

Clive van den Berg



Biography

Clive van den Berg (b. 1956, Luanshya, Zambia) is a Johannesburg-based artist, curator and designer who has focused on pioneering the insertion of queer perspectives into the larger rewrite of South African history throughout the course of his prolific forty-year career. Van den Berg has produced a range of works spanning a variety of mediums delve into the porous nature of human existence and the landscapes we inhabit, creating a profound commentary on vulnerability, memory, and the intersection of personal and collective histories.

Van den Berg's retrospective, titled *Porous*, took place at the Wits Art Museum in August 2024, and was accompanied by a major new book published by Skira.

In his paintings, he delves into the porous nature of land, acting as a vessel for lived experiences and unearthing unresolved layers beneath its surface. Within Van den Berg's practice, the landscapes serve as a departure point, transcending physicality to evoke a haunting absence that guide viewers through imagined topographies. Van den Berg's sculptural practice is equally captivating, focusing on the male form and the symbolic resonance of skin to explore themes of vulnerability and exposure. Through this vulnerability, he challenges traditional notions of masculinity and brings to light the ever-present spectre of mortality. His work serves as a poignant meditation on love, loss, and resilience.

His public projects have included the artworks for landmark Northern Cape Legislature and, since he has joined the trace team, museum projects for the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Constitution Hill, Freedom Park, the Workers Museum, The Holocaust and Genocide Centre and many other projects.

Solo exhibitions include: *Porous*, Wits Art Museum (2024); *Remembering*, a survey exhibition of paintings, prints and sculptures, Kwa-Zulu Natal Society of Art Gallery, Durban (2021); *Personal Affects*, Museum of African Art, New York (2005).

Major curated exhibitions include: *If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary South African Art* from the Nando's Art Collection, The African American Museum of Dallas, Dallas (2023); *Breaking Down the Walls: 150 years of Art Collecting*, Iziko SANG, Cape Town (2023); *Screening of Memorials Without Facts: Men Loving*, São Paulo Museum of Art, São Paulo (2018); *Earth Matters: Lands as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C. (2013-2014).

Collections include: *El Espacio 23*, Miami; *Amant Foundation*, New York; *A4 Arts Foundation*, Cape Town; Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg; Spier Arts Trust, London; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town; Smithsonian Museum of African Art, Washington DC and Video Brasil, Sao Paulo.

Van den Berg lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

2022 *Fugitive Marks*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK

2021 *Remembering*, KwaZulu-Natal Association for the Arts, Durban, South Africa

2019 *Line of Beauty*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2017 *A Pile of Stones*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2016 Johannesburg Art Fair

2013 *Land Throws Up a Ghost*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2012 *Coming to the City*, London, United Kingdom

2012 *Man Loses City*, Johannesburg, South Africa

2011 *Soundings, In Passage*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2008 *New Works*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2006 *Skin and Ghosts*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2005 *Personal Affects*, Museum of African Art, New York, USA

2003 *Love's Ballast* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2000 *Memorial Without Facts*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1998 *Clive Van Den Berg*, Mark Coetzee Fine Art Cabinet, Cape Town, South Africa

1998 *Men Loving, Memorials Without Facts*, Gertrude Posel Gallery Johannesburg, Wits University, South Africa

1996 *Men Loving*, The Castle, Cape Town, South Africa

1993 *Clive Van Den Berg* Johannes Stegmann Gallery, University of the Orange Free State, South Africa

1991 *Clive Van Den Berg* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1987 *Clive Van Den Berg* Karen McKerron Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1986 *Clive Van Den Berg* Loft Theatre Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1984 *Clive Van Den Berg* Gallery International, Cape Town, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2021 *Lasting Influences*, curated by Neil Dundas, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2021 *Power of 35! Absa L'Atelier 35th Celebration* Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2018 *Gaze*, curated by Gareth Morris-Davies, Goodman Gallery Video Room, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Screening of Memorials Without Facts: Men Loving*, Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil
2017 *Forms of Resistance*, Outburst Festival, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast, Ireland
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *Quem nasce pra aventura nao toma outro rumo*, Paco das Artes, São Paulo, Brazil
2013-2014 *Earth Matters: Lands as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA
2013 *Art Basel Hong Kong*, Hong Kong
2009 *Sculptures in the Landscape*, Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *Make Art/Stop AIDS*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, LA, USA
2008 *Perfect Lover* curated by David Brodie at ArtExtra Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *The New Republics*, Exhibition and Digital Archive
2007 *Basel Art Fair*, Basel, Switzerland
2005 *Personal Affects*, Contemporary Art Museum, Honolulu; and Museum for African Art New York, USA
2004 *Tremor*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi, Belgium
2004 *Ties That Bind*, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2004 *Voice – Overs: Wits Writings Exploring African Artwork*, Standard Bank Gallery Johannesburg, South Africa
2004 *Voice – Overs*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2003 *Red Eye*, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2002 *Video Formes International Video Festival*, Clermont Ferrand, France
2001 *Artists Against AIDS*, curated by Marilyn Martin and Kyle Kauffmann, Boston, USA
2000 *Videobrasil*, São Paulo, Brazil
2000 *FNB Vita Finalists exhibition*, NSA Gallery Durban, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2000 *Contemporary South African Landscape*, UNISA Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
1999 *The New Republics* Canada House Gallery, London, UK
1999 *Truth Veils* Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1999 *Atelier Winners* ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1999 *Canvas* Bellville Association of Art Gallery, Bellville, South Africa
1999 *Wedge* NSA Gallery, Durban (Wits, Fine Arts Staff Show), South Africa
1999 *Microwave*, Hong Kong
1999 *Urban Futures*, Johannesburg, South Africa
1999 *Emotions and Relations* Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, curated by Hentie van der Merwe
1998 *!Xoe*, Site Specific, Nieu Bethesda, South Africa
1998 *Refiguring the Archive* University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
1998 *Bringing Up Baby* Standard Bank Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, South Africa
1998 *Dreams and Clouds* Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
1998 *A Common Wealth of Art* National Gallery of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1997 *Unplugged* Market Theatre Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *Purity and Danger*, Gertrude Posel Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
1997 *Purity and Danger*, Art First Gallery, London, England, UK
1997 *District Six Sculpture Festival* Cape Town, South Africa
1997 Johannesburg Biennale, opening performance, Cape Town, South Africa
1996 *Gay Rights, Rites, Re-writes*, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa
1996 *Colours: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
1996 *Fault Lines*, Cape Town Castle, Cape Town, South Africa
1995 *Sometimes: Histories of Time*, Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa
1995 *Minedump*, site installation with fire, stones and pigment. Geldenhuys Interchange and Crown Mines, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994 *Displacements: South African Works on Paper*, Block Gallery, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA
1993 *Graphic Creativa*, Alvar Aalto Museum and Museum of Central Finland, Finland

Awards and Merits

2007 Gateway Public Sculpture Competition, Braamfontein, Johannesburg
2001 Civitella Raniera Foundation Fellowship
2000 FNB Vita Awards Finalist
1998-02 Part of team that won the competition to design the New Legislature Buildings for the Northern Cape, with Luis Ferreira da Silva Architects
1998 Finalist and award winner Michelin International Art Competition (video), Paris
1987 Volkskas Atelier Young Artist Award, overall winner
1985 "Paperworks", N.S.A. Gallery, Durban, overall winner
1985 Natal Arts Trust, Natal museums, overall winner

Academic Record and Residencies

1979 B.A.F.A. University of Natal, South Africa

Collections

Iziko, South African National Gallery, Cape Town
Johannesburg Art Gallery
Durban Art Museum
King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth
Pretoria Art Gallery
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg
William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley

Local History Museum, Durban
Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein
Natal Provincial Administration
Margate Municipality
University of the Witwatersrand Art Galleries University of Natal
University of South Africa
University of the Orange Free State
Technikon Natal
Mobil Oil
Volkskas Bank
Mangosuthu Technikon
Telkom
Trust Bank
Everite
Sasol
Anglo American Corporation
BHP Billaton
MTN
SABC
Didata

Commissions

2008 Baragwanath Taxi Rank, Soweto. "Commuter" Public Sculpture
2008 Alf Khumalo: The Soccer Images, Soccerex, Johannesburg.
2007/8 Tracks. Constitution Hill and other venues in South Africa. An exhibition that maps queer Johannesburg over six decades using the testimony of gay men.
2007 Siyanikhumbula/We are missing you Constitution Hill, Johannesburg.
Home Affairs, Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg. An exhibition that explores the Civil Unions Act in South Africa.
2006 Public Sculptures. Baragwanath Taxi Rank, Soweto. A series of large public sculptures in and around the new Taxi Rank opposite Baragwanath Hospital.
2006 Gandhi: A Prisoner of Conscience. Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. A Prisoner of Conscience is a new permanent exhibition at Constitution Hill that focuses on the years Gandhi spent in Johannesburg from 1902 until 1914.
2006 Mapping Memory. Constitution Hill. The project brought ex-prisoners who were imprisoned in the Women's Jail and Number Four back to the site to give material form to memories that have been made fragile by the passage of time.
2005 Izipho – Madiba's Gifts. Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg. An exhibition based around the numerous gifts that Nelson Mandela has received ranging from the humble to the grand, from the Nobel Prize for Peace to items of clothing.
Women's Jail, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. The Women's Jail at Constitution Hill is the first museum in the country devoted to telling the story of the prison experiences of women during the colonial and apartheid era.
2004 466/64 A Prisoner in the Garden Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg. 466/64 – A Prisoner in the Garden is the first step in the long and exciting process of recovering and exhibiting Mandela's prison archive. The exhibition shows hitherto unseen photographs and documents related to Mandela's twenty-seven years of imprisonment.
2004 Number Four: Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. A permanent exhibition developed in Number Four, a former apartheid prison in Johannesburg. The exhibition in the former cells gives a sense of life in the prison using the voices of former prisoners.
2003 Constitution Square Hoardings, Constitution Square, Johannesburg.
1998-02 Artworks New Legislature Buildings, Northern Cape Province with Ferreira da Silva Architects.

Publications

2004 Perryer, S (ed). 10 years, 100 Artists: *Art in a Democratic South Africa*. Bell-Roberts Publishing in association with Stuik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa.
2004 The Brett Kebble Art Awards, Barret L, Marulelo, Cape Town, South Africa
2003 Stevenson, M and Rosholt, A. *Moving in Time and Space: Shifts between abstraction and representation in post war South African Art*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa.
2001 Frost, L. Jeremy Wafer, *Taxi-003*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa.
2002 Tumuli: Conversations with Jeremy Wafer, Jeremy Wafer: Survey, Sasol Art Museum, University of Stellenbsch, Stellenbosch, South africa
2002 The Scheme of Things, FNB Vita Art Prize, Goodman Gallery Editions Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 Trade Routes: History and Geography, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 Geers, K (ed). *Contemporary South Africa Art. The Gencor Collection*, Johannesburg, South Africa.
1997 Hobbs, P. and Rankin, E. *Printmaking in a transforming South Africa*. David Phillip, Cape Town, South Africa.
1996 Williamson, S. and Jamal, A. 'the future present' in Phillip, D. *Art in South Africa: the future present* Cape Town, South Africa.
1994 Rankin, E. *Images of Metal Johannesburg*, Wits University Press, Johannesburg South Africa.
1994 Jounnaïs, J-Y. *Un Art Contemporain d'Afrique du Sud Paris*, Editions Plume, Paris, France.
1991 Strano, C, *Il Sud del Mondo: l'altra arte contemporanea Milan*, Mazzota, Italy.
1990 Williamson, S. *Resistance Art in South Africa*, David Phillip Publishers and Catholic Institute for International Relations, Cape Town, South Africa.

Selected Articles and Reviews

2011 Jacki McInnes, *Clive Van Den Berg*, Art South Africa, South Africa
2011 Mary Corrigan, *Reimagining The Land*, The Sunday Independent, South Africa
2003 Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer and Sandile Zulu*, www.artthrob.co.za, August
2002 Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer at the Sasol Art Museum*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
2000 Smith, K, *Life Sciences: Jeremy Wafer*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
1996 Enwezor, O, *FNB Vita Art Now*, Frieze, Issue 30, September, p. 84