

Simon Venter

Artist Biography

My ambition with my art is to create something that is true to who I am as a person. This means that my work aims to be honest and insightful. I do not aim to create something that I think is 'original' when in reality it is merely an indecipherable mess. As a painter I am self-taught, the only formal training I have is that which I received during my high school years.

This meant that a lot of the knowledge and skills I have acquired has been the result of trial and error and seeking advice from books and online sources (often artists who share their experiences).

Jumping into the deep end has given me great experience when it comes to selling my work and adapting my style (as hard as that is as we all want to do it our own way). This experience has taught me to push my creative boundaries while picking and choosing from the various trends or movements that are current. The subject matter that most excites me is portraiture.

Although it is often seen as something stuffy and old fashioned, I find it to be one of the most invigorating and refreshing areas in which to work. For the simple reason that at a time when the individual person can seem to be lost in all the chaos, a portrait telling one person's story has the power to refocus our own point of view and see ourselves and our loved ones as individuals with great meaning. There is not a whole lot I can definitively say about myself as an artist, or my body of work for that matter. I am pleased with the trajectory, but I know that both my work and I, am ever evolving, and it is a journey I have enjoyed thus far.

Exhibitions and Festivals

- ☐ Pietermaritzburg Art in the Park 2016
- ☐ The Hilton Arts Festival 2016
- ☐ “Future Forecast” group exhibition Galerie Noko 2016
- ☐ “New, Now, Next” group exhibition and competition 2016
- ☐ The Hilton Arts Festival 2017
- ☐ “Forget-Me-Not” group exhibition GFI Art Gallery 2018
- ☐ “Intsingiselo” group exhibition ArtEC 2018
- ☐ “Centennial Exhibition” group exhibition ArtEC 2018
- ☐ “Process” group exhibition ArtEC 2019
- ☐ The StateoftheArt Gallery Award finalist, Top 10 Exhibition 2019
- ☐ “Through our Eyes: Journey to America” group exhibition, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum 2019
- ☐ Spier Arts Trust creative block program 2019 – present
- ☐ Virtual Hilton Arts festival 2020
- ☐ Group Exhibition at the Dolphin’s Leap conference centre 2020. (I will be represented by the upcoming Dolphin’s Leap Gallery from 2021)
- ☐ ArtBank commissioning program January – April 2021
- ☐ Galerie Noko’s “New, Now Next” emerging artists’ finalist exhibition – March 2021

I have also entered numerous art competitions and awards during this period as well as receiving a number of private commissions.

Statement

In my work I endeavour to use the traditional approaches and medium of oil painting to create artworks which reflect both the contemporary and historical approaches to art. In this regard I want to use this approach to tell the stories of individuals and by extension the broader society in which they live as I see the individual as being reflected in the more formalised traditional approach while the more abstract and experimental elements I think represent society as the abstract yet present elements surrounding us.