

KARLEIN DE VILLIERS

Karlien De Villiers è nata a Città del Capo, in Sudafrica nel 1975. Ha studiato Grafica e Illustrazione presso la Stellenbosch University dal 1994 al 1997, e ha lavorato come commercial designer per un'agenzia pubblicitaria a Città del Capo dopo essersi laureata.

Presto si rende conto che il mondo della pubblicità non fa per lei, vista la sua passione per la pittura, il disegno, e le tecniche tradizionali di elaborazione delle immagini; quindi si ritira e inizia a viaggiare per gli Stati Uniti e l'Europa per due anni, svolgendo i lavori più disparati, visitando musei e librerie e disegnando sul suo sketchbook.

Dopo essere tornata in Sudafrica nel 2000, ha iniziato il suo Master in Information Design presso la Pretoria University. De Villiers inizia la sua carriera artistica pubblicando brevi vignette comiche su Bitterkomix, rivista satirica sudafricana, ma durante i suoi studi post-laurea inizia ad elaborare una graphic novel riguardante la morte di sua madre, contro il contesto sociopolitico dell'Apartheid South Africa degli anni 1970-80, intitolato *Meine Mutter war eine schöne Frau* ("Mia mamma era una bella donna"). Il romanzo è stato pubblicato in una versione tedesca in Svizzera (Arrache Coeur), dove viene premiato come secondo best-seller al Fumetto International Comics Festival a Lucerna nel 2006.

Da allora il libro è stato tradotto in francese (a et La), spagnolo (Glenat) e italiano (Comma22), ma attualmente non è stato ancora pubblicato in Sudafrica.

Karlien De Villiers was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1975. She studied Graphic Design and Illustration at Stellenbosch University from 1994 - 1997, and worked as a commercial designer in an advertising agency in Cape Town after graduating.

She soon realized the advertising world did not suit her passion for painting, drawing and traditional image-making techniques, so she resigned and traveled through the US and Europe for two years doing odd jobs, visiting museums and bookstores and drawing in her sketchbooks.

Upon returning to South Africa in 2000, she started her Master's degree in Information Design at Pretoria University. De Villiers first published short comic stories in Bitterkomix, satirical Afrikaans comic magazine, but during her postgraduate studies she started working on a graphic novel that deals with the death of her mother set against the socio-political backdrop of Apartheid South Africa during the 1970s-80s, entitled *Meine Mutter war eine schöne Frau* ('My mother was a beautiful woman'). The novel was published in a German translation in Switzerland (Arrache Coeur), and emerged as the second-best seller at the Fumetto International Comics Festival in Luzern in 2006.

The book has since been translated into French (a et La), Spanish (Glenat) and Italian (Comma22) – but has to date not been published in South Africa.

Solo Exhibitions

2021

- *Floating Solo*, Cellar Contemporary, Trento, IT

2015

- *Karlien de Villiers-Work on Paper*, Fumetto Comix Festival, Galerie F5, Luzern, CH

2013

- *The Discomfort Zone*, Worldart Gallery, Cape Town, ZA

2009

- *While you were sleeping*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA

2007

- *Who can a monster blame for being blue?* Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA

2006

- *Eine Kindheit in Südafrika*, Fumetto Comix Festival, HGK Kapelle, Luzern, CH
- *Meine Mutter war eine schöne Frau*, Kunstmuseum Erlangen, DE

Group Exhibitions

2022

- *BOOMING Contemporary Art Show - Feminismas*, Bologna, IT

2020

- *SHAPING THINGS: Contemporary Ceramics*, SMAC, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *Cape Town Art Fair*, Cellar Contemporary, Trento, IT

2019

- *THREESOME*, 19 Karen Contemporary Gallery, Gold Coast, AU
- *Cape Town Art Fair*, Cellar Contemporary, Trento, IT

2018

- *COM!CS 2018* South African Comics Exhibition, AVA Cape Town, ZA
- *TIMED ONLINE: Contemporary Art & Books*, Aspire, Johannesburg, ZA
- *Cape Town Art Fair*, Erdmann Contemporary/Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, IT
- *Bitter-Sweet*, Kunsantoor Contemporary Gallery, Hermanus, ZA
- *EMPORIUM*, Carol Lee Fine Art, Johannesburg, ZA
- *Turbine Art Fair*, Turbine Hall, Johannesburg, ZA

2017

- *Cape Town Art Fair*, ARP: Art Residency Project, IT
- *Platform*, Carol Lee Fine Art, Johannesburg, ZA
- *The Winter Exhibition*, Bennett Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA

2016

- *Cape Town Art Fair*: Erdmann Contemporary Gallery, ZA
- *Turbine Art Fair*: Erdmann Contemporary, Johannesburg, ZA

2015

- *Broken Monsters*, Nandos Art Initiative, 37 Barrack Street, Cape Town, ZA
- *Arts for Humanity*, Human Rights Project. DUT Art Gallery, Durban, ZA
- *Turbine Art Fair*: Erdmann Contemporary, Turbine Hall, Johannesburg, ZA
- *Form and Substance*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA
- *Remnants of Place*, D-Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *EMPIRE*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, ZA
- *Speechless*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA
- *Grafen*, GUS Gallery, Stellenbosch, ZA

2014

- *New Voices III*, Lizamore & Associates, Johannesburg, ZA
- *Salon des Refusés*, Ellis House, Maboneng, Johannesburg, ZA
- *Kuns-de(kodeer)-her(fraseer)*, D-Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *PAPERWORK*, SMAC Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *Johannesburg Art Fair*, SMAC Art Gallery, ZA
- *Cape Town Art Fair*: SMAC Art Gallery, ZA

2013

- *The XMAS Show*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, ZA
- *The Winter Group Show*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, ZA
- *Johannesburg Art Fair*, SMAC Gallery, ZA
- *Cape Town Art Fair*, Worldart Gallery, ZA
- *Sraturum*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA

- *STEEK*, Sasol Art Museum Stellenbosch, ZA

2012

- *ART INTERNATIONAL ZÜRICH*, Erdmann Contemporary, CH
- *Johannesburg Art Fair: The Season Rubs me Wrong*, Erdmann
- Contemporary, ZA *Don't Shoot!* Südafrikanische Comix jenseits der Apartheid, Linksrechts, Hamburg, DE

2011

- *UNESCO-Aschberg*: International artist residency, Instituto Sacatar, BR
- *Thinking Africa*, Curated by Vincenzo Montella, Il Ramo d'Oro, Naples, IT
- *Present/History*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA
- *Infecting the City*, Satellite Gallery Project, Cape Town, ZA
- *We're Not Armed, Don't Shoot!*, Spedition Galerie, Bremen, DE

2010

- *Il mondo ha bisogno di noi*, Kyo Art Gallery, Viterbo, IT

2009

- *The world needs us*, Centro Luigi di Sarro, Rome, IT
- *10 Philosophical Questions*, US Gallery, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *Bitterkomix & a new generation of SA comics*, Angoulême, FR

2008

- *Picha African Comics Showcase*, Centre for Contemporary Art, Lagos, NG
- *Picha African Comics Showcase* (travelled to) Museo de Arte, Sao Paulo, BR
- *Picha African Comics Showcase* (travelled to) Afrika Museum, Amsterdam, NL
- *New comic art & works on paper*, Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, ZA

2007

- *Artseasons International Contemporary Art*, Cape Town, ZA

2004

- *Gästgruppe Südafrika*, Fumetto International Comix Festival, Luzern, CH
- *40 Past students: Department of Visual Arts*, Sasol Museum, Stellenbosch, ZA
- *OPEN END: Images of Men and Women living with HIV/Aids*, UdK Berlin, DE

2002

- *Bitterkomix in Berlin*, Galerie Grober Unfug, Berlin, DE
- *Comics Brew*, Spark Gallery, Johannesburg, ZA

2000

- *Millennium Comics Exhibition*, UOFS Gallery, Bloemfontein, ZA

1999

- *Graphic Stories*, Alliance Française/Museum Africa, Johannesburg, ZA

1997

- *Fresh Fish Exhibition*, The Function Project Space, Cape Town, ZA