

Nolan Oswald Dennis



Biography

Nolan Oswald Dennis (b. 1988, Zambia) is an interdisciplinary artist from Johannesburg, South Africa. His practice explores what he calls 'a black consciousness of space': the material and metaphysical conditions of decolonization.

Dennis' work questions the politics of space and time through a system-specific, rather than site-specific approach. He is concerned with the hidden structures that pre-determine the limits of our social and political imagination. Through a language of diagrams, drawings and models he explores a hidden landscape of systematic and structural conditions that organise our political sub-terrain. This sub-space is framed by systems which transverse multiple realms (technical, spiritual economic, psychological, etc) and therefore Dennis' work can be seen as an attempt to stitch these, sometime opposed, sometimes complimentary, systems together. To read technological systems alongside spiritual systems, to combine political fictions with science fiction.

He holds a degree in Architecture from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and a Masters of Science in the Art, Culture and Technology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Solo Exhibitions

2019 *Options*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *Furthermore*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2018 *A Better Version of You*, Goethe Institute, Beijing, China
2018 *African Mobilities*, TUM, Munich, Germany
2018 *In the Open or in Stealth*, MACBA, Barcelona, Spain
2018 *Tell Freedom. 15 South African artists*, Kunsthalle kAde, Amersfoort, Netherlands
2017 *Deep Memory*, Kalmar Konsthall, Kalmar, Sweden
2017 *In No Time*, MIT, Cambridge, USA
2017 *89plus: Americans 2017*, LUMA Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland
2017 *the silences between*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *NTUSAVE*, Berlin Biennale
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Goodman Gallery

2015 *Young, Gifted and Black*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Edge of Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *Post African Futures*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Other Peoples Memories*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Poetics of Relation*, LIYH, Geneva, Switzerland
2015 *Lumieres d'Afrique*, Group Show, Theatre National de Chaillot, Paris, France
2015 *Activate/Captivate*, museum show, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg
2014 *Working Title*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2014 *The Brother Burns the Bullion*, site intervention, Johannesburg
2013 *Ussher Fort*, Chale Wote, Art Festival, Ga-Mashie, Accra, Ghana
2013 *Transitions, mural installation*, Market Photo Workshop Gallery, Johannesburg, SA and Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France
2013 *Memory + Speculation*, Chale Wote community art festival, Accra, Ghana
2013 *LAND*, Mural installation, Cape Town City Hall, GIPCA
2012 *SOCIAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT: Transition and Show Us Our Land*, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa
2012 *SOCIAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT: Transition and Show Us Our Land*, Les Rencontres d'Arles, France
2011 *Golden Eggs*, Cape Town Spier Public Art Festival

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

*2017*_Presentation Paper – Under Super Vision, symposium, University of British Columbia,
*2017*_Presentation Paper – Environments and the Ecological self, conference, University of Rochester
*2017*_Published Paper – Solomon Mahlangu House' – Centre des Laboratoires Associés pour la Recherche en Architecture (CLARA) No. 4
*2017*_Published Paper – 'Anxious South' – University of Rochester Journal for Visual Culture (InVisible Culture)
*2016*_lecturer, Architecture department, University of Witwatersrand
*2015*_artist talk – 'Space and Transformation' lecture series, School of Architecture, University of Cape Town
*2015*_NTU artist talk, Swaartnet, Post African Futures

Professional Appointments and Consultation

Awards and Merits

*2016*_FNB Art prize
*2011*_Gauteng Institute of Architects Award, Johannesburg

Academic Record and Residencies

*2017*_MeetFactory, Studio Residency, Prague, Czech Republic
*2016*_Atelier Mondial, Studio Residency Basel, Switzerland
*2016*_Berlin Biennale (with NTU)
*2016*_MIT Department of Architecture Graduate Fellowship
*2015*_Research Artist, Wits Art Museum collection, Johannesburg
*2014*_VANSA open office residency, Johannesburg