosch University Visual Art Department, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2014 *Drive Through Thursday*, a public drawing flashmob performance as part of Kunste Donderdag, curated by Vulindlela Nyoni, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Red Bull Doodle Sessions In Collaboration with Draw Maw, curated by Gabrielle Kruger & Sune Vosloo, PJ Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

GABRIELLE KRUGER

CV

Africa.

2013 *The Life of an Object*, Stellenbosch University Visual Art Department,
Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The Poetics of Space, Stellenbosch University Visual Art Department,
Stellenbosch, South Africa.

COLLECTIONS

Private Collection in South Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information regarding the availability of the works included in this portfolio, or for any other queries.

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