

Sarah Ballam – Artist CV

Sarah Ballam is a South African painter whose work explores landscape, memory and the human figure. With over three decades of professional practice, she has established herself through numerous solo and group exhibitions, extensive teaching, and collaborations with leading South African artists and galleries. Her work is represented in both public and private collections throughout South Africa.

Education

Rhodes University

- BA Fine Art Painting and History of Art, with Distinction, 1989
- Master of Fine Art, 1992

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Professional Experience

1991–1994

Graduate Assistant, Rhodes University.

1993–1997

Lectured at Rhodes University as a sabbatical leave replacement.

Head of first year fine art, 1993.

Head of painting, 1994–1997.

2002

Lived and worked in London.

2004–2013

Based in Johannesburg as a full-time artist. Worked closely with Robert Hodgins and Jan Neethling while maintaining a private teaching practice. Exhibited regularly with Carol Lee Fine Art and had works on consignment with Everard Read Gallery and Art Eye Gallery, while also being represented by Julia Meintjes Fine Art.

2013–2020

Founder and Director of Hodgins House, Parktown, Johannesburg. Established and managed a gallery and teaching space, curating regular group exhibitions, presenting solo exhibitions by invited artists, and facilitating art education programmes.

2023–Present

Relocated to Cape Town and continues to work as a full-time artist.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1996 — Open Window Gallery, Pretoria

1998 — Open Window Gallery, Pretoria

2019 — Counterpoise, Gallery 2, Johannesburg

Selected Group Exhibitions

1990 — Standard Bank National Drawing Competition

1991 — Cape Town Triennial

1992–1993 — Volkskas Atelier, Pretoria and Durban

1994 — Momentum Life Exhibition, Pretoria

1995 — South African Association of Arts

1995 — ABSA Bank Group Exhibition, Africus Biennale

1995 — Three-person exhibition with Ben Coutouvidis and Hermann Niebuhr, Grahamstown

1997 — ABSA Bank Gallery, Johannesburg

2000 — Karooscapen, Open Window Gallery, Pretoria

2002 — Inside Out, curated by Carol Lee, Johannesburg

2002 — Two-person exhibition with Nigel Mullins, Open Window Gallery, Pretoria

2003–2005 — Regular exhibitions with Carol Lee Fine Art, Johannesburg, including:

- Inscape
- Fortitude
- City: Country
- Reflection
- Narrative
- Recent Works

- Generation

2022 — The Figure and Histories, two-person exhibition with Jan Neethling, Origin Art Gallery, Johannesburg

Awards and Scholarships

- Ashley and Radmore Award Painting, 1989
- Purvis Prize for Art Achievement, 1989
- Master's Degree Scholarship, 1989
- HSRC Bursary, 1991
- Graduate Assistant Bursary, 1991–1992
- Raymond Pullen Scholarship, 1993–1994
- Daljosofat Art Foundation Scholarship, 1995

Public Collections

- Wooltru
- Telkom SA
- ABSA Bank
- Rhodes Alumni Collection
- HSBC
- Citibank, Johannesburg
- Vodacom South Africa