SANELL AGGENBACH

(b. 1975, Cape Town, South Africa)

Sanell Aggenbach's work deals primarily with the intersection of history and private narratives by considering the process of recall and interpretation. Her work displays an accomplished virtuosity as she moves comfortably between the various disciplines of painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Since 2003, Aggenbach has focused mainly on subverted feminine tropes and feminist themes. In recent work she subtly and mischievously reframed the hobbyist art of flower arranging by appropriating the traditionally masculine art of Japanese Ikebana. Her sculptural work, primarily in bronze, parodies Western masterpieces from Michelangelo to Henry Moore and Warhol. Aggenbach takes a refreshing look at these pivotal references from a woman's perspective.

Aggenbach currently lives and works in Woodstock, Cape Town. Her explorative work has secured her many achievements including winning the Absa L'Atelier Award in 2003. Her work is represented in numerous public and private collections, including Sasol, Absa, Spier, SABC, Red Bull (Austria), the South African National Gallery, 21C Museum in Kentucky (USA) and Anglo Gold.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025	PAST LIVES / NEW WORKS, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2023	Nightshade, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, SA
2021	The Great LullIII, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town, SA
2019	The Heart Has Many Rooms, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
2017	Bend to Her Will, WHATIFTHEWORLD, Cape Town/Johannesburg, SA
2015	Atopia, NWU Gallery, Potchefstroom, SA
2013	Familia Obscura, Brundyn Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2011	SOME DANCE TO REMEMBER SOME DANCE TO FORGET, Blank Projects, Cape Town, SA
2009	Graceland, Gallery AOP, Johannesburg, SA
2008	Sub Rosa, João Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2007	Perfectly Still, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
2005	Fools Gold, Bell Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, SA
2003	Blank, AVA, Cape Town, SA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025	invested Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2024	Inner Sanctum, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
	Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
	FNB Art Joburg, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
	The Night, Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art, Salzburg, Austria
2023	If You Look Hard Enough You Can See Our Future, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
2023	Bitches Brew, Everard Read Johannesburg, SA
2022	Seeds of the Fig, Reservoir & Whatiftheworld X Krone, Twee Jonge Gezellen, Tulbagh, SA
2021	Between Strangers, Nuweland Gallery, Netherlands
2020	Against Interpretation? Everard Read Gallery, London, UK
2020	Over The Rainbow, Red Bull Hangar-7, Salzburg, Austria
2019	MERDELAMERDELAMERDELAMERDELAMER, curated by Kendell Geers,bMario
	Mauroner Contemporary Art, Vienna, Austria
2018	In the Forests of the Night, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
2015	Foreign Bodies, Whatiftheworld, Cape Town, SA

2001 From A Netherworld, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, SA

2014	20 Years of Democracy, Appalachian State University, North Carolina, USA
2012	Positive Tension, Whatiftheworld Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2012	Seeing Eye, Brundyn + Gonsalves, Cape Town, SA
2012	Paint I, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2011	Alptraum, Deutscher Künstlerbund, Berlin, Germany
2010	Twenty, contemporary public sculpture, Nirox, Johannesburg, SA
2007	Arcadia, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2007	Turbulence, Hangar-7, Salzburg, Austria
2005	Sweet Nothings, new photographic work, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, SA
2004	2 nd Spier Outdoor Sculpture Biennial, Stellenbosch, SA
2003	YDESIRE, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, SA

2001 Micro/Macro, South African Printmakers at the Xchanges Gallery, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

2015	Aardklop Festival artist, Potchefstroom, SA
2009	Ampersand fellowship, New York, USA
2003	Winner of the 2003 Absa L'Atelier, SA
1999	Selected for the UNESCO-Aschberg Residency programme, Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, India

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town Absa Collection Anglo Gold South Africa Hollard Collection Sasol Collection Spier Collection Didata SABC Labour 24 Pty Ltd Red Bull Collection, Salzburg, Austria New Church Museum 21C Museum in Kentucky

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2025	Conall Aggaphagh
	Sanell Aggenbach
2013	Familia Obscura
2009	Graceland Catalogue
2007	Turbulence, Hangar-7, Austria
	Sanell Aggenbach Catalogue
	Artinvestor, Germany
	Art South Africa Vol. 5, Issue 04; Page 82 (Review)
2005	Cape Town Month of Photography
2004	2 nd Spier Sculpture Biennale Catalogue
	Sasol Art Museum, University of Stellenbosch
2003	ABSA L'Atelier Catalogue
	Art South Africa Vol. 02, Issue 01; Page 14 (Review)
2002	Spier Sculpture Biennale Catalogue