

# Clive van den Berg



## Biography

Clive van den Berg (b. 1956, Luanshya, Zambia) is a Johannesburg-based artist, curator and designer who has focused on pioneering the insertion of queer perspectives into the larger rewrite of South African history throughout the course of his prolific forty-year career. Van den Berg has produced a range of works spanning a variety of mediums delve into the porous nature of human existence and the landscapes we inhabit, creating a profound commentary on vulnerability, memory, and the intersection of personal and collective histories.

Van den Berg's retrospective, titled *Porous*, took place at the Wits Art Museum in August 2024, and was accompanied by a major new book published by Skira.

In his paintings, he delves into the porous nature of land, acting as a vessel for lived experiences and unearthing unresolved layers beneath its surface. Within Van den Berg's practice, the landscapes serve as a departure point, transcending physicality to evoke a haunting absence that guide viewers through imagined topographies. Van den Berg's sculptural practice is equally captivating, focusing on the male form and the symbolic resonance of skin to explore themes of vulnerability and exposure. Through this vulnerability, he challenges traditional notions of masculinity and brings to light the ever-present spectre of mortality. His work serves as a poignant meditation on love, loss, and resilience.

His public projects have included the artworks for landmark Northern Cape Legislature and, since he has joined the trace team, museum projects for the Nelson Mandela Foundation, Constitution Hill, Freedom Park, the Workers Museum, The Holocaust and Genocide Centre and many other projects.

Solo exhibitions include: *Porous*, Wits Art Museum (2024); *Remembering*, a survey exhibition of paintings, prints and sculptures, Kwa-Zulu Natal Society of Art Gallery, Durban (2021); *Personal Affects*, Museum of African Art, New York (2005).

Major curated exhibitions include: *If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary South African Art from the Nando's Art Collection*, The African American Museum of Dallas, Dallas (2023); *Breaking Down the Walls: 150 years of Art Collecting*, Iziko SANG, Cape Town (2023); *Screening of Memorials Without Facts: Men Loving*, São Paulo Museum of Art, São Paulo (2018); *Earth Matters: Lands as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C. (2013-2014).

Collections include: *El Espacio 23*, Miami; *Amant Foundation*, New York; *A4 Arts Foundation*, Cape Town; *Wits Art Museum*, Johannesburg; *Spier Arts Trust*, London; *Iziko South African National Gallery*, Cape Town; *Smithsonian Museum of African Art*, Washington DC and *Video Brasil*, Sao Paulo.

Van den Berg lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2022** *Fugitive Marks*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2021** *Remembering*, KwaZulu-Natal Association for the Arts, Durban, South Africa
- 2019** *Line of Beauty*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *A Pile of Stones*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016** Johannesburg Art Fair
- 2013** *Land Throws Up a Ghost*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *Coming to the City*, London, United Kingdom
- 2012** *Man Loses City*, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011** *Soundings, In Passage*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008** *New Works*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006** *Skin and Ghosts*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005** *Personal Affects*, Museum of African Art, New York, USA
- 2003** *Love's Ballast* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *Memorial Without Facts*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1998** *Clive Van Den Berg*, Mark Coetzee Fine Art Cabinet, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1998** *Men Loving, Memorials Without Facts*, Gertrude Posel Gallery Johannesburg, Wits University, South Africa
- 1996** *Men Loving*, The Castle, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1993** *Clive Van Den Berg* Johannes Stegmann Gallery, University of the Orange Free State, South Africa
- 1991** *Clive Van Den Berg* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1987** *Clive Van Den Berg* Karen McKerron Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1986** *Clive Van Den Berg* Loft Theatre Gallery, Durban, South Africa

**1984** *Clive Van Den Berg* Gallery International, Cape Town, South Africa

## Group Exhibitions

**2021** *Lasting Influences*, curated by Neil Dundas, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2021** *Power of 35! Absa L'Atelier 35th Celebration* Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2018** *Gaze*, curated by Gareth Morris-Davies, Goodman Gallery Video Room, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2018** *Screening of Memorials Without Facts: Men Loving*, Sao Paulo Museum of Art, Brazil  
**2017** *Forms of Resistance*, Outburst Festival, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast, Ireland  
**2016** *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2015** *Quem nasce pra aventura nao toma outro rumo*, Paco das Artes, São Paulo, Brazil  
**2013-2014** *Earth Matters: Lands as Material and Metaphor in the Arts of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C., USA  
**2013** *Art Basel Hong Kong*, Hong Kong  
**2009** *Sculptures in the Landscape*, Nirox Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2008** *Make Art/Stop AIDS*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, LA, USA  
**2008** *Perfect Lover* curated by David Brodie at ArtExtra Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2008** *The New Republics*, Exhibition and Digital Archive  
**2007** *Basel Art Fair*, Basel, Switzerland  
**2005** *Personal Affects*, Contemporary Art Museum, Honolulu; and Museum for African Art New York, USA  
**2004** *Tremor*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi, Belgium  
**2004** *Ties That Bind*, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
**2004** *Voice – Overs: Wits Writings Exploring African Artwork*, Standard Bank Gallery Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2004** *Voice – Overs*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2003** *Red Eye*, Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
**2002** *Video Formes International Video Festival*, Clermont Ferrand, France  
**2001** *Artists Against AIDS*, curated by Marilyn Martin and Kyle Kauffmann, Boston, USA  
**2000** *Videobrasil*, São Paulo, Brazil  
**2000** *FNB Vita Finalists exhibition*, NSA Gallery Durban, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2000** *Contemporary South African Landscape*, UNISA Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
**1999** *The New Republics* Canada House Gallery, London, UK  
**1999** *Truth Veils* Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1999** *Atelier Winners* ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1999** *Canvas* Bellville Association of Art Gallery, Bellville, South Africa  
**1999** *Wedge* NSA Gallery, Durban (Wits, Fine Arts Staff Show), South Africa  
**1999** *Microwave*, Hong Kong  
**1999** *Urban Futures*, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1999** *Emotions and Relations* Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa, curated by Hentie van der Merwe  
**1998** *!Xoe*, Site Specific, Nieu Bethesda, South Africa  
**1998** *Refiguring the Archive* University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1998** *Bringing Up Baby* Standard Bank Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, South Africa  
**1998** *Dreams and Clouds* Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden  
**1998** *A Common Wealth of Art* National Gallery of Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
**1997** *Unplugged* Market Theatre Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1997** *Purity and Danger*, Gertrude Posel Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa  
**1997** *Purity and Danger*, Art First Gallery, London, England, UK  
**1997** *District Six Sculpture Festival* Cape Town, South Africa  
**1997** Johannesburg Biennale, opening performance, Cape Town, South Africa  
**1996** *Gay Rights, Rites, Re-writes*, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1996** *Colours: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany  
**1996** *Fault Lines*, Cape Town Castle, Cape Town, South Africa  
**1995** *Sometimes: Histories of Time*, Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa  
**1995** *Minedump*, site installation with fire, stones and pigment. Geldenhuys Interchange and Crown Mines, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1994** *Displacements: South African Works on Paper*, Block Gallery, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA  
**1993** *Graphic Creativa*, Alvar Aalto Museum and Museum of Central Finland, Finland

## Awards and Merits

**2007** Gateway Public Sculpture Competition, Braamfontein, Johannesburg  
**2001** Civitella Raniera Foundation Fellowship  
**2000** FNB Vita Awards Finalist  
**1998-02** Part of team that won the competition to design the New Legislature Buildings for the Northern Cape, with Luis Ferreira da Silva Architects  
**1998** Finalist and award winner Michelin International Art Competition (video), Paris  
**1987** Volkskas Atelier Young Artist Award, overall winner  
**1985** "Paperworks", N.S.A. Gallery, Durban, overall winner  
**1985** Natal Arts Trust, Natal museums, overall winner

## Academic Record and Residencies

**1979** B.A.F.A. University of Natal, South Africa

## Collections

Iziko, South African National Gallery, Cape Town  
Johannesburg Art Gallery  
Durban Art Museum  
King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth  
Pretoria Art Gallery  
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg  
William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley

Local History Museum, Durban  
Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein  
Natal Provincial Administration  
Margate Municipality  
University of the Witwatersrand Art Galleries University of Natal  
University of South Africa  
University of the Orange Free State  
Technikon Natal  
Mobil Oil  
Volkskas Bank  
Mangosuthu Technikon  
Telkom  
Trust Bank  
Everite  
Sasol  
Anglo American Corporation  
BHP Billiton  
MTN  
SABC  
Didata

## Commissions

- 2008** Baragwanath Taxi Rank, Soweto. "Commuter" Public Sculpture  
**2008** Alf Khumalo: The Soccer Images, Soccerex, Johannesburg.  
**2007/8** Tracks. Constitution Hill and other venues in South Africa. An exhibition that maps queer Johannesburg over six decades using the testimony of gay men.  
**2007** Siyanikhumbula/We are missing you Constitution Hill, Johannesburg.  
Home Affairs, Apartheid Museum, Johannesburg. An exhibition that explores the Civil Unions Act in South Africa.  
**2006** Public Sculptures. Baragwanath Taxi Rank, Soweto. A series of large public sculptures in and around the new Taxi Rank opposite Baragwanath Hospital.  
**2006** Gandhi: A Prisoner of Conscience. Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. A Prisoner of Conscience is a new permanent exhibition at Constitution Hill that focuses on the years Gandhi spent in Johannesburg from 1902 until 1914.  
**2006** Mapping Memory. Constitution Hill. The project brought ex-prisoners who were imprisoned in the Women's Jail and Number Four back to the site to give material form to memories that have been made fragile by the passage of time.  
**2005** Izipho – Madiba's Gifts. Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg. An exhibition based around the numerous gifts that Nelson Mandela has received ranging from the humble to the grand, from the Nobel Prize for Peace to items of clothing.  
Women's Jail, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. The Women's Jail at Constitution Hill is the first museum in the country devoted to telling the story of the prison experiences of women during the colonial and apartheid era.  
**2004** 466/64 A Prisoner in the Garden Nelson Mandela Foundation, Johannesburg. 466/64 – A Prisoner in the Garden is the first step in the long and exciting process of recovering and exhibiting Mandela's prison archive. The exhibition shows hitherto unseen photographs and documents related to Mandela's twenty-seven years of imprisonment.  
**2004** Number Four: Constitution Hill, Johannesburg. A permanent exhibition developed in Number Four, a former apartheid prison in Johannesburg. The exhibition in the former cells gives a sense of life in the prison using the voices of former prisoners.  
**2003** Constitution Square Hoardings, Constitution Square, Johannesburg.  
**1998-02** Artworks New Legislature Buildings, Northern Cape Province with Ferreira da Silva Architects.

## Publications

- 2004** Perryer, S (ed). 10 years, 100 Artists: Art in a Democratic South Africa. Bell-Roberts Publishing in association with Stuk Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa.  
**2004** The Brett Kebble Art Awards, Barret L, Marulelo, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2003** Stevenson, M and Rosholt, A. *Moving in Time and Space: Shifts between abstraction and representation in post war South African Art*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa.  
**2001** Frost, L. Jeremy Wafer, *Taxi-003*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
**2002** Tumuli: Conversations with Jeremy Wafer, Jeremy Wafer: Survey, Sasol Art Museum, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
**2002** The Scheme of Things, FNB Vita Art Prize, Goodman Gallery Editions Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1997** Trade Routes: History and Geography, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1997** Geers, K (ed). *Contemporary South Africa Art. The Gencor Collection*, Johannesburg, South Africa.  
**1997** Hobbs, P. and Rankin, E. *Printmaking in a transforming South Africa*. David Phillip, Cape Town, South Africa.  
**1996** Williamson, S. and Jamal, A. 'the future present' in Phillip, D. *Art in South Africa: the future present* Cape Town, South Africa.  
**1994** Rankin, E. *Images of Metal Johannesburg*, Wits University Press, Johannesburg South Africa.  
**1994** Journais, J-Y. *Un Art Contemporain d'Afrique du Sud Paris*, Editions Plume, Paris, France.  
**1991** Strano, C. *Il Sud del Mondo: l'altra arte contemporanea* Milan, Mazzotta, Italy.  
**1990** Williamson, S. *Resistance Art in South Africa*, David Phillip Publishers and Catholic Institute for International Relations, Cape Town, South Africa.

## Selected Articles and Reviews

- 2011** Jacki McInnes, *Clive Van Den Berg*, Art South Africa, South Africa  
**2011** Mary Corrigan, *Reimagining The Land*, The Sunday Independent, South Africa  
**2003** Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer and Sandile Zulu*, www.artthrob.co.za, August  
**2002** Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer at the Sasol Art Museum*, www.artthrob.co.za, November  
**2000** Smith, K, *Life Sciences: Jeremy Wafer*, www.artthrob.co.za, November  
**1996** Enwezor, O, *FNB Vita Art Now*, Frieze, Issue 30, September, p. 84