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JO RACTLIFFE

Born 1961 in Cape Town, South Africa
Lives in Cape Town

EDUCATION

1988

Master of Fine Art, Michaelis School of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town, South Africa

1985

Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa

1982

Diploma in Fine Art, Ruth Prowse School of Art, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026

Out of Place, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

2023

Landscaping, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

Being There, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2020

Jo Ractliffe: Drives, Art Institute of Chicago, USA

2019

Signs of Life, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

Hay Tiempo, No Hay Tiempo, Centro Fotográfico Álvarez Bravo, as part of *Hacer Noche*, Oaxaca, Mexico

2017

Everything is Everything, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015

After War, Fondation A Stichting and Galerie de l'erg, Brussels, Belgium

The Aftermath of Conflict: Jo Ractliffe's Photographs of Angola and South Africa,
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

2014

Someone Else's Country, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA

2013

The Borderlands, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Museet for Fotokunst, Odense, Denmark

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Aspekte Galerie, Munich, Germany

2012

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Fotohof, Salzburg, Austria

2011

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Walther Collection Project Space, New York, USA

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

As Terras do Fim do Mundo, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2010

Apartheid, Angola and Beyond, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire, USA

2008

Terreno Ocupado, Warren Siebrits Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2005

Jo Ractliffe: Selected Colour Works 1999-2005, Warren Siebrits Modern and Contemporary Art, Johannesburg, South Africa

2004

Jo Ractliffe: Selected Works 1982-1999, Warren Siebrits Modern and Contemporary Art, Johannesburg, South Africa

2002

Snow White, Ecole Cantonale du'Art du Vallais, Sierra, Switzerland

1999

End of Time, Ibis Art Gallery, Nieu-Bethesda, Karoo, South Africa

End of Time, Mark Coetzee Art Cabinet, Cape Town, South Africa

1997

Guess who loves you, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1995

reShooting Diana, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1990

Nadir, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1989

Nadir, Metropolitan Life Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

1988

Master of Fine Art Graduate show, Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

COLLABORATIONS

2004

Johannesburg Circa Now, Johannesburg Art Gallery (with Terry Kurgan), South Africa

2003

Cityscapes, Devonshire Hotel and Johannesburg Art Gallery (with Jay Pather), South Africa

2002

a bear, a giraffe, snow, dogs, flowers and Verbotstafeln, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa (with Markus Schwander)

2001

Open Circuit (closing), NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa (with Sebastian Diaz Morales)

1999

Orpheus and Eurydice and the Arts of Memory, Planetarium, Cape Town, South Africa (public performance of extracts from an 'opera in progress' with Philip Miller, Jane Taylor and William Kentridge)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

When Works Meet Again, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Column Rota / Broken Column, Museo de la Ciudad de México, Mexico City, Mexico

Into the Unseen – The Walther Collection, Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany

Histoires en series, Musée de la Photographie, Charleroi, Belgium

2024

When Works Meet, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

After the End of the World: Pictures from Panafrika, Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Latent Landscapes, Stevenson, Amsterdam, South Africa

Nature loves to hide, the 19th edition of Fotografia Europea, Reggio Emilia, Italy

2023

The Struggle of Memory, the Deutsche Bank Collection, Berlin, Germany

The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

You to Me, Me to You, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

Trace - Formations of Likeness: Photography and Video from The Walther Collection, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

2022

The Struggle of Memory, the Deutsche Bank Collection, Berlin, Germany

The Future Is Behind Us, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

Under the Rain of Others, SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art, Montréal, Québec

Maa ka Maaya ka ca a yere kono - On Multiplicity, Difference, Becoming and Heritage, 13th Recontres de Bamako, Mail

Regards de Femmes, Fondation A Stichting, Brussels, Belgium

Where do I begin, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2022, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

Currency, 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg, Germany

Shifting Dialogues: Photography from The Walther Collection, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2022, The Photographers' Gallery, London, UK

2021

40 Years of FOTOHOF, Fotohof, Salzburg, Austria

Stevenson and Chill, Stevenson, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

One Artist – One Minute, Fotohof, Salzburg, Austria

2020

À toi appartient le regard et (...) la liaison infinie entre les choses, Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Paris, France

Pictures from Another Wall, De Pont Museum, Tilburg, The Netherlands

Après (After), Center of Contemporary Art Occitanie, Sète, France

2019

Highly Personal, Stephen Daiter Gallery, Chicago, USA

2018

More for Less, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

Light in Wartime, apexart, New York, USA

We Feed the World, Bargehouse Gallery, London, UK

Hacer Noche, Oaxaca, Mexico

Both, and, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Not the Usual Suspects, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

A Short History of South African Photography, Fotografia Europea 2017: *Time maps. Memory, archives, future*, Chiostri di San Pietro, Reggio Emilia, Italy

Sea Views, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Things Fall Apart, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, Budapest, Hungary

Urban Cadence: Street Scenes from Lagos and Johannesburg, Gund Gallery, Ohio, USA

Après: A Project by Éric Baudelaire, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2016

Gestures and Archives of the Present, Genealogies of the Future: A new lexicon for the biennial, 10th Taipei Biennial, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, China

Things Fall Apart, Calvert 22, London, UK; University of Bayreuth, Germany; Gallery Municipais, Lisbon, Portugal

2015

After Eden/Après Eden - The Walther Collection, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France

History Lesson, Museum Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas, Spain

What Remains is Tomorrow, South African Pavilion, 56th Venice Biennale, Italy

THEOREM: You Simply Destroy the Image I Always Had of Myself, Mana Contemporary, New Jersey, USA

Disputed Landscape: Uncovering History, Camera Austria, Graz, Austria

Past Imperfect//Future Present, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014

Conflict, Time, Photography, Tate Modern, London, UK

Rise and Fall of Apartheid: Photography and the bureaucracy of everyday life, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa

Apartheid and After, Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Public Intimacy: Art and Other Ordinary Acts in South Africa, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA

2013

Earth Matters: Land as material and metaphor in the arts of Africa, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, DC, USA

Present Tense, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal

Unstable Territory: Borders and identity in contemporary art, Centro di Cultura Contemporanea Strozzi, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy

Present Tense, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal; Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian - Délégation en France, Paris, France

My Joburg, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France; Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden, Germany

Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive, The Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany

Transition: Social Landscape, Rencontres d'Arles Festival, Arles, France

Earth Matters, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA

The Loom of the Land, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012

Transitions: Social Landscape Project, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa

Rise and Fall of Apartheid: Photography and the bureaucracy of everyday life, International Center of Photography, New York, USA

Trade Routes Over Time, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Not My War, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Making History, MMK (Museum für Moderne Kunst) Frankfurt, Germany

2011

Topographies of War, Le Bal, Paris, France

Neither Man Nor Stone, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Lens: Fractions of Contemporary Photography and Video in South Africa, Stellenbosch University Art Museum, South Africa

Point of View – Discovery Award, Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France

Appropriated Landscapes, Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany

Figures and Fictions: Contemporary South African Photography, V&A Museum, London, UK

Impressions from South Africa, 1965 to Now, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

For a Sustainable World, Rencontres de Bamako, Mali

2010

This is Our Time, Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

Events of the Self: Portraiture and social identity, Walther Collection, Ulm, Germany

1910-2010: From Pierneef to Gugulethu, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2009

Test Patterns: Recent video work from South Africa, SF Camerawork, San Francisco, USA

Dada South?, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2008

Annual Report: A Year in Exhibitions, Gwangju Biennale, Korea

Cities in Crisis, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Gwangju Biennale, South Korea

Snap Judgments: New positions in contemporary African photography, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee, USA

2007

Zeitgenössische Fotokunst aus Südafrika 2007 (Contemporary Art Photography from South Africa 2007), Neuer Berliner Kunstverein; Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Galerie der Stadt Sindelfingen and Museum Bochum, Germany

Snap Judgments: New positions in contemporary African photography, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

7th Internationalen Foto-Triennale Esslingen 2007, Villa Merkel, Galerien der Stadt Esslingen am Neckar, Germany

Contemporary Art Photography from South Africa 2007, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, travelling to Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Galerie der Stadt Sindelfingen and Museum Bochum, Germany
Isilwane: Pets and Animal Presences, Sub Station Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
Posi+ive: Pulse, Sun City, South Africa

2006

Snap Judgments: New positions in contemporary African photography, International Centre for Photography, New York; Miami Art Central, Miami, Florida, USA
Black, Brown, White: Photography from South Africa, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria
The Unhomely: Phantom scenes in global society, 2nd International Biennial of Contemporary Art (BIACS 2), Seville, Spain

2005

Excentricities, PROGR Zentrum für Kulturproduktion, Bern, Switzerland
Prepossession, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland

2004

City and Country, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994-2004, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Tremor, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi, Belgium
Trouble, Le Grand Café, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Saint-Nazaire, France
Mine(d)fields, Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland
Making Waves, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Unsettled, National Museum for Photography, Copenhagen, Denmark
Resistance, Reconstruction, Reconciliation, Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa

2003

Coexistence: Contemporary cultural production in South Africa, The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Massachusetts, USA
Show Me Home, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
The Other Side of Fine, Photo Fiesta, Medellin, Colombia, South America
Daimler Chrysler Creative Photography Award (finalists' exhibition), Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
Kwere Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2002

Body II: Sublimation, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudsthoorn, South Africa
Iconografias Metropolitanas: Citades on XXV Bienal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
New Strategies, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
In No Particular Order on 16 Rencontres Video Art Plastique, Centre d'Art Contemporain de Basse-Normandie, France

2001

Joubert Park Public Art Project 2001, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

2000

Emotions and Relations, Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Kwere Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness, B block, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa; Gertrude Posel Gallery, University of the Witwaterstrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Tourguides of the Inner City, Market Gallery and sites in the inner city, Johannesburg, South Africa
A.R.E.A. (Art Region End of Africa), Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland
blank-Architecture, Apartheid and after, Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa

1999

Exchange: Recent Works by the Staff of the Wits Fine Art Department, Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Channel, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Truth Veils, Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg; Market Theatre Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa

Emergence, Makhanda Festival; NSA Gallery, Durban; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Lines of sight, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

X-scape: Photography in a new South Africa, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa; Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa; Finnish Museum of Photography, Helsinki, Finland

FNB Vita Art Prize, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

100 x C: Photography in South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

blank-Architecture, Apartheid and after, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany

Wedge, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1998

Art dans le Monde: tendances critiques 1998, Passage de Retz, Paris, France

Dreams and Clouds, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden

blank-Architecture, Apartheid and After, Netherlands Architectural Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

1997

3x10, Hanel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Zone, Generator Art Space, Africus Institute for Contemporary Art, Johannesburg, South Africa

Photo/Synthesis, Makhanda Festival, South Africa

Aborecence Sud-Africaine: des artistes en fin de siecle, CRDC, Nantes Festival, France

Alternating Currents: 1997 Africus Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa

1996

New Art, New Issues, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Artists' Books in the Ginsberg Collection, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Don't mess with Mister In-between, Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal

1994

Biting the Ballot, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

GIF 2, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1993

Limits of Liberty, Wits Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa

1992

The Processed Image, Newtown Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa

GIF, FIG Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

No Man's Land, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1991

Vita Art Now 1990, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1989

Friends of NUSAS (National Union of South African Students), University of Stellenbosch Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

1988

FEDSAW Exhibition of Women's Art, Cape Town, South Africa

1986

Untitled: Work by South African artists, Cape Town Cultural Festival, South Africa (the exhibition was originally titled *About Time: Images of South Africa*, but was banned under the 1986 State of Emergency)

CURATORIAL AND PUBLIC PROJECTS

2004

Johannesburg Circa Now, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

2000

Joubert Park Project, Johannesburg, South Africa

1999

End of Time Pinhole Photography Project, Nieu-Bethesda, Great Karoo, South Africa

Truth Veils, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation and the Wits History Workshop, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

2024

Prix Virginia, Paris, France

2022

Honorary Fellowship, Royal Photographic Society, London, UK

8th Lewis Baltz Research Fund Laureate

2021

Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize Shortlist, London, UK

2008

Ampersand Foundation Fellowship, New York, USA

2001

Christian Meriansstiftung residency, iaab studios, Basel, Switzerland

Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Vallais, Sierre, Switzerland

COLLECTIONS

Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

Art Institute of Chicago, USA

BHP Billiton, Johannesburg, South Africa

Brenthurst Library, Johannesburg, South Africa

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

City of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

Constitutional Court, Johannesburg, South Africa

Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa

Fondation A Stichting, Brussels, Belgium

Fundación Puntos de Encuentro, Colombia

Gauteng Legislative Assembly, Johannesburg, South Africa

Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Katrine Harries Print Cabinet, University of Cape Town, South Africa

MTN Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
SABC Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA
Sandton Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Sasol Art Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
South African Reserve Bank, South Africa
Stellenbosch University, South Africa
The Deutsche Bank Collection, Frankfurt, Germany
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, Germany
University of Cape Town Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
University of South Africa Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa