

Artist Statements

On Sculpture

It rose from silence, pressed into memory's shape, each blow a whisper, each curve a borrowed truth.

A skin of earth-stained shadow forms, weathered not by time alone but by the breath of sky – a slow baptism in falling light.

Poised upon a single point, I lean into stillness, not by strength, but by grace.

What seems unshaken speaks not of weight, but of wonder – of the quiet echo between the seen and the believed.

Through my sculptures, I explore the relationship between material, memory, and metaphor through a process that involves shaping steel against the surface of rocks. By hammering pieces of steel sheets until they mimic the form of the rock beneath them, I create compositions that balance the real and the imagined. These welded forms, perched impossibly atop their natural counterparts, exist in a liminal space between stability and fragility, weight and illusion. Using water as an elemental tool, I leave the formed steel pieces exposed to rain, allowing time and nature to oxidize the surface. This process deepens the resemblance to rocks, creating layered textures, colours, and tonal shifts. In this way, my sculptures trace an internal topography—rooted in personal belief, spiritual symbolism, and the tactile experience of making—while simultaneously engaging with the external world of form and material. Each piece stands as a visual meditation on presence, balance, and transformation.

For the *Imprints of Elsewhere*, my sculptural work engages with the exhibition's exploration of inner and outer landscapes. The rock, both literal and symbolic, becomes a vessel of memory and meaning, drawing from biblical narratives of the rock as a foundation, a place of refuge, and spiritual grounding. The transformation of steel into stone-like forms echoes a deeper inner process of reflection and faith, where the process of imitation becomes a quiet homage to something steadfast and enduring.

Charcoal Drawings

This work explores themes of transformation, memory, and spiritual resonance through large-scale charcoal drawings on fibre cement. The landscapes, inhabited by sheep, carry echoes of biblical symbolism – figures of quiet vulnerability and guided trust. The sheep are not merely subjects but stand-ins for the human condition, suspended in a landscape that is both physical and allegorical. I follow a repetitive process of drawing and pouring water over the drawn surface – a ritual act that references baptism, but does not seek to illustrate it. Instead, the gesture invokes surrender, cleansing, and renewal. The resulting marks – drips, smears, and stains – disrupt the image while embedding evidence of process and passage. These traces extend the drawing beyond depiction into lived presence, pushing the medium toward a conversation between permanence and impermanence. Through this quiet undoing, the work becomes both a landscape and a threshold: a place where the spiritual, material, and ephemeral converge.

Biography

Henrico Paul Greyling was born in 2001 in Pretoria, South Africa. He studied Fine Arts at the University of Pretoria and graduated with distinction. In 2023, Greyling received the Eduardo Villa Trust bursary for his work in the sculpture medium. He has exhibited in numerous group exhibitions nationally including an installation at Nirox Sculpture Park in Krugersdorp. In 2024, Greyling won a merit award at the annual Sasol New Signatures Competition. He currently lives and works in Pretoria.

Education

- BA Fine Arts (minoring in Psychology), University of Pretoria, South Africa. With distinction.
- NSC, Hoërskool Overskruin, Pretoria, South Africa. With 7 distinctions.

Exhibitions

2025

- **Upcoming: *Enduring Signatures*, group exhibition, Sasol Place, Sandton, South Africa.**
- **Upcoming: *Imprints of Elsewhere*, group exhibition, Artyli Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, South Africa.**
- *Floral Reflections on Current Affairs*, group exhibition, The Viewing Room Gallery, Brooklyn, Pretoria, South Africa.
- *A Marked Slate*, group exhibition, The Viewing Room Gallery, Brooklyn, Pretoria, South Africa.
- *The Resonance*, group exhibition, Artyli Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, South Africa.

2024

- Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.
- *Winter Collage*, group exhibition, Artyli Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, South Africa.

- *Soil*, group exhibition, Artyli Gallery, Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, South Africa.
- Boublokkies / 'Building blocks' installed at Nirox Sculpture Park, Krugersdorp, South Africa.

2023

- *The Things Between Us* Graduation Exhibition, University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa. Undergraduate group exhibition, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

2022

- *Parts of Me*, group exhibition, Future Africa campus, Pretoria.
- Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Vuleka Art Contest Top 40 exhibition, Belville, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Pretoria Arts Association 75th Birthday Celebrations Exhibition, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Foyer of the Opera 'Fairy Queen' by Henri Pucell, University of Pretoria. Undergraduate exhibition, University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Top 20 Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Awards Competition Exhibition, Ekurhuleni, South Africa.

2021

- Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.

- Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Awards Competition Exhibition, Ekurhuleni, South Africa.
Undergraduate exhibition, University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Light for Art's Sake, Pinhole Photography Exhibition, The Link Gallery, South Africa.

2020

- *Face to face (Not!)*, group exhibition, Artbox Gallery, Pretoria.

Achievements and Awards

2024 - Merit Award at the Sasol New Signatures Competition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria.

2023 - Eduardo Villa Trust Bursary recipient for outstanding work in sculpture.

Press and Publications

- Pretoria Artist Makes Historic Exhibition, by Shaun Sproule, Rekord, Citizen. 14 September 2024.

<https://www.citizen.co.za/rekord/news-headlines/2024/09/14/pretoria-artist-makes-historic-exhibition/amp>

- *Meet the Winners of the 2024 Sasol New Signatures art Competition*, In Your Pocket. 5 September 2024.

https://www.inyourpocket.com/johannesburg/meet-the-winners-of-the-2024-sasol-new-signatures_80129f?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2c5_gz0E9KcK2JgRoMnbc3WtDvKRDR64F6PHRrNBECzFDiM9N0L0y6V_s_aem_3l6zFQkGBZa2TfMhLjlZ-w

- *Meet the Sasol New Signatures 2024 Art Competition Winners*, Joburg ETC. 9 September 2024.

<https://www.joburgetc.com/entertainment/meet-the-sasol-new-signatures-2024-art-competition-winners/>

- *On This Good Earth* by Ashraf Jamal, Art Times, Augustus-September 2024, page 10 to 16.

https://arttimes.co.za/august-september-2024-edition/#flipbook-df_115359/1/

- *Soil* by Artyli Gallery, Art Times, June-July 2024, page 28 to 32.

<https://arttimes.co.za/221-june-july-2024-edition/>

- *Light for Art's Sake: From Inside the Black Box*, by Carla Crafford, 2020. University of Pretoria. ISBN: 978-0-620-92504-4.