



EN SO IS DIT

RENTIA RETIEF

08.11.23 - 16.12.23

EBONY

CURATED

Cultural identity, inextricably linked to a feeling of belonging, has been forever changed by the depiction of landscapes in art. Focus is placed not on the physical landscapes themselves, but on the impact of the human gaze on the land and the reflection of that gaze on our cultural artefacts and collective consciousness. Rentia Retief's latest exhibition *'En So Is Dit'* explores the connection between vast natural landscapes and the intricate emotional landscapes within us.

Since the Romantic period, nature has been viewed as an amalgamation of objective visual and geological realities with the subjective, mental and emotional experience it evokes. The aesthetic appeal and emotional associations of the natural world have the potential to leave an indelible impression on one's mind and soul. In this series of charcoal drawings and oil paintings, Retief uses gestural mark-making to contemplate the intrinsic marks that the earth leaves upon us, both physically and spiritually.

Drawn to the beauty of empty spaces, wherein the raw, unfiltered essence of the earth is revealed, the artist engages reflectively with the elements that constitute the South African landscape. Hailing from an agricultural town, Retief also draws inspiration from the humble donkey, a symbol of the tools that were once used to tame the earth. These steadfast creatures have now come to symbolise humility and our union with the earth, transcending their physical attributes to become spiritual conduits.

These pristine environments and the animals they sustain serve as a reflection of Retief's inner being- as if the land itself becomes a mirror, echoing the emotions and spiritual resonance of the artist.

Whilst inviting viewers to contemplate the interdependence between ourselves and the environment, Retief's latest body of work presents us with a pause. In doing so the artist allows us to consider how the external world shapes our thoughts and emotions, and how our personal landscapes, in turn, influence our perceptions of the world.



Dit Wat Oorbly (That Which Remains)

Oil on Canvas, 2022

100.5 x 179.5 cm

Framed: 103.5 x 182.5 x 5 cm

ZAR 53,500



Nog Onlangs (Just Recently)
Oil on Paper, 2023
102 x 152 cm
Framed: 109.5 x 159 x 5.5 cm
ZAR 45,000



Ek Las Jou Aan Mekaar (I Bind You Together)
Charcoal on Canvas, 2023
183 x 274 cm
ZAR 60,000



Alleen Alweer (Alone Again)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
67.5 x 101.5 cm
Framed: 69.5 x 103.5 x 5 cm
ZAR 26,500



Ver Van Vergeet (Far From Forgetting)
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2023
100 x 154 cm
ZAR 44,000

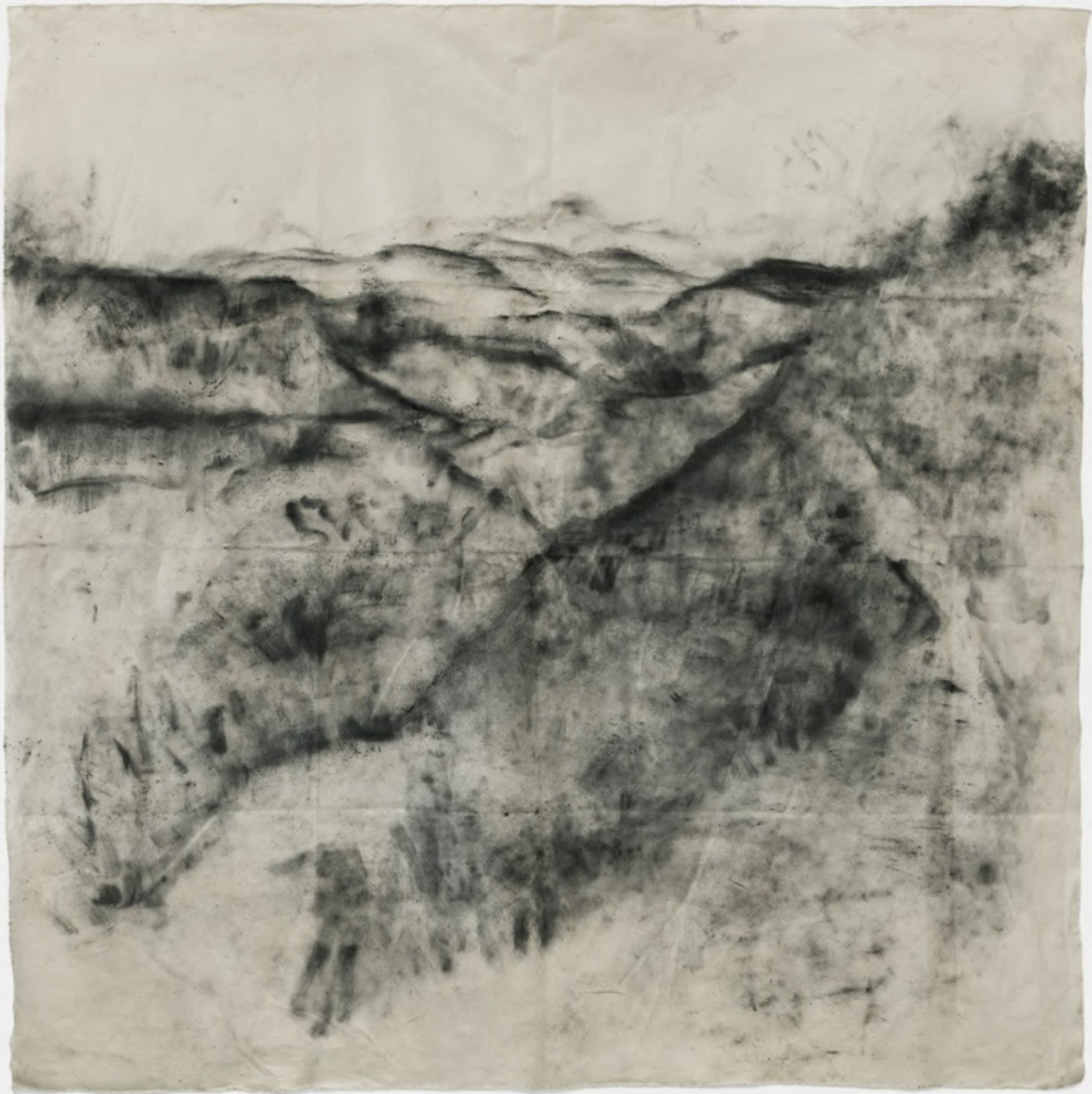


Iets Soos Daar (Something Like There)

Oil on Canvas, 2022

99.5 x 156.5 cm

ZAR 44,000



Sonder Stadig Aan (Moving Slowly Forward)
Charcoal on Unstretched Canvas, 2023
156.5 x 155.5 cm
ZAR 46,000



Nader Dwaal (Wander Closer)
Oil and Acrylic on Canvas, 2023
100 x 154 cm
ZAR 44,000



In a Flash
Oil on Canvas, 2023
144.8 x 152.5 cm
ZAR 50,000



Sonstreeel (Stroking the Sun)
Mixed Media on Canvas, 2022
156 x 204 cm
ZAR 60,000



Ver Weg Van Hier (Far Away From Here)

Oil on Canvas, 2023

86.5 x 106.5 cm

Framed: 88.5 x 108.5 x 5 cm

ZAR 32,500

Studies



Ensovoorts (And So Forth)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
52 x 57 cm
ZAR 9,000



Daarheen (Over There)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
41 x 57 cm
ZAR 8,000



'n Besoeker (A Visitor)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
29 x 29.5 cm
ZAR 5,500



Onthou Jy Nog (Do You Still Remember)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
31.5 x 51.5 cm
ZAR 6,500



'n Kort Tydjie (A Short While)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
29 x 30 cm
ZAR 5,500



Ek Wou Jou Nog Sê (I Still Wanted To Tell You)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
28 x 30.5 cm
ZAR 6,500



Cister Sag Soos Jy (Yesterday, Tender Like you)

Oil on Linen, 2023

71 x 42 cm

ZAR 8,000



Kronkelpad (Winding Road)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
46.5 x 60 cm
ZAR 8,000



Terug Keer (To Return)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
73 x 55.5 cm
ZAR 9,000



Kyk Vir Jou (Look At You)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
55 x 28.5 cm
ZAR 6,500



Skaars Daar (Hardly There)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
32.5 x 55.8 cm
ZAR 7,000



Omkant Gevang (Caught Unexpectedly)

Oil on Canvas, 2023

29 x 28 cm

ZAR 5,500



En Dan Weer Jy (And You Again)
Mixed Media on Canvas, 2023
49 x 57 cm
ZAR 8,000



So Tydjie Terug (A Short While Ago)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
28 x 28.5 cm
ZAR 5,500



Nog Net So Oomblik (Just Give Me a Moment)

Oil on Canvas, 2023

28 x 22 cm

ZAR 5,000



Soos Die Kraai Vlieg (As The Crow Flies)
Oil on Canvas, 2023
46.5 x 54.5 cm
ZAR 8,000



The Days Grew Old and Grey
Oil on Canvas, 2023
32.5 x 50.5 cm
ZAR 6,500



Wanneer Dit Weer Stil Raak (When It Becomes Quiet Again)

Oil on Canvas, 2023

56.5 x 49.5 cm

ZAR 9,000

RENTIA RETIEF (1992-)

Rentia Retief (b.1992, Caledon, South Africa) is a Cape Town-based visual artist, recognised for her exploration of landscapes. These scenic renderings are derived from places visited or environments that Retief is well familiar with, though the setting of the terrain is not the main theme of her work. Rather, Retief focuses on the stillness of the location, and what she refers to as 'quiet spaces', where the emotional and physical landscape meet each other. By reducing the portrayal of the topography to loose, gestural brush strokes, Retief aims to instill the viewer with a sense of loss over a place that once was - or perhaps never was in the first place.

'My approach to landscape art can most accurately be described as the Portuguese concept of 'Saudade'. Saudade is a melancholic feeling of longing or loving something that you never had in the first place. I have a longing for the stillness echoed in my work.' - Rentia Retief

The longing for solitude and the untouched outdoors are major themes in Retief's work. Retief captures her awareness of being one with the natural surroundings, exploring the everyday interaction we all share with the environment whilst drawing on the constant reminder that we are only brief, insignificant visitors in this world. Many of her works on paper and canvas are made en-plein-air, where the natural elements contribute to the mark-making process. The resulting compositions emerge from layering and working on both sides of the canvas. This act of the reverse of the canvas informing the front references the artist's reliance on memory and the subconscious for these landscapes to take shape.

Retief graduated with a BA in Fine Arts in 2014 and an Honours in Illustration in 2016, both at the University of Stellenbosch. She is currently working as a fine art professional and illustrator.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'En So Is Dit', EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 'Terugblik', MOK Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
'Reflection', Kanonkop Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2019 'Die Berg is Geduldig (The Mountain is Patient)', EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 'Scenes of Remembering', Mullers Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016 'Sondebok', MOK Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 'We Are Africa', DHL Stadium, Cape Town, South Africa
'African Galleries Now x Artsy', EBONY/CURATED, Online Presentation
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
'Summer Show', EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 'Palimpsest', AVA Gallery and Remembrance Gallery, The Leeuwenhof Slave Quarters, Cape Town, South Africa
'Summer Trio', 131 A Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 'The Long View' with Larita Engelbrecht, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
'Genius Loci', State Of The Art Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
'Light', Glen Carlou Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
'Bud', RK Contemporary Gallery, Reibeek Kasteel, South Africa

- 2020 'Country', MOK Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
'Home Is Where The Art Is', Zeitz Mocaa Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 'Land and Sea', Art on Avenues, Somerset West, South Africa
'Art and Equine', Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa
- 2018 Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
'Wild', Imibala Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa
'Black and White', Dyman Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2017 'Landscape' with Johan Coetzee, MOK Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2016 'August Exhibition', EBONY/CURATED, Franschhoek, South Africa
'Summer Show', EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 'Emerge', EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
'Landscape', EBONY/CURATED, Franschhoek, South Africa
'Tasseography', Equus Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
'Composition Emporium', Rupert Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa
'30' x 40"', ArtB Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 'Gradex', Stellenbosch Visual Arts Department, Stellenbosch, South Africa

RESIDENCIES

- 2018 Kleinood Artist Residency
- 2016 Muratie Artist Residency

PRESS

Du Toit, S. (2023) *Welcome the month of June by exploring the exhibits on First Thursdays*. Available at: <https://www.capetownetc.com/cape-town/welcome-the-month-of-june-by-exploring-the-exhibits-on-first-thursdays/> (Accessed: 02 November 2023)

AWARDS

- 2016 Muratie Artist Residency
- 2014 George Paul Canitz Fine Art Prize
- 2013 University of Stellenbosch Student Public Art Award

EBONY

CURATED

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