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**LEDELLE MOE & SIEMON ALLEN**

Transitions

# TRANSITIONS

## LEDELLE MOE & SIEMON ALLEN

SMAC Gallery is pleased to present *Transitions*, an exhibition of new works by Ledelle Moe and Siemon Allen.

Concerned with notions of land and dislocation, *Transitions* comes as a longing to better understand how both personal and political histories are inherent in our ever-present awareness of site – simultaneously serving as an investigation into identity construction through displacement. Informed by their personal histories and experiences of movement – both Moe and Allen left South Africa in the nineties to pursue opportunities in the US – this body of work, at its core, is a reflection on place. Offset by a parallel series of object studies, the exhibition is made up of landscapes – both in the 'traditional' sense and in the very material of which the work is made – and sees the gallery space transformed and suspended, at once, into one of both sitelessness and ground. It's a series of fragments – of locations, of identities, of derivés, of objects – and seeks to reexamine the South African landscape in art as an apprehensive, fraught site full of ambiguities.

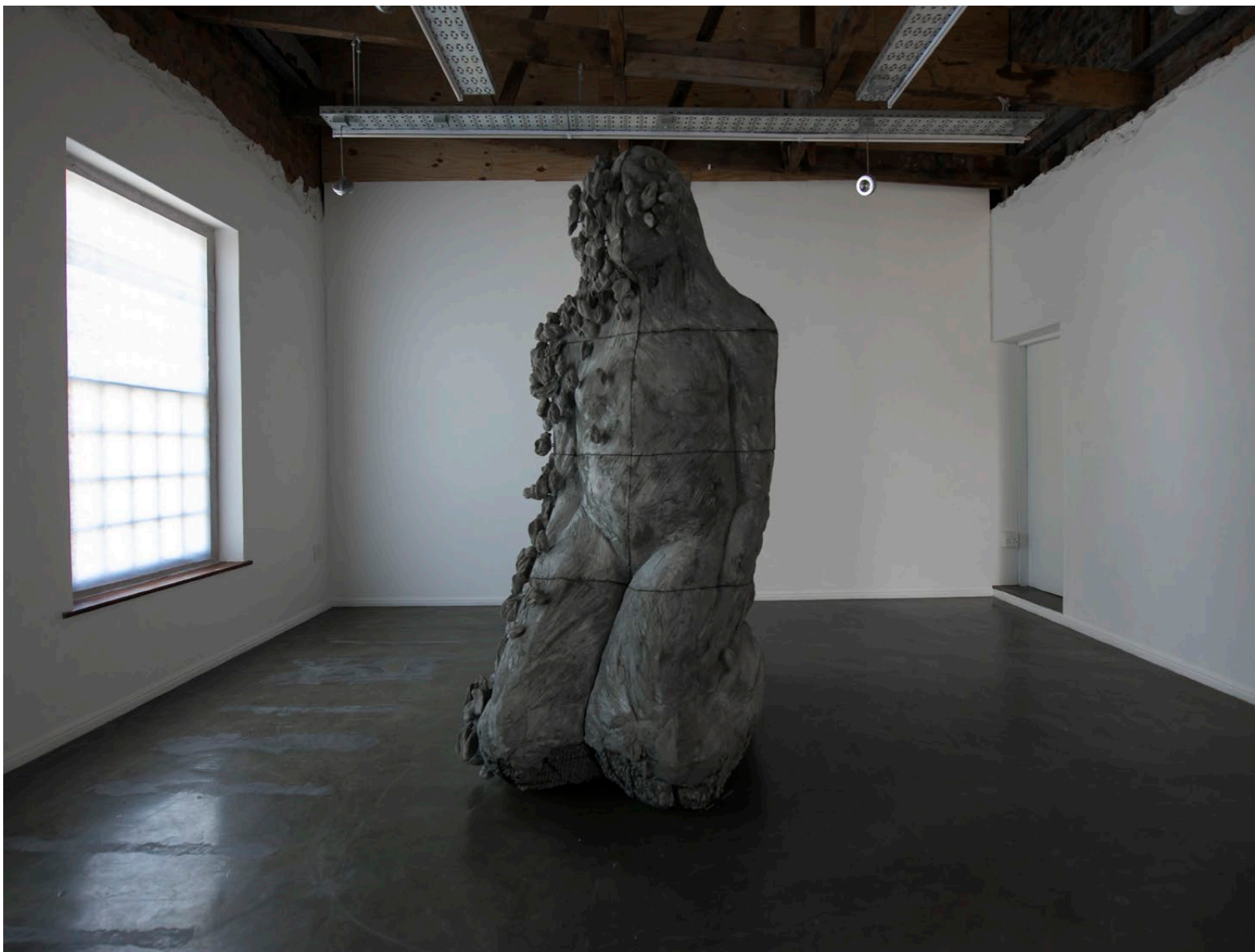
Taking direction from the materiality of her cement, and the elements used in its creation, Moe gathered sand and dirt from a number of locations she travelled to this year – Neuchâtel in Switzerland, Dhrangadhra in India, Gaborone in Botswana, the Karoo in South Africa – and embedded each sampling of earth into cement carvings of birds and figures.

A combination of creating work both on site and within the studio, Moe engages intimately with the very 'being' of the place – reflecting on innumerable implications of coded landscapes – and pushes the matter of her structures as she welds, casts, models and carves into them, opening up narratives around image and materiality. Distinctly structural, Moe's work stands firmly rooted in the gallery – the present – and evokes scenes reminiscent of a funerary statue or memorial. Here, the work belongs to no specific place or time, and is one that can be moved from site to site, dislocated and without identity. In evoking these scenes and playing to the many grounds from which Moe's cement was cast, the work explores and reexamines the South African landscape in art, illustrating it as one fraught with ambiguities – both monumental and fragile, permanent and impermanent, located and displaced, structured and ephemeral.

Allen's work – initially an exploration of transitional geographic sites (harbours) from where the interior of South Africa was colonised – considers the charged landscapes of Pierneef and Baines (among others) and recontextualises them in a place of uncertainty. His large-scale drawings come as an informal and transient archive of coded landscapes, as he employs provisional and, perhaps, ephemeral materials to draw with – felt pen on polypropylene, India ink markers on spun agricultural cloth. In contrast to his drawings of the empty vista, Allen has depicted objects – iconic consumer objects – sourced from advertisements featured in the iconic *DRUM* magazine. These images, once a symbol of South African identity, now exist in darkened, grainy, black and white microfilm reproductions – impermanent and forgotten, no longer belonging to any specific location. For Allen, land and landscape as a concept is not so much a stable, singular thing as it is a complex, provisional construct.

It is here that Allen and Moe's work exists – between a dichotomy of closeness and distance, identity and land, change and sameness – and thus, it is also here that the work finds its strength. *Transitions* comes as a reflection on place, and in its very impermanent state, interrogates notions of identity and site through dislocation.





**Ledelle Moe**  
*Study for Remain*  
2018  
Concrete and Steel  
270 x 190 x 120 cm



**Ledelle Moe**  
*Study for Remain*  
2018  
Concrete and Steel  
270 x 190 x 120 cm



**Ledelle Moe**  
*Findings XII*  
2018  
Concrete and Steel  
Dimensions Variable



**Ledelle Moe**  
*Finding XI*  
2018  
Concrete and Steel  
34 x 11.5 x 14.5 cm



**Ledelle Moe**

*Relief I & II*

2016

Concrete and Steel

13 x 20 x 3.5 cm and 12 x 27 x 4 cm





**Siemon Allen**

*Kromdraai, Western Gauteng*

2018

India ink marker, pigment marker, India ink  
on spun polypropylene agricultural cloth

187 x 408.5 cm





**Siemon Allen**  
*Durban, KwaZulu-Natal*  
2018  
Permanent felt marker on  
polypropylene sheeting  
265 x 366 cm



**Siemon Allen**  
Shoe  
2015 - 2018  
Permanent felt marker on  
polypropylene sheeting  
260 x 175 cm



**Siemon Allen**  
*Boot*  
2018  
Permanent felt marker on  
polypropylene sheeting  
300 x 261 cm





**Siemon Allen**  
*Jarman*  
2018  
Permanent felt marker on  
polypropylene sheeting  
270 x 180 cm

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### LEDELLE MOE

Ledelle Moe was born in Durban, South Africa in 1971. She studied sculpture at the Technikon Natal and graduated in 1993. Active in the local art community, Moe was one of the founding members of the FLAT Gallery, an artist initiative and alternative space in Durban. A travel grant in 1994 took her to the United States where she embarked on a period of study at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Sculpture Department Master's program. She completed her Master's Degree there in 1996 and soon after accepted an adjunct position in the Sculpture Department at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, Maryland. Later she taught at the Corcoran College of Art in Washington, DC, Virginia Commonwealth University and St.Mary's College of Maryland. Moe has exhibited in a number of venues including the Kulturhuset (Stockholm, Sweden) the NSA Gallery (Durban, South Africa), the International Sculpture Center (Washington, DC), The Washington Project for the Arts (Washington, DC) and American Academy of Arts and Letters, NY.

Throughout this time Moe has remained strongly connected to South Africa, returning to visit annually. In 2013, Moe returned to live and work in South Africa and teach at Stellenbosch University.

Most recently, Moe's work, *Lament (Exploded Geographies)*, was featured in the Dakar Biennale in Dakar, Senegal – curated by Simon Njami and titled *The Red Hour*. In 2019, Moe's work will be exhibited as part of *Genuflections* at the MASS Moca in Massachusetts, USA. Projects include large-scale concrete installations at Socrates Park and Pratt Institute in New York City, and The African Museum of Art in Washington DC. In 2002 Moe was the recipient of a Joan Mitchell Award and in 2008 Kreeger Museum Artist Award. Projects include installations in Salzburg, Austria, Brooklyn, NY, Boston MA, Cape Town, India, the Biennale Internationale D'Art, Martinique, Perez Museum, Miami and Semaphore Gallery in Neuchatel, Switzerland.



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LEDELLE MOE

**CURRICULUM VITAE**



## BIOGRAPHY

Born 1971, Durban, South Africa.  
Lives and Works in Cape Town, South Africa.

## EDUCATION

**1994-6** Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.

**1994** National Higher Diploma, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa.

**1992** National Diploma, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**2018** *Transitions*, a two person solo exhibition with Siemon Allen, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

**2017** *Ruptures*, Semaphore Gallery, Neuchatel, Switzerland.

**2014** *Traces*, GUS Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

*Traces*, Commune 1 Gallery, Cape Town South Africa.

**2012** *Transitions/Displacements*, Commune I Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Transitions/Displacements II*, Kirk Hopper Fine Art, Dallas, USA.

**2011** *Relief III*, Dhrangadhra, Gujarat, India.

**2009** *Erosion III*, Bank Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

*Erosion*, Southeastern Contemporary Art Gallery, Hammond, USA.

**2008** *Disasters*, Katzen Museum, Washington, USA.

*Collapse VI*, 808 Gallery, Boston University, Boston, USA.

*Matter*, Area 405, Baltimore, USA.

**2007** *Collapse V*, Smack Mellon Gallery, New York City, USA.

**2006** *Collapse IV*, Axis Gallery, New York City, USA.

*Congregation*, G-Fine Arts, Project Room, Washington, USA.

*Memorial (Collapse)*, G-Fine Arts, Washington, USA.

**2005** *Memorial (Collapse)*, Anderson Gallery, Des Moines, USA.

**2003** *Thrust*, Flashpoint Gallery, Washington, USA.

*Collapse*, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

**1994** *Forecast of Human Trembling II*, FLAT Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**2019** **[upcoming]** *Genuflections*, MASS Moca, Massachusetts, USA.

**2018** *Lament (Exploded Geographies)*, Biennale De Dakar, Dakar, Senegal.

*Tectonic*, Hazard Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Lament, Don't Look Back*, MOMO Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Lament II*, Hermanus Festival, Hermanus, South Africa.

**2016** *Lament*, Commune One Gallery in collaboration with MOMO Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Findings*, Page Bond Gallery, Richmond, USA.

*Wag*, Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Collapse*, Red Bull Art Gallery, Detroit, USA.

*Traces II*, Hiervandaan, SOST, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

**2015** *Poetics Of Relation*, Perez Museum, Miami, USA.

Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Fifteen MMXV*, Hazard Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

*Slow Violence*, GUS Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

- Cape Town Art Fair, The Avenue - V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Grafen*, GUS Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2014** K@20Kreeger Museum, Washington, USA.
- Urbain*, La Teinturerie, Antananarivo, Madagascar.
- Nirox Foundation Sculpture Park Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2013** BIAC MARTINIQUE, Biennale Internationale D'Art, Martinique Islands, Caribes.
- Keisho International, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.
- Earth Matters, African Art Museum, Washington, USA.
- Traces II*, Commune 1 Gallery, Cape Town South Africa.
- 2012** Dallas Biennale, Dallas Contemporary Museum, Dallas, USA.
- 2011** *Catalyst*, Katzen Museum, Washington, USA.
- 2009** *Uber Portrait*, Bellevue Museum, Bellevue, USA.
- Penned*, Lump Gallery, Raleigh, USA.
- 2008** *Erosion*, Kreeger Museum, Washington, USA.
- Invitational Exhibition*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York City, USA.
- Far from Home*, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA.
- Exquisite Line*, Boston University, Boston, USA.
- 2007** *Collapse*, North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA.
- Turbulence*, Red Bull Hangar, Salzburg, Austria.
- 2005** *Memorial*, Kwa Zulu Natal Society for the Arts (KZNSA), Durban, South Africa.

- 2004** *Post Mortem*, Signal 66, Washington, USA.
- 2002** *Dogs*, Decatur Blue, Washington, USA.
- 2001** *Untitled*, Pratt Institute, New York City, USA.
- Six Sculptors*, Long Island University, New York City, USA.
- 2000** *Once Removed*, Socrates Park, New York City, USA.
- 1999** *Fresh Meat*, Kim Foster Gallery, New York City, USA.
- Drömmar och moln*, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Art Sites '98, Washington, USA.
- Anton Gallery, Washington, USA.
- Kings Court* (performance/installation), Washington, USA.
- 1997** *Options '97*, WPA, Washington, USA.
- 1996** *Art Sites '96*, Tudor Gardens, Washington, USA.
- Anderson Gallery, Richmond, USA.
- 1995** Kwa Muhle Museum, Durban South Africa.
- FLAT INTERNATIONAL, Richmond, USA.

## COLLECTIONS

- South African National Gallery (SANG), Cape Town, South Africa.
- South African Kwa Muhle Museum, South Africa.
- Mr and Mrs Butler, Private Collection, Washington, USA.
- North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, USA.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### SIEMON ALLEN

Siemon Allen is a South African artist whose research based studio practice reflects a number of distinct yet interconnected processes, where overlapping interests in aesthetics and politics lead to works loaded with historical significance and visual magnitude. Allen creates large-scale architectural displays that explore the construction of national identity while challenging the divisions between sculpture, painting and photography. He systematically accumulates mass produced cultural artefacts – including postal stamps, newspapers, old film stock, trading cards, comics and audio recordings – which he then catalogues and repurposes.

His approach is not unlike that of an archivist, each collected item bringing with it the narrative of its production, dissemination, and function. His ongoing web-based, visual archive of rare South African audio can be viewed at [flatinternational.org](http://flatinternational.org). Allen received his MFA from the Durban Institute of Technology in 1999 and was a founding member of the FLAT gallery, an artist's initiative in Durban.

He has exhibited nationally and internationally at venues including the 2011 Venice Biennale; the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin; the Whitney Museum, Artists Space, White Box and Momena in New York City; The Renaissance Society in Chicago; the Johannesburg Art Gallery, Iziko Slave Lodge and the 2nd Johannesburg Biennale in South Africa.

In 2013, Allen was a recipient of a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, and a VMFA Professional Fellowship in 2006. His work is represented in a number of collections including the Guggenheim Museum in New York; the Virginia Museum of Fine Art and Royall Collection in Richmond, VA; the Gordon Schachat Collection, BHP Billiton and Standard Bank Collections in South Africa. Since 2000 Allen has been a visiting artist and adjunct professor in the Department of Sculpture + Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. He has also been a regular contributor to the music blogs Electric Jive and Flatint.





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SIEMON ALLEN

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

## BIOGRAPHY

Born 1970, Durban, South Africa.  
Lives and works in Richmond, USA.

## EDUCATION

**1999** Masters Degree in Technology: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa.

**1992** National Higher Diploma: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa.

**1991** National Diploma: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa.

## AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

**2013** John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Award in Fine Art, New York City, USA.

**2006** Virginia Museum of Fine Art Visual Arts Professional Fellowship, Richmond, Virginia.

**1995/6** Artist in Residence: Sculpture Department, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, USA.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**2015** *Labels* [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Tosha Grantham, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, USA.

**2014** *Exhibition*, Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, USA.

**2013** *Labels* [Travelling Exhibition], Iziko Slave Lodge Museum, Cape Town, South Africa.

**2012** *Grids: An Archive of Collective Memory*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, USA.

**2011** *Records*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Makeba!*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, USA.

**2010** *Imaging South Africa: Collection Projects by Siemon Allen*, Anderson Gallery, Richmond, USA.

**2009** *Imaging South Africa: Records*, BANK Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

*Imaging South Africa: Newspapers | Stamps*, Durban Art Gallery, South Africa.

**2005** *Cards III*, Kwazulu Natal Society of Arts (KZNSA), Durban, South Africa.

*Cards II*, FUSEBOX, Washington, USA.

**2004** *Newspapers (Register)*, Drake University - Anderson Gallery, Des Moines, USA.

**2002** *Newspapers (Post/Times)*, Fusebox, Washington, USA.

**2001** *Stamp Collection – Imaging South Africa*, Hemicycle/Corcoran Museum, Washington, USA.

**1999** *House*, Gallery 400, Chicago, USA.

**1994** *Songs for Nella*, FLAT Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

**2016** *Time / Image* [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Amy Powell, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, USA.

**2015** *Time / Image* [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Amy Powell, Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, USA.

*ReSoundings*, two-person with Garth Erasmus, curated by Julie McGee, Mechanical Hall Gallery, University of Delaware, Delaware, USA.

**2013** *Kaboom! Comics in Art*, curated by Ingo Clauß, Weserberg Museum of Modern Art, Bremen, Germany.

*C-16*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa,

*23 Kilograms*, curated by Bettina Malcomess, Galerie West, The Hague, Netherlands.

**2012** *Found in Translation*, curated by Nat Trotman, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin.

**2011** *Desire, Ideal Narrative in Contemporary South African Art*, curated by Thembinkosi Goniwe, Pavilion of South Africa, 54th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.

**2010** Records, The Gordon Schachat Collection — Featured Artist, FNB Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**2009** *t.error - your fear is an external object*, curated by Attila Hetesi, Anikó Erdosi, Hungarian Cultural Center, New York City, USA.

**2008** *Disturbance – Contemporary Art from Scandinavia and South Africa*, curated by Maria Fidel Regueros & Clive Kellner, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.

*T.ERROR*, curated by Attila Hetesi, Anikó Erdosi, Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary.

*Monomania*, curated by Storm Janse van Rensburg, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

*Hopeless and Otherwise*, curated by Valerie Imus, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, USA.

*Light Show*, curated by Henrietta Hamilton, Robert Fraser & Vaughn Sadie, BANK Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

**2006** *A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Blaffer Gallery, Houston, USA.

*Chronicle*, three-person with Richard Roth & Royce Howes, curated by Richard Roth, The Lab, New York City, USA.

*Other Than Art*, curated by Milena Kalinovska, G Fine Art, Washington, USA.

**2005** *Enemy Image*, curated by Elena Sorkina, Momenta, New York City, USA.

*Patriot*, curated by Cira Pascual Marquina, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, USA.

**2004** *Freedom Salon*, curated by Christina Kukielski & Apsara DiQuinzio, Deitch Projects, New York City, USA.

*Notes on Renewed Appropriationisms*, curated by Lauri Firstenberg, The Project, Los Angeles, USA.

*Rear View Mirror*, curated by Elizabeth Fisher, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK.

*Pop-Agenda*, FUSEBOX, two-person exhibition with Dominic McGill, Washington, USA.

*A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA.

**2003** *The American Effect*, curated by Larry Rinder, Whitney Museum, New York City, USA.

*A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, USA.

*Art Positions*, Art Basel, Miami, USA.

*Art Contemporary in Spain*(ARCO), Madrid, Spain.

**2002** *Context & Conceptualism*, Artists Space, New York City, USA.

*Intersections*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia.

**2001** *Detourism*, Renaissance Society, Chicago, Ill, curated by Hamza Walker, FUSEBOX, Washington, USA.

*After the Diagram*, curated by Lauri Firstenberg & Douglas Cooper.

**2000** *Open Circuit*, Kwazulu Natal Society of Arts (KZNSA) Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

*Translation/Seduction/Displacement* [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Lauri Firstenberg & John Pepper, Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art, Portland, USA.

*Translation/Seduction/Displacement* [Travelling Exhibition], curated by Lauri Firstenberg & John Pepper, White Box, New York City, USA.

**1999** *Import*, Goethe Institute Washington, USA.

**1998** *Drömmar och Moln*, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden.

*Vita 98*, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**1997** *Taking Stock*, Johannesburg Stock Exchange, South Africa.



*2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Graft, curated by Colin Richards, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.*

*Unplugged II, Rembrandt Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.*

**1996** *Hitch-Hiker, curated by Clive Kellner, Generator Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa.*

Two-person Exhibition with Kendall Buster, Goethe Institute, Washington, USA.

**1995** Three-person Exhibition with Thomas Barry & Jeremy Wafer, Rembrandt Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**1994** *Vita Art Now 93, Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG), Johannesburg, South Africa.*

**1993** Two person exhibition with Greg Streak, Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) Johannesburg, South Africa.

## **COLLECTIONS**

BHP Billiton, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

Gordon Schachat Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Guggenheim Museum, New York City, USA.

Royall Collection, Richmond, USA.

Standard Bank Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Virginia Museum of Fine Art, Richmond, USA.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact SMAC Gallery for more information regarding the availability of the works included in this portfolio, or for any other queries.

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