



Ann Gadd Artist CV

Website: www.artforewe.co.za

"We are the canvas and, as such, are both the creator and the creation."

Ann Gadd from the Preface of *The Collector's Guide to Art and Artists in South Africa*. Chase Publications for the South African Institute of Artists & Designers, Cape Town, 2003

Profile

A vibrant and prolific artist, whose energetic works excite both the public and gallery owners.

Ann constantly explores new ways and dynamics in painting and subject matter. Her quirky, humorous, yet profound insightful art, asks questions that provoke the viewer to seek answers to.

Career Overview

Ann has an exceptionally rich spectrum of professional and personal experience, abilities and talents to draw from. – Her overall expression is one of change through consciousness and creation.

Having spent nearly two decades as a Commercial Artist, Cartoon Book Illustrator, Creative and Art Director in the advertising arena and as a co-director of an advertising agency, Ann began to indulge her passion for painting more seriously.

She has participated in a large number of group and solo exhibitions and her paintings and constructions now hang both internationally and locally.

In addition, Ann is a published writer, journalist, teacher and facilitator of Transformational Art workshops targeting corporate, domestic and educational target markets.

Exhibitions 2008:

- Zohar gallery New Zealand – April solo
- Clarens Art Festival, Clarens/Blou Donki Art Gallery main guest artist June/July
- Invited but declined to exhibit in Mexico, Champingo
- London, Stitchfield October

Exhibitions 2007:

- Red the Gallery Steenberg 28 July – *Nudes, Nature and Ewe*. Joint exhibition with Anthony Gadd
- Bobby Breen – joint exhibition with Anthony Gadd
- KKNK

- Vanilla Canvas August 28 – *The Big Five* – Five top emerging South African female artists
- Orange Cactus September 27 - Joint exhibition with Anthony Gadd
- Swellendam Gallery – Joint exhibition with Anthony Gadd
- Florence Biennale

Exhibitions Prior to 2007:

- AVA (Association for Visual Arts) solo Palindromes
- Vuleka (x3) group exhibition
- South African Society of Artists (x8 group exhibitions)
- South African National Museum Geonome Exhibition

Galleries

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| • Lindy van Niekerk gallery | • The Hout Bay Gallery | • St Francis Bay gallery |
| • Art@Five - UK | • The Waterfront Gallery | • VEO Gallery |
| • Rossouw Gallery Hermanus & Constantia | • Red The Gallery, Steenberg | • Sandton Gallery |
| • Oranje Meul gallery, Paarl | • Blou Donkie, Clarens Gallery | • G2 gallery |
| • Robertson Gallery | • Orange Cactus Gallery | • Gallerie de Lyons |
| • Hyde Park Gallery | • Zohar gallery, New Zealand | • Franshoek Gallery |

Personal Motivation

"I believe we start by learning to express ourselves creatively in the physical form. If we pursue this passion with courage, diligence and discipline, we come to the realization that we are the canvas: - and as such, are both the creator and the creation. Creativity then becomes who we are, not just what we hang on the wall." - *Ann Gadd*

Style

Overview

Ann's imagination has carried her into an exploration of many different subjects. Initially she painted landscapes, nudes and still lives using exciting, bright colour combinations which reflected the rich vibrancy of Africa.

Since 2001, Ann has moved more into the areas of Conceptual Art, Landscape pieces, 3 Dimensional works and Palindromes, sometimes utilising her experience as a cartoonist and her propensity to see through cultural norms, to question her world.

Ann constantly pushes the boundaries, exploring new ideas and concepts. Her Palindrome paintings use humour to question the icons of the world. In this game of words, what appears to read in one direction may also be read in another, thus what comes around goes around. Through their reversal, Palindromes mirror the shadow sides of ourselves, ask questions for which there is no answer and with their absurdity and humour, push us to challenge our beliefs and understanding of reality.

More recently her sheep paintings have been a phenomenal success, taking an humoristic view of both the corporate and IT worlds, as well as other aspects of society. Through these successes she has become one of South Africa's best selling artists.

2006 to date: Sheep: The Life of Ewe

In 2006 Ann started her “Ewe” series of works. Sheep in their inane conformist lifestyle have much to mirror to us about the human condition.

“Eat, sleep, shit, toil, die for a purpose that remains beyond their (and our) deeper understanding. Like sheep we seldom stop to question our life, its purpose and the validity of what we do. Struggling to achieve a stable patch for ourselves and yet being ever threatened by the inevitable tumble downhill, in the repetitive conformism of our lives, sheep become icons for our own insanity. From their lofty phallic heights, (to which we in a post paternalistic male dominated society have raised them), sheep set themselves up for an inevitable fall.

“Observing people respond to sheep paintings, I have noticed that they cut across racial, religious, gender and age boundaries – we can all relate to their absurdity.”

Through Ewe, Ann examines the life of you the observer, and hopes, through humour, to get ewe/you the viewer, to question why you do what you do and push you to challenge your beliefs and understanding of reality.

The work itself is fresh, funny, funky and unique.

Career Summary**ART****Exhibiting Artist****1997 - To date****Commercial Artist****1979-1999***Co-owner – G2 Advertising**Freelanced and did contractual work**Art Director – Bates**Creative Director - MoreGrow Group (Morkels, Total Sports, Sportsman’s Warehouse)**Art Director - Ogilvy’s (Rightford, Searle-Tripp & Makin) Cape Town**Visualisor - McCann- Erickson - Gauteng**Visualisor – Pro-Am - Gauteng***Workshop facilitator / Teacher****1998- To date***Create Yourself – Art of Self Expression Workshops, Corporate Art Workshops***Workshop facilitator / Teacher****1998- To date***Create Yourself – Art of Self Expression Workshops, Corporate Art Workshops, Art Lessons**Dream workshops, Foot workshops, Relationship and Chakra workshops***Journalist - Freelance****1980 – To date***Various Publications – Argus, SA Boardsailing, Vital Health Renaissance Magazine,**Odyssey Magazine, SA Yachting, Living and Loving***Published Author****1985 – To date**

- *Latest book due out in UK – 2009*
- *Climbing the Beanstalk - The Spiritual truths in Fairytales* Findhorn Press, UK 2007
- *A-Z of Habits* Findhorn Press, UK 2007

- **Life with Ewe**, Create Yourself Publications, Cape Town, 2007,
- **Finding Your Feet – How the soles mirror the soul** Findhorn Press, UK 2006
- **The Girl who bites her nails and the man who is always late – What our habits reveal about us.** Findhorn Press UK, 2006
- **Healing Habits**, Kima Global Cape Town, 2003
- **Boardsailing** in South Africa, Struik Publishers.
- Two cartoon books - self-published
- Two educational books (Gr1 and Gr2) illustrated for **Hodder and Stoughton**

Reiki, Footology, Counselling

Footology

1, 2, Masters

Counsellor

transformational/ art workshops

2004 Reiki
1996-2000 Life Line
1989/1990 Various
1980-2007

Sport

SA National Board Sailing Champion

1987/8

Represented South Africa at the World Championships in Six Fours France

1985

Education

Cape Technikon – Dip. Graphic Design

1975-1978

Rustenberg Girls High School Gr8-12

Micklefield School Gr2-6

Rosebank Convent Preschool and Gr1

Personal Details

Ann works in Cape Town, is married to artist Anthony and has two children and numerous pets.