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PENNY SIOPIS

Born 1953, Vryburg, South Africa
Lives in Cape Town

EDUCATION

1979
Postgraduate course in painting, Portsmouth Polytechnic, England

1976
MA Fine Arts, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

1974
BA Fine Arts, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026
Love in a Turning World, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2024
For Dear Life. A Retrospective, National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMST), Athens, Greece

2023
1997 Ongoing, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Never The Same Water Twice, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Feral Figurations, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2022
For Dear Life, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK

2021
Shame, Stevenson, Cape Town; Art Basel Pioneers
In the Air, Stevenson, Amsterdam

2019
Moving Stories and Travelling Rhythms: Penny Siopis and the many journeys of Skokiaan, National Gallery of Zimbabwe in Bulawayo

Warm Water Imaginaries, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2018

This is a True Story: Six Films (1997 - 2017), Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

2017

Restless Republic, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2016

Penny Siopis: Films, Erg Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Incarnations, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius

2015

Still and Moving, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Time and Again: A Retrospective Exhibition, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

2014

Penny Siopis: Obscure White Messenger, Brandts Museum, Odense, Denmark

Time and Again: A Retrospective Exhibition, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2011

Who's Afraid of the Crowd? Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2010

Furies, Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

Red: The Iconography of Colour in the Work of Penny Siopis, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa

Paintings, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2007

Lasso, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2005

On Stains, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Three Essays on Shame, the Freud Museum, London, UK

Passions and Panics, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2003

Shame, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa; Kappatos Gallery, Athens, Greece

2002

Sympathetic Magic, Gertrude Posel Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Archive, Tropen Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Pinky Pinky and other Xeni, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2000

Zombie, Invited Artist, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa

Flesh Colour, Gasworks Artists' Studios, London, UK

1998

Charmed Lives, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1994

Private Views, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1990

History Paintings, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Invited Artist, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Makhanda; Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

1987

Pictures Within Pictures, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1983

Recent Work, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1982

Cakes, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1980

Hiscock Gallery, Portsmouth, UK

1979

British Council Centre, London, UK

1978

Hellenic Centre, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Collector's Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

12th SITE SANTA FE International: *Once Within a Time*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Afrosonica – Soundscapes, Museum of Ethnography, Geneva, Switzerland

Motherhood, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Ex Situ: A Snapshot of Contemporary South African Abstraction, Anthracite, Zurich, Switzerland

2024

We, the People: 30 Years of Democracy in South Africa, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

When Works Meet, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

Sowing Watermelon Seeds, 16/16, Lagos, Nigeria

Elles d'Abord, Art Absolument, Paris, France

2023

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

A Little After This, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa

If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary South African Art from the Nando's Art Collection, Dallas, Texas, USA

The Artist List, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2022

Enduring Circumstances, Peltz Gallery, Birkbeck University of London, UK

Where Do I Begin, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

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

2021

Stevenson and Chill, Stevenson, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
my whole body changed into something else, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Shadow Shame Again, Peltz Gallery, Birkbeck University of London, UK
Plural Possibilities and the Female Body, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, USA

2020

Witness: Afro Perspectives from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA
Global(e) Resistance, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Blinde Winkel / Blind Corners, Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz eV, Berlin, Germany
Indian Ocean Current: Six Artistic Narratives, McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College, USA

2019

Passing Through, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Crossing Night: Regional Identities X Global Context, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, USA
I Am ... Contemporary Women Artists of Africa, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
Trans World, Nicodim Gallery, Bucharest, Romania; Los Angeles, California

2018

About Face, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Hacer Noche (Crossing Night), Oaxaca, Mexico
Both, and, Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa
The World's Game: Fútbol and Contemporary Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, USA
To see this story better, close your eyes, The Glasgow School of Art, Scotland

2017

The Lotus in Spite of the Swamp, Prospect.4 Biennial, New Orleans, USA
The New Parthenon, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
A Painting Today, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

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
South Africa: The Art of a Nation, British Museum, London, UK
I Love You Sugar Kane, ICA Indian Ocean, Port Louis, Mauritius
Air: Inspiration-Expiration, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Quiet Violence of Dreams, Stevenson Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa
Home Truths, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

After Eden/Après Eden - The Walther Collection, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
Boundary Objects, Kunsthaus Dresden, Germany
The Film Will Always Be You: South African Artists On Screen, Tate Modern, London, UK
16th Dresdner Schmalfilmtage Film Festival, Kunsthaus Dresden, Germany
Angels with Dirty Faces, Galerie Les Filles De Calvaire, Paris, France
Unfinished Conversations, Beirut Art Centre, Lebanon

2014

Thinking, Feeling, Head, Heart, New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
Chroma, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Parle pour toi; reprises, montages, histoires, Marian Goodman Gallery, Paris, France
Public Intimacy: Art and Other Ordinary Acts in South Africa, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, USA
Ngezinyawo: Migrant Journeys, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

2013

Between the Lines, Former Tagesspiegel Building, Berlin, Germany; Michaelis Gallery, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Imaginary Fact: South African art and the archive, South African Pavillion, 55th Venice Biennale, Italy

Possessions (film programme), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

Suspicious Mind: Artists' exploration of mind and matter, Michaelis Gallery, University of Cape Town, South Africa

2012

Fiction as Fiction (Or, A Ninth Johannesburg Biennale), Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

Prism: Drawing from 1990-2011, Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo, Norway

The New Worlds and the Old I: Traffic of Legends, Khiasma, Les Lilas, Paris, France

Mine - A Selection of films by SA artists, Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre; University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Subject as Matter, The New Church, Cape Town, South Africa

2011

What we talk about when we talk about love, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

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

Hantologie des colonies (film screening), École nationale supérieure des Beaux-arts, Paris, France

Water, the [Delicate] Thread of Life, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Appropriated Landscapes, Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm/Burlafingen, Germany

Space, Ritual, Absence: Liminality in South African visual art, FADA Gallery, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Mine - A selection of films by SA artists, Iwalewa-Haus, University of Bayreuth, Germany

2010

PEEKABOO - Current South Africa, Tennis Palace Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland

This is Our Time, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

The Beauty of Distance: Songs of survival in a precarious age, 7th Biennale of Sydney, Australia

Wild is the Wind, Savannah College of Art and Design, Gutstein Gallery Savannah, Georgia, USA

In Other Words, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

Self/Not-self, Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg, South Africa

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

For your eyes only, Den Hvide Kodby, Copenhagen, Denmark

2008

Disguise: The Art of Attracting and Deflecting Attention, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Make Art/Stop Aids, Fowler Museum, Los Angeles, USA

Black Womanhood: Images, Icons and Ideologies of the African Body, Hood Museum, New Hampshire; Davis Museum, Wellesley, Massachusetts; San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, USA

Personal Poetics, 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, China

2007

Desirealities, L'oeil en cascade, Paris, France

Apartheid: the South African Mirror, Centre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, Spain

Afterlife, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Unbound, Tate Modern, Liverpool, England

About Beauty, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Cape '07, International Biennale, Cape Town, South Africa

Impossible Monsters, Art Extra, Johannesburg, South Africa

Lift Off II, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

Figuring Faith: Images of Belief in Africa, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Second to None: South African Women Artists, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Migrations, Belfast Exposed, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Women: Photography and New Media, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

2005

Crusaid: Art for AIDS, Royal College of Art, London, UK

Etchings, Print Center of New York, USA

Out of Place, FLAC, Centrum voor Kunsten en Cultuur in Gent, Belgium

Heimat als Idee/Homeland as Idea, Basis Gallery, Frankfurt, Germany

2004

New Identities: Contemporary South African Art, Museum Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Art from Greece, Feria Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo, Arco, Madrid, Spain

Art Athina, International Art Fair, Athens, Greece

The ID of South African Artists, Fortis Circustheater, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Art Unlimited, MCH Messe, Basel, Switzerland

Mine(d)fields, Kunsthhaus, Basel, Switzerland

Staged Realities Family Ties, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Resistance, Reconciliation, Reconstruction, MTN Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Democracy and Change, Klein Karoo Nationale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, South Africa

2003

Group Portrait South Africa, Tropen Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Kwere-Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Literally and Figuratively, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa

2002

Once Were Painters, Klein Karoo Nationale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, South Africa

AIDS and South Africa: The Social Expression of a Pandemic, Davis Museum and Cultural Centre, Wellesley College, Boston, USA

2001

Africas: The Artist and the City, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Arte, Barcelona, Spain

Sample EP: art of the Eastern Cape, Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2000

Kwere-Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town; Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Secure the Future: Artworks for AIDS, XIII International AIDS conference, Durban, South Africa; Harvard AIDS Institute, Boston, USA

1999

Le Mémoire, Villa Medici, Rome, Italy

Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Museum for African Art, New York; Austin Museum of Art, Texas; Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University; Palo Alto, California; University of Arizona Gallery, Tucson, USA

Truth Veils, Gertrude Posel gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Lines of Sight: Perspectives in South African Photography, South African National Gallery, Cape Town; Bamako Festival of Photography, Mali

1998

Discoveries and Collaboration: 7th International Festival of Photography, Fotofest, Houston, USA
Bringing Up Baby: Artists Survey the Reproductive Body, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Makhanda; Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Democracy's Images: photography and visual art after apartheid, BildMuseet, Umea, Sweden
Eye Africa: Photography of a Continent, Grande Palais, Paris, France; Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
Holdings: Refiguring the Archive, Graduate School of the Humanities and the Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

1997

Contemporary Art From South Africa, The National Touring Exhibitions, Oslo, Norway
Individual and Memory, 6th Havana International Biennial, Havana, Cuba
Alternating Currents, 2nd Johannesburg International Biennale, Electric Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa
Lift Off, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1996

Gay Rights, Rites, Rewrites, Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Earth and Everything: Recent Art from South Africa, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK
Simunye: Ten South African Artists, Adelson Galleries, New York, USA
Faultlines: Enquiries into Truth and Reconciliation, The Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
Don't Mess with Mr In-between: 15 Artists from South Africa, Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal

1995

Black Looks White Myths, Museum Africa, Africus – 1st Johannesburg International Biennale
Taking Liberties - The Body Politic, Wits Galleries, Africus – 1st Johannesburg International Biennale
Vita Art Now, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Objects of Defiance/Spaces of Contemplation, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Panoramas of Passage; Changing landscapes of South Africa, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa; Meridian Center, Washington DC, USA
Siyawela: Love, Loss and Liberation in Art from South Africa, City Museum and Art Galleries, Birmingham, UK
Mayibuye Africa, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, UK
Eight from South Africa, Center for the Arts, San Francisco
Beyond Borders, 1st Gwanju Biennale, South Korea
On the Road: Works by 10 Southern African Artists, Delfina Studio Trust, and London, UK
Panoramas of Passage: Changing Landscapes of South Africa, National Arts Festival, Makhanda; Meridian Center, Washington DC, USA

1994

'Trackings' - History as Memory, Document, Object, Art First Gallery, London, UK
Displacements: South African Works on Paper, 1984-1994, Block Gallery, Evanston, USA
Art, Society, Reflection, 5th Havana International Biennale, Cuba

1993

"Incroci Del Sud" Affinities: Contemporary South African Art, XLV Venice Biennale, Palazzo Giustinian Lolin, Fondazione Levi, Venice, Italy; Sala 1 Gallery, Rome, Italy; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Absent Bodies/Present Lives, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds, England
Southern Cross: Contemporary South African Art, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1992

Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France; Alliance Française Gallery, Durban, South Africa

1991

Vita Art Now, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Cape Town Triennial, Iziko South African National Gallery

Pictures as History, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Albany Museum, Makhanda; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Painted People, Painted Space: Works from South Africa, Zaire, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

1990

Art From South Africa, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK

South African Women's Mail Art, SOHO 20 Gallery, New York, USA

1989

The Portsmouth Collection, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth, UK

1988

Detainees Parent Support Committee Exhibition (DPSC), Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Vita Art Now, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Cape Town Triennial, Iziko South African National Gallery

1987

Culture in Another South Africa, CASA Foundation and the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Oosterkerk, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1986

Volkskas Atelier Award Exhibition, South African Association of Arts, Pretoria

1985

Tributaries, Africana Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

Women Artists in South Africa, South African National Gallery, Cape Town

Tactile - An Exhibition for the Blind and Partially Sighted, Durban Art Museum, South Africa

Cape Town Triennial, South African National Gallery, Cape Town

1984

Inaugural Exhibition, South African Association of Arts, Pretoria

1983

Natal Lecturers Exhibition, Studio Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Works on Paper, Jack Heath Gallery, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg

1982

Cape Town Triennial, South African National Gallery, Cape Town

1977

With Gillian Maylam and Rose Hogge, Settler's Museum, Makhanda

AWARDS

2016

Arts & Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award, South Africa

2015

Helgaard Steyn Prize, South Africa

2002

Klein Karoo Nationale Kunsfees: Best Visual Artist Award, South Africa

1995

Vita Art Now, Quarterly Award Winner, South Africa

1991

Vita Art Now, Special Merit Award, South Africa

1988

Vita Art Now, Quarterly Award Winner, South Africa

Vita Art Now, Merit Award, South Africa

1986

Volkscas Atelier Award, South Africa

1985

Cape Town Triennial, Merit Award, South Africa

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

2023

Lucas Artists Residency, Montalvo Art Center, California

2017

Open Studio/Open Form, The Maitland Institute, Cape Town

2008

Athens School of Arts: Visiting artist residency, Delphi, Greece

2006

Ampersand Foundation Fellowship Residency, New York, USA

2001

Alexander S Onassis Foundation Fellowship, Greece

2000

Swedish Exchange Fellowship, Umea University, Umea, Sweden

Gasworks Studios, London, UK

Artist in residence awarded by the Dutch Ministry of Culture & Education in association with the Tropen Museum / Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunste, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1998

Civitella Ranieri Foundation International Fellowship, Umbria, Italy

1995

Delfina Studio Trust Residency, for africa95 Festival, London, UK

1992

Artist in residence, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa

Visiting Research Fellowship, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK

University Council Overseas Fellowship, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

1986

Cité Internationale des Arts residency, Paris, France

1978

British Council Scholarship for Overseas Study, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

21c Museum, USA

Afrox, Johannesburg, South Africa

Anglo American Corporation, Johannesburg, South Africa

Art Institute of Chicago, USA

BHP Billiton, Australia

Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

Centre Pompidou, Paris

Chase Manhattan Bank Art Collection, New York, USA

Constitutional Court of South Africa, Johannesburg

Durban Art Museum, South Africa

Durban University of Technology, South Africa

Gencor, Johannesburg, South Africa

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, University of the Free State, South Africa

MTN, South Africa

Museum of Modern Art, Stockholm, Sweden

National Gallery of Zimbabwe, Harare

National Museum of Contemporary Art (EMΣT), Athens, Greece

Nedcor, Johannesburg, South Africa

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gqeberha, South Africa

The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

Pérez Art Museum, Miami

Peter Stuyvesant Collection, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa

Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

Rupert Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Sandton Civic Gallery Collection, housed at Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa

Sasol Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa

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

South African Broadcasting Corporation, Johannesburg, South Africa

Standard Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa

Tate Modern, London, UK

Trust Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa

University of South Africa, Pretoria

The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm/Burlafingen, Germany

William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, South Africa

Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER), Johannesburg, South Africa

World Bank, Washington, DC, USA