

ALEXANDRA KARAKASHIAN

CURRICULUM VITAE

smac

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1988, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

EDUCATION

2015 Master of Fine Art Degree (MFA), Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.

2011 Bachelor of Fine Art Honours Degree (BFA), Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

2021 Finalist, Norval Sovereign African Art Prize, Cape Town, South Africa.

2016 Artist in Residence, Capo d'Arte, Gagliano Del Capo, Italy.

2014 The Talents' Archive Project, curated by Double Decker London, Onassis Cultural Centre, Athens, Greece.

National Research Foundation Innovation Scholarship for Masters Study, Pretoria, South Africa.

Maclver Scholarship, Cape Town, South Africa.

Jules Kramer Music & Fine Arts Scholarship, Cape Town, South Africa.

2013 *Top 10 Young African Artists*, *Business Day Wanted Magazine*, Johannesburg, South Africa.

National Research Foundation Innovation Scholarship for Masters Study, South Africa.

Jules Kramer Music & Fine Arts Scholarship, Cape Town, South Africa.

Maclver Scholarship, Cape Town, South Africa.

Invited and awarded student, Between the Lines Symposium and Exchange between the Michaelis School of Fine Art & the Braunschweig University of Art, Organised by Colin Richards & Candice Breitz, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

2011 Judy Steinberg Painting Prize, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.

Simon Gerson Distinction Prize, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2023 **[Upcoming]** Solo Exhibition, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2022 *Against the Sun*, Sabrina Amrani, Madrid, Spain.

2021 *unfolding pause*, Gnyp Gallery, Berlin, Germany.

Consolations, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2020 Solo Booth, Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town, South Africa.

2019 *A rhythm for falling*, Sabrina Amrani, Madrid, Spain.

2018 *In on Itself*, Mariane Ibrahim Gallery, Seattle, USA.

here they passed, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2017 *unbecoming*, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2016 *Alexandra Karakashian*, Villa Medici, Gagliano del Capo, Italy.

Passage, 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair: Special Project (SMAC Gallery), Somerset House, London, UK.

GROUND, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2015 *Shifting Grounds*, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.

Land, in collaboration with Buhlebeswe Siwani, Infecting the City: Public Arts Festival, Cape Town, South Africa.

2012 *Passages*, The Black Box, Cape Town, South Africa.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.

2022 *SEED II*, Villa Arcadia, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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

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

The Norval Sovereign African Art Prize Finalists Exhibition, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa.

2021 *Opening Exhibition*, FNB Art Joburg, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Digital Event.

Black Luminosity, curated by Gcotyelwa Mashiqa, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2020 *Matereality*, Iziko South African National Museum, Cape Town, South Africa.

Ver Versus ver, Sabrina Amrani, Madrid, Spain.

A Show of Solidarity, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

ARCOLisboa (Sabrina Amrani), Online.

Taipei Dangdai Connections (Sabrina Amrani), Online.

Art Basel Hong Kong (Sabrina Amrani), Online.

- Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- ARCOMadrid (Sabrina Amran), Feria de Madrid (IFEMA) Madrid, Spain.
- Taipei Dangdai (Sabrina Amrani), Taipei Nangang Exhibition Centre, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2019** *Inner Landscapes*, Galleria Anna Marra, Rome, Italy.
- Artissima (SMAC Gallery), Oval Lingotto Fiere, Turin, Italy.
- FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ARCOlisboa (Sabrina Amrani), Cordoaria Nacional, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Art Dubai (SMAC Gallery), Madinat Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE.
- Vienna Contemporary (Sabrina Amrani), Marx Halle, Vienna, Austria.
- Material Insanity*, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden (MACAAL), Marrakech, Morocco.
- ARCOMadrid (Sabrina Amran), Feria de Madrid (IFEMA) Madrid, Spain.
- Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- Home Affairs*, as part of Cape Town Art Week, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Satellites*, as part of Satellites Project Space, curated by Alexandra Karakashian and Khanya Mashabela, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018** Untitled, Art (Mariane Ibrahim Gallery), Miami Beach, Florida, USA.
- Wish You Were Here*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- A Letter to My 22-year-old Self*, BKHz Studio & Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Ravelled Threads*, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York City, USA.
- Back to the Future III - Abstract Art in South Africa: Past & Present*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2017** *X: Part III*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- ARTISSIMA, (SMAC Gallery), OVAL Lingotto Fiere, Turin, Italy.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- X: Part I*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- A Painting Today*, STEVENSON, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2016** *SUMMER SHOW '16*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- UPSTART/STARTUP*, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Cape Town Art Fair, (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- The Art of Humanity at The Pratt Institute*, The Rubelle and Norman Schfler Gallery-Pratt Institute, New York City, USA.
- Recent Masters*, Michaelis Galleries, University Of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.
- Nothing Personal*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Pastoral Abstraction*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015** *LUSH*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- MAP OF THE NEW ART*, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy.
- Defining the Narrative*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Back to the Future II - Abstract Art in South Africa: Past & Present*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Empire*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Claim of the Land*, Association for Visual Arts (AVA) Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- STELLAR*, Salon91, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2014** *Imago Mundi: The Art of Humanity*, [Travelling Exhibition], Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome; Casa Dei Carraresi, Treviso, Italy.
- FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Sasol New Signatures Finalists, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa.
- Only Parts*, Wits Substation, University of The Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Paint Matters*, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Paperwork: An Exhibition of Contemporary South African Works on Paper*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2013** *In the Night I Remember*, STEVENSON, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- The Xmas Show*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Back to the Future - Abstract Art in South Africa: Past & Present*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- Between the Lines*, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.
- Small Canvas Project*, Benneton Foundation, Venice, Italy.
- 2012** *Impression: Sunset*, Salon91, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Guest Resident*, Nirox Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Outside the Lines*, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, South Africa.

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CV

- 2011** Michaelis Graduate Show, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.
Thresholds, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa.
Passing Through, STEVENSON (Project Space), Cape Town, South Africa.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Article by Loyd Pollak on Art Africa Online, 13 September 2016, *Such Sweet Thunder: Alexandra Karakashian and the Catastrophic Imagination*.
- Article by Isabella Kuijers on Artthrob, 18 August 2016, *A Dark Ascending Horizon: Alexandra Karakashian's 'Ground'*.
- Interview on Art Africa Online, 05 September 2016, *FNB Joburg Art Fair: Alexandra Karakashian | SMAC Gallery*.
- Article by Sean O' Toole in Business Day Wanted Magazine, 23 September 2013, *Young African Artists: Alexandra Karakashian*.
- Article by L. Jolly on The Cape Times, 10 December 2012, *Exploring Ambiguity: New Generation Shows Painting Is Very Much Alive*.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2017** Karakashian, A. 2017. ALEXANDRA KARAKASHIAN, SMAC Gallery (Publishing), Cape Town.
- 2014** Benetton, L, Daehnke, N & van Rensburg, D. 2014. SOUTH AFRICA: 10 x 12 @ SA – Contemporary Artists From South Africa. Fabrica: Treviso: [Sp].
Investing In South African Art For Over 25 Years: Sasol New Signatures 2014. Sasol and the Association of Arts Pretoria, Pretoria: 45.
- 2011** MacKenny, V. 2011. Threshold. Michaelis Gallery, Cape Town: 15.
Michaelis School of Fine Art Graduate Exhibition 2011. 2011. Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, Cape Town: [Sp].

COLLECTIONS

- Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
The Royal Portfolio Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.
Capo d'Arte Collection, Gagliano del Capo, Italy.
The University of Cape Town Art (UCT) Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.
Luciano Benetton Collection, Treviso, Italy.
Spier Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.
Knights Bridge International, Los Angeles, USA.
Hans Porer Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information or any other queries.

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