

USHA SEEJARIM

CURRICULUM VITAE

smac

BIOGRAPHY

Born 1974, Bethal, South Africa.
Lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

EDUCATION

- 2008** Masters Degree in Fine Arts (MA), University of Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1999** B-Tech Degree in Fine Art, University of Johannesburg (Previously Technikon Witwatersrand), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1995** Diploma in Fine Art, University of Johannesburg (Previously Technikon Witwatersrand), Johannesburg, South Africa.

AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2019** SEED Award, South African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA), Johannesburg, South Africa.
The Centre for the Less Good Idea's Season 6 [workshop], Johannesburg, South Africa.
Artist in residence, SCAC Marestaing, Montesquieu – Volvestre, France.
Most Beautiful Object In South Africa (MBOISA) Award - Nominee, Design Indaba, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018** *Tomorrow's/ Today Prize*, sponsored by the Fondazione Fiera Milano, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa.
SCAC Marestaing & The Secular Solidarity Association Sculpture Award, Dakar Beinnale, Dakar, Senegal.
- 2013** *Mbokodo Award* (Sculpture) – Nominee, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2008** *Mercedes Benz Award for Art Projects in Public Spaces* – Finalist, Berlin, Germany.
Business Day-Business and Arts South Africa Award (BASA) – Best use of New Commissioned Art for "Why Men", Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2007** *Sasol Wax Art Award* - Finalist, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2003** *Ampersand Fellowship Award*, New York City, USA.
- 2002** *First National Bank (FNB) Vita Art Award* - Finalist, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2001** Artist in Residence (as part of the Fresh Programme), IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
MTN Special Art Award presented to Visual Arts and Crafts Academy (VACA), Johannesburg, South Africa.
Merit Award, Bursary, University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, South Africa.
MTN New Contemporaries Award, Johannesburg, South Africa.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2022** FNB Art Joburg, MAX Section (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2021** *Angel of the house*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2020** *Vessel of the Fish*, Witte de With Centre for Contemporary Arts, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2019** *Un balai, pourquoi pas une balai*, SCAC Marestaing, Montesquieu – Volvestre, France.
Transgressing Power, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2018** *The Red Hour*, curated by Simon Njami, Dak'Art: African Contemporary Art Biennale, Dakar, Senegal.
Keepers of the Common (Solo Booth), Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2017** *Reasons for descending the staircase*, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa.
- 2015** *Venus at Home* [Travelling Exhibition], Durban Art Gallery, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa.
- 2014** *Venus at Home* [Travelling Exhibition], NWU Gallery, Northwest University (NWU), Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- 2013** *Venus at Home* [Travelling Exhibition], Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2012** *Venus at Home* [Travelling Exhibition], Atherstone Gallery, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa.
- 2009/10** *Mine over Matter*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2006** *The Hole Truth*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2004** *in place*, Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2003** *Forms in Transit*, Natal Society for the Arts (NSA), Durban, South Africa.
- 1999** *Long Distance*, One Person Exhibition, Generator Art space, Johannesburg, South Africa.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2023** **[Upcoming]** *Female Codes*, Gallery Konstanze Wolter e.artis contemporary, Chemnitz, Germany.
- 2022** *A Quiet Focus*, Nirox Sculpture Park, Gauteng, South Africa
Empowerment, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany
The Resurrection of the Clothes Peg, Burning Man, Nevada, USA.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.

- 2021** *Opening Exhibition*, FNB Art Joburg, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Digital Event.
The Armory Show (SMAC Gallery), Online.
Black Luminosity, curated by Gcotyelwa Mashiqqa, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2020** *Matereality*, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape town, South Africa.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
A Show of Solidarity, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2019** *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair (SMAC Gallery)*, Somerset House, London, UK.
Ampersand Foundation Award 21 years celebration exhibition, University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
WomanISM, 12th OSTRALE Biennale for Contemporary Art, Goethe Institute; Ausländerrat; Historic Tobacco Factory f6, Dresden, Germany.
Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2018** *Wish You Were Here*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Weather Report [Travelling Exhibition], Havana, Cuba.
FUBA: Preserving a Legacy, Keyes Art Mile, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Group Presentation, Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa.
Trans, curated by Daniella Géó, University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Black Humour, curated by Johan Thom, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa.
The Art of Lithography: A collaborative Expression of LL Editions, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
BACK TO THE FUTURE III - Abstract Art in South Africa: Past & Present, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2016** *Hide & Seek*, curated by Teresa Lizamore, Lizamore@Claivaux (Claivaux Estate), Cape Town, South Africa.
Foundations and Futures - 25 Year Exhibition, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2015** *timeline*, The Bag Factory Artist Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Twenty: Art in The Time of Democracy [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Gordon Froud, University of Johannesburg (UJ), Johannesburg, South Africa; Turchin Centre, North Carolina, USA; Beijing Biennale, Beijing, China.
Nirox Winter Sculpture Fair, Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2014** *Pre-election Connection*, Wits Art Museum (WAM), University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2011** *Where do we migrate to?*, University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA.
- 2009** *Innovative Women*, Constitutional Court, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Postcards to the Edge, Guth Gafa Documentary Film Festival, Gortahork, Ireland.
- 2007** *Latitudes, Lands of the Worlds*, Paris City Hall, Terres du Monde, Havana; Paris, France.
- 2007** *Sasol Wax Art Award*, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2005** *Another World*, curated by Simon Njami, 6th African Encounters of Photography, Master Classes (photography workshop), Bamako, Mali. (Catalogue)
- 2004** *Post*, curated by Kenji Shiraishi & Monna Mokoena, Tama Art University Museum, Tokyo, Japan. (Catalogue)
Sugar in the Petrol [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Doris Bloom, Festival Fotografia, Rome, Italy; Festival Filosofia, Modena, Carpi, Sassuolo.
A Place Called Home [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Zayd Minty, Natal Society for the Arts (NSA), Durban; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town; Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2003** *Latitudes 2003*, curated by Regine Cuzin, Hotel Deville, Paris, France. (Catalogue)
Show Me Home, curated by Mads Damsbo, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa. (Catalogue)
Playtime (Festival hosted by the French Institute), Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
How Latitudes become Forms [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Philippe Vergne, Douglas Fogle & Olukemi Ilesanmi, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Torino, Mexico City and Monterrey, USA. (Catalogue)
Forms in Transit, Natal Society for the Arts (NSA), Durban, South Africa.
- 2002** *FNB Vita Art Award Exhibition*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Sublimation, curated by Katherine Smith, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Outshoorn, South Africa. (Catalogue)
Videofomes, curated by Gabriel Soucheyre; South African programme compiled by Clive van den Berg, Carnet de voyage: Afrique du Sud, Expositions Festival, Paris, France. (Catalogue)
- 2001** *Self*, curated by Clive van den Berg, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Outshoorn, South Africa. (Catalogue)
MTN New Contemporaries, curated by Clive Kellner, Camouflage, Johannesburg, South Africa. (Catalogue)
Joubert Park Public Art Project, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) & Joubert Park Precinct, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Fresh, IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (series of Monographs & Zanazo, Vol.2)
- 2000** *Urban Futures*, Rembrandt van Rijn, Market Theater, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Interchange - Moving Images, curated by autopsy, Camouflage, Brussels, Belgium.
Killing Time, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Weft and Warp*, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1999** *Isinto*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka and Zayd Minty, IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Unplugged IV, Rembrandt van Rijn Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Personal concerns, Rembrandt van Rijn Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1998** Ethiopian Arts and Culture Festival, Ethiopia.
- 1997** *50 Stories*, curated by Storm van Rensburg and Tracey Rose, Carlton Center, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Baggage, Mega Music Warehouse, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1996** *Technikon Witwatersrand Student Exhibition*, Rembrandt van Rijn, Market Theatre, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1991** *Long Distance*, Generator Art Space, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
JP Blachere Foundation (photography workshop & exhibition), Joucas, France.

PUBLIC & CORPORATE ART COMMISSIONS & PROJECTS

- 2023** **[Upcoming]** *Keynote conversation with a Dead Piano*, National School of Arts, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Opening the Current Sea, JP Morgan, Sandton, South Africa
- 2019** *The Tree of Life*, The Shul, King David School, Linksfield, South Africa.
- 2018** *I am because you are: A Search for Ubuntu with Permission to Dream*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Sculpture & Mosaic, Sibikwa Art Centre, Benoni, South Africa.
- 2016/17** *Flutterbys and An Innocent Moment of Freedom*, The Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2016** *Sweep, Drawings in the Sky*, Absa Towers, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2015** Light Installation (as embellishment during the festive season), Embassy of Switzerland, Pretoria, South Africa.
- 2014** *Pebble Mosaic*, Prince Albert Art Festival, Prince Albert, South Africa.
- 2013** Wire drawing of Nelson Mandela, Discovery Leadership Summit, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Beaded portrait for the funeral of president Nelson Mandela, Qunu, South Africa.
Forgiveness, Magistrates Court & Nelson Mandela's House, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2010** BRT Station Mooki, Main Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2010/09** *Why Men Illuminated Public Sculpture*, Site Specific Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2009** Giant Light Sculpture, Mzansi Store, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2008** *Sun Screens*, South African Embassy, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

- Sculptures Illustrating the Freedom Charter, Walter Sisulu Square, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Site Specific "Mural", Eskom Head Office, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2007/08** *Why Men Illuminated Public Sculpture*, Site Specific, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2007** *Cascoland* (Public Art Project), Drill Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2006** *In recognition of Mahatma Gandhi*, Memorial/Marker celebrating Sunday Time's centenary, Public Artwork, Fordsburg, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2005** *Christmas Tree*, Anglo American & de Beers, Main Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Pin Code MTN, MTN Head Office, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2002** Billboard for the Art in the City Project, Cell C Head Office, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2000** Levi's Vintage Clothing Catalogue, Sandton City, Johannesburg, South Africa.

SELECTED PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Moloi, N. 2019. *Banal and Celestial: Usha Seejarim's Transgressing Power* [online]. Available: <https://artthrob.co.za/2019/06/26/banal-and-celestial-usha-seejarims-transgressing-power/>. [Accessed 26.06.2019].

Sassen, R. 2019. *The elegance of the humble peg* [online]. Available: <https://robynsassenmyview.com/2019/07/03/the-elegance-of-the-humble-peg/>. [Accessed 03.07.2019].

COLLECTIONS

Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
Iziko South African National Gallery (SANG), Cape Town, South Africa.
South African Foundation For Contemporary Art (SAFFCA), Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, South Africa.
Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.
Fondazione Fiera Milan, Milan, Italy.
Artbank, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Constitutional Court Art Collection (CCAC), Johannesburg, South Africa.
Ellerman House Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, South Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

CAPE TOWN

1st Floor, The Palms
145 Sir Lowry Road
Woodstock, 7925
T +27 (0)21 461 1029

JOHANNESBURG

25 7th Street,
Parkhurst,
2196
T +27 (0)10 900 2131

STELLENBOSCH

1st Floor, De Wet Centre
Church Street
Stellenbosch, 7600
T +27 (0)21 887 3607

www.smacgallery.com
info@smacgallery.com

RegNo: 2007/043038/23
VATNo: 4850246721