

**MARLENE STEYN**

CURRICULUM VITAE

smac

**BIOGRAPHY**

Born 1989, Cape Town, South Africa.  
Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

**EDUCATION**

- 2014** Master of Fine Arts in Painting Degree (MA), Royal College of Art, London, UK.  
**2011** Bachelor of Arts Fine Arts Degree (MA), University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

**AWARDS, RESIDENCIES & PUBLICATIONS**

- 2024** Festival Artist | Stellenbosch Woordfees, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
Best Achievement in Visual Arts, between my i's: tussen my oë (Stellenbosch Woordfees), KykNET Fiëstas Awards.
- 2017** Kav 16 Collaborative Residency with Abraham Kritzman, curated by Angels Miralde Tena & Karni Barzilay, Kav 16 Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2016** Collaborative Residency with Avantika Agarwal, Shoonya Space Centre for Art & Somatic Practices, Bangalore, India.
- 2015** The Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, Vermont Studio Centre, Johnson, USA.  
Collaborative Residency with Abraham Kritzman, & Angels Miralde Tena, Odd Cultural Node & Atelier 35, Bucharest, Romania.
- 2014** Art Residency Programme in collaboration with the Royal College of Art & the British Council, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.  
Finalist, Saatchi New Sensations, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.  
Gordon Luton Award for Fine Art, The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainer's & Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 2013** Bloomberg New Contemporaries, Top 46 most promising artists, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, UK.
- 2011** Noli Procrastinare Public Art Residency, Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA), Laingsburg, South Africa.

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025** *Mind Fullness*, The Armory Show (SMAC Gallery), New York, USA.  
**2024** *Between my i's / Tussen my oë*, Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*I Open Her*, Solo Section, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.  
**2023** *Home Bodies*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
**2022** *You Me Verse*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
**2020** *MEANDER me and her*, Artist Room, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

- 2019** *deep she dive her*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*Unbuttoning my belly*, Lychee One, London, UK.
- 2018** *Garden Smoothie*, collaborative exhibition with Gabrielle Kruger, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
MiArt (SMAC Gallery), Fiera Milano City, Milan, Italy.  
*Shouty Insides*, Galerie DYS, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2017** *Knot I : I Knot*, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2016** *Your Skin Is Not The Best Hiding Place*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*You Can't Cry When Your Head is Underwater*, Lychee One, London, UK.
- 2015** *The End is Located Underneath Her Third Armpit (if the muscle is flexed)*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*Mad Love*, Lychee One, London, UK.
- 2014** *How Cannibals Cuddle*, CABIN Gallery, London, UK.

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

- 2026** Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2025** Art Basel Miami Beach (SMAC Gallery), Miami Beach Convention Centre, Miami Beach, USA.  
*Motherhood: Paradox and Duality*, curated by Andrea Lewis at the Iziko South National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2024** FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*Yggdrasil*, Group Show with Lezanne Viviers, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2023** *Back in Town*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
RMB Latitudes Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Shepstone Gardens, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*X PINK 101*, X Museum, Beijing, China.  
*NON-PLACES*, Powerlong Art Centre, Shanghai, China.  
BAZ Art Festival, Cape Town, South Africa.  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2022** FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*Inner Landscapes*, Bloom Galerie, Geneva, Switzerland.  
*Kindred*, Boschendal Norval Art Gallery, Franschhoek, South Africa.  
London Art Fair (Lychee One), Business Design Centre, London, UK.  
*Body and Thrall*, Rugby Art Gallery & Museum, Rugby, UK.

- Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2021** *In The Eyes Of The Night Creatures*, Delphian Gallery, London, UK.  
*Unfair Weather*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
*Weekend Special*, Cape Town Art Weekend, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*Opening Exhibition*, FNB Art Joburg, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Digital Event.  
*The Artists' Oracle (the show)*, White Crypt Gallery, London, UK  
*Fertile Laziness*, curated by HAZE, Platform Southwark, London, UK.
- 2020** *Miscellanées d'été / Summer miscellany*, Galerie Dys, Brussels, Belgium.  
*Staycation*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
 'L'Heure Bleue', PLUS-ONE Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium.  
*A Show of Solidarity*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*SHAPING THINGS: An exploration of clay and ceramics in contemporary South African art practice*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.  
 London Art Fair (Lychee One), Business Design Centre, London, UK.
- 2019** Luxembourg Art Week (Galerie DYS), Luxembourg.  
*African Textures*, OSART Gallery, Milan, Italy.  
*arteBOTANICA*, in collaboration with Lezanne Viviers, Nirox Sculpture Park, Krugersdorp, South Africa.  
*OR/BITING AURABOROS*, collaborative exhibition with Viviers Studio, Lotus House, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
 FNB Art Joburg (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*HOLDING STILL: Psychology and Portraiture*, SMAC Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.  
*L'acte final - scene one: Louis & friends*, GUS Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- 2018** *Wish You Were Here*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*Bone Memory*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
*Papercuts*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.  
*Kneadingthetorsomakesabuzz*, curated by Karni Barzilay, KAV 16 Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel.  
 FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*Desires*, GNYP Gallery, Berlin, Germany.  
 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2017** *1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair (SMAC Gallery)*, London, UK.  
 FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*Another Antipodes Inc*, PS Art Space, Fremantle, Australia.  
*X: Part I*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*Where they hum*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
*All Things Being Equal*, Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.  
*X: Part III*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
 Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2016** *across the divide*, curated by Lu Chao & Ian Rosenfeld, Rosenfeld Porcini, London, UK.  
*Summer Show'16*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*Break the Spell*, Gallery University Stellenbosch (GUS), Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*Inside Out*, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, UK.  
*Faces & other scenarios*, two-person show with Sofi van Saltbommel, Galerie d'Ys, Brussels, Belgium.  
*Paper | Publication | Performance*, Lychee One, London, UK.  
*New Monuments*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015** *Defining the Narrative*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*LUSH*, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*Island II - Nativel*, g39, Cardiff, UK.  
 FNB Joburg Art Fair (Commune.1), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
*His Sprinkled Blood Served to Fructify the Blood of Three Golden Apples*, collaboration with Abraham Kritzman & Angels Miralda, odd and Atelier 35, Bucharest, Romania.  
 Art 15 (Lychee One), Delphina Foundation, London, UK.  
*All S-He Ever Wanted to Be*, GalleriaM, Kolkata, India.  
*Portretteer*, Oude Libertas Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
 Cape Town Art Fair (Commune. 1), V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa.  
*"regARTs" sur "La piscin"*, Espace Croix-Baragnon, Toulouse, France.
- 2014** *Scintilla: An Alchemy Show*, Commune.1, Cape Town, South Africa.  
 Saatchi New Sensations Finalist Group Exhibition, Victoria House, Bloomsbury, London, UK.  
*Artmagedon: an affordable art show*, West End Centre, Aldershot, UK.  
*The Luminous Language*, The Assembly Rooms, London, UK.  
*Artists in Transit: A Group Exhibition*, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa.  
*Stewarts Law RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London, UK.  
*An Inoperative Mythology*, Imperial College, London, UK.

- PNTNG NOV*, Henry Moore Gallery, London, UK.
- 2013** *Bloomberg New Contemporaries* (BNC), Spike Islands, Bristol, UK.  
*Dreamtime: New Surrealism*, Mirus Gallery, San Francisco, USA.  
*Stewarts Law RCA Secret*, Royal College of Art, London, UK.  
*Work in Progress Show*, Henry Moore Gallery, Royal College of Art, London, UK.  
*Notes to Self 'Thinking Aloud and Making Moves'*, Dyson Building, Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 2011** *Bachelor's Graduate Show: Gradex*, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
*VANSA 2010 Reasons to Live in a Small Town*, Goethe on Main Project Space, Johannesburg, South Africa.

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2026** Marlene Steyn: Selected Works. SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2023** *Clay Formes: Contemporary Clay from South Africa*. Art Formes, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2022** *Plant Magick*. The Library of Esoterica, Fout-Part Book Series, Jessica Hundley, TASCHEN Publication, Cologne, Germany.
- 2017** Elderton, L. and Morril, R. ed. 2017. *Vitamin C: Clay + Ceramic in Contemporary Art*. New York: Phaidon Press Ltd.

#### SELECTED PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Sophie. 2021. *FOR (art) FORMES, Marlene Steyn: A sculptural freefall - in clay, words and space*. *Art Formes* [online]. Available via *ArtFormes* newsletter. [Accessed 23.11.2021]

O'Toole, S. 2021. *The Stellenbosch Four: The Art Group You Never Heard Of*. cur8.art [online]. Available at: <https://cur8.art/art-news/the-stellenbosch-four-the-art-group-you-never-heard-of/>. [Accessed 23.11.2021].

Waterman, N. Battaglia, LS. 2019. A lyrical essay inspired by the works of Marlene Steyn's exhibition *Unbuttoning my Belly* at Lychee One Gallery, London. [Sheperforms] Available at: <https://www.sheperforms.com/unbuttoning-my-belly>. [Accessed 23.11.2021].

Collier, LV. 2019. *MARLENE STEYN @ LYCHEE ONE*. Gallerygirl [online]. Available at: <https://www.google.co.za/amp/s/gallerygirl.co/2019/06/26/marlene-steyn-lychee-one/amp/>. [Accessed 23.11.2021].

Phaidon Editors. 2017. *Vitamin C: Clay and Ceramic in Contemporary Art: Phaidon Editors*. Phaidon [online]. Available at: <https://www.phaidon.com/agenda/art/articles/2017/november/27/marlene-steyn-why-i-create/>. 2 Oct, 2017 [Accessed 23.11.2021]

Steer, E. 2016. *Opening This Week: Marlene Steyn: Your Skin Is Not The Best Hiding Place*. Elephant Magazine [online]. Available at: <https://elephant.art/now-showing-marlene-steyn-smac/>. [Accessed 19.01.2019].

O'Toole, S. 2017. *Marlene Steyn is proving to be an artist worth watching*. Times Live [online]. Available at: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/lifestyle/2017-10-24-marlene-steyn-is-proving-to-be-an-artist-worth-watching/>. 24 Oct, 2017. [Accessed 04.03.2018].

Kawitzky, R. 2016. *Runny yolks and Running Jokes*. Adjective Magazine [online]. Available at: [https://smacgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Runny-yolks-and-Running-Jokes\\_Roxy-Kawitzky\\_-adjective\\_2016-09-05.pdf](https://smacgallery.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Runny-yolks-and-Running-Jokes_Roxy-Kawitzky_-adjective_2016-09-05.pdf). 5 Sept, 2016. [Accessed 19.01.2019].

Rea, N. 2018. *Here Are 7 Standout Artists to Discover at miart 2018*. Artnet News [online]. Available at: <https://news.artnet.com/market/7-standout-artists-discover-2018-miart-1264568>. 13 April 2018. [Accessed 19.01.2019].

Shorkend, D. 2016. *Playful, sinister metaphors*. Cape Times [online]. Available at: <https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/arts-portal/playful-sinister-metaphors-2059825>. [Accessed 19.01.2019].

Snoekx, K. 2018. *Marlene Steyn: pretzel perfect*. BRUZZ [online]. Available at: <https://www.bruzz.be/en/expo/marlene-steyn-pretzel-perfect-2018-03-11>. 3 Nov, 2018. [Accessed 19.01.2019].

#### COLLECTIONS

- Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa.
- Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- Luo Yi, YIS Foundation, London, UK & Beijing, China.
- Springmeier Collection, Berlin, Germany.
- X Museum, Beijing, China.
- Atholl Collection, London, UK and Cape Town, South Africa.
- Missoni Collection, Milan, Italy.
- Marcelle Joseph Collection, London, UK.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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