



## **BERNI SEARLE**

Born in 1964 in Cape Town, South Africa. Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

### **EDUCATION**

- 1987** BA in Fine Art, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town  
**1988** postgraduate diploma in Education, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town  
**1995** Master's degree in sculpture, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2026** *Light, as a feather*, PSM, Berlin, Germany
- 2025** *Sugar Girls*, Open studio, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023** *Having but little Gold*, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *Mantle*, Richard Saltoun Gallery, London, UK
- 2019** *A Place in the Sun*, Gallery in the Round, National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa  
*Press II Pause*, Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015** *Stygend*, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees (KKNK), Oudtshoorn, South Africa
- 2013** *Refuge*, La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France
- 2011** *Shimmer*, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Interlaced*, De Hallen, Belfry of Bruges, Bruges, Belgium  
*Interlaced*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem (MMKA), Arnhem, Netherlands  
*Interlaced*, 49 Nord 6 Est Frac Lorraine, Metz, France
- 2008** *Across Oceans*, Transit Art Space, Stavanger, Norway  
*Day for Night*, Stavanger 2008 EU Project, Obrestad Lighthouse, Norway  
*Recent work 2007/8*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2007** *Approach*, Krannert Museum, Champaign, Illinois, USA  
*Approach*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006** *Approach*, University of South Florida, Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, Florida, USA  
*Crush*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005** *To love, to fear, to leave*, Performa05, Angel Orensanz Foundation, New York, New York, USA  
*Berni Searle: 3 video works*, BildMuseet, Umeå, Sweden  
*About to forget*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Presence*, Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA
- 2004** *Vapour*, Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa  
*Berni Searle*, City of London Festival, Royal Exchange Building, Museum of London, Docklands Museum, London, UK  
*Vapour*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa

- Dis/Colour*, Morlan Gallery, Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, USA
- Float*, Standard Bank Young Artist 2003, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Float*, Standard Bank Young Artist 2003, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003** *Float*, Standard Bank Young Artist 2003, Monument Gallery, Grahamstown, South Africa
- Berni Searle*, Kunst:Raum Sylt-Quelle, Rantum, Sylt, Germany
- The Space Between*, Davis Museum and Cultural Centre, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- A Matter of Time*, MATRIX programme, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California, USA
- 2002** *Berni Searle*, Peres Projects, San Francisco, California, USA
- Berni Searle*, Galerie Seippel, Cologne, Germany
- 2001** *Still*, Axis Gallery, New York, New York, USA
- Colour Matters*, Kunsthalle Stadtgalerie, Osnabrück, Germany
- 2000** *Residency Work*, Institute of the Visual Arts (INOVA), University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
- 1999** *Colour Me*, Mark Coetzee Fine Art Cabinet, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1995** *Illusions of Identity – Notions of Nationhood*, MFA graduate exhibition, Good Hope Gallery, The Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1992** *Passing Through*, Canberra Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** 61<sup>ST</sup> Venice Biennale. *In Minor Keys*, curated by Koyo Kouoh, Giardini and Arsenale, Venice, Italy
- Art Basel: Unlimited, curated by Ruba Katrib, Basel, Switzerland
- 2025** *Motherhood: Paradox and Duality*. South African National Gallery. Cape Town
- 2023** *Between Borders; Migration, power and boundless imagination*. Museum Arnhem, Arnhem, the Netherlands
- The Struggle of Memory*. Curated by Kerry Greenberg. Palais Populaire, Berlin, Germany
- Here I am!* Kunsthalle Emden, Emden, Germany
- Trace – Formations of Likeness: Photography and Video from the Walther Collection*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
- Freedom, I dream up for myself and others*. Stellenbosch Outdoor Photography exhibition, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future*. Travelling exhibition in USA, various venues
- Thinking Historically in the Present*, Sharjah Biennial 15, Sharjah, UAE
- Empowerment*. Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany
- 2022** *Shifting Dialogues: Photography from the Walther Collection*, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, K21, Düsseldorf, Germany
- Liminal Identities in the Global South*, Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation (JCAF), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021** *Photographs in our mother tongue*, Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

- Contra la raza*, PhotoEspaña 2021, Matadero, Madrid, Spain
- 2020** *Goddesses of Healing*, M.Bassy, Hamburg, Germany
- Contemporary Female Identities in the Global South*, Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation (JCAF), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Made Routes: Mapping and Making*, Richard Saltoun, London, UK
- Yithi Laba*, Market Photo Workshop, Newtown, Johannesburg
- Evoking Reality: Constituting actuality in photography and video art*, Daimler Art Collection, Daimler Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
- 2018** *About Face*, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
- Social Work*, Frieze London, London, UK
- Eye of the Beholder*, Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, USA
- Continental Drift: Black/Blak Art from South Africa and North Australia*, Cairns Art Museum, Cairns, Australia
- Both, and, Stevenson*, Cape Town, South Africa
- Cape to Tehran*, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Athlone in Mind*, Centre for Humanities Research (University of Western Cape), Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
- A world to tell*, Padiglione D'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
- 2016** *Lucy's Iris*, Musée de Rochechouart, Rochechouart, France
- Senses of Time: Video and Film-based works of Africa*, Wellin Museum of Art, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, USA
- Senses of Time: Video and Film-based works of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of Art, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2015** *Senses of Time: Video and Film-based works of Africa*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, California, USA
- Between Democracies 1989–2014: Commemoration and Memory*, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
- The film will always be you*, Tate Modern, London, UK
- Analogue Eye*, 18th Schillertage International Festival, Benjamin Franklin Village, Mannheim, Germany
- Representations of Otherness and Resistance*, Johannes Stegman Gallery, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- Art of Human Rights, Arts for Humanity*, Durban University of Technology Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- Chroma*, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *Nevralgies*, Galerie Maia Muller, Paris, France
- Earth Matters*, Fowler Museum UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Earth Matters*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA
- Public Intimacy: Art and Other Ordinary Acts in South Africa*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in conjunction with San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, California, USA

- 2013 *Terminal, LAND*, organised by GIPCA, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Distance and Desire: Encounters with the African Archive*, The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, Germany  
*Earth Matters*, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2012 *The Human Condition*, Bradbury Gallery, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, USA  
*DAK'ART 2012*, Dakar Biennale, National Gallery, Dakar, Senegal  
*Cinema Remixed & Reloaded 2.0: Black Women and the moving image since 1970*, 11th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba  
*Black smoke rising trilogy*, Ron Mandos Gallery, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2011 *Pictures by Women: A History of Modern Photography*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, USA  
*Figures and Fictions*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
*Space, Ritual, Absence: Liminality in South African Visual Art*, FADA Gallery, University of Johannesburg Bunting Road Campus, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Variations*, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada  
*Alterating Conditions: Performing Performance Art in South Africa*, GoetheonMain in collaboration with the Bag Factory Artists' Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Afropolis*, Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Cologne, Germany  
*Collaborations/Articulations*, FADA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 *Events of Self: Portraiture and Social Identity*, The Walther Collection, Neu-Ulm, Germany  
*The Dissolve*, 8th International Biennial, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA  
*SPace: Currencies in Contemporary African Art*, Museum Africa, Newton, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Seeking Refuge*, Cantor Arts Centre, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA
- 2009 *Summer 2009/10: Projects*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Spirit of '76*, Cantor Arts Centre, Stanford University, Stanford, California, USA  
*An Imagined State*, Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), Lagos, Nigeria  
*Undercover: Performing and Transforming Black Identities*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
*A life less ordinary*, Djanogly Gallery, Nottingham, UK  
*La modernité dans l'art Africain d'aujourd'hui*, Panafrican Cultural Festival, Algiers, Algeria  
*REBELLE: Art and Feminism 1969–2009*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem (MMKA), Arnhem, Netherlands  
*10th Havana Biennial*, Havana, Cuba  
*Beauty and Pleasure in South African Contemporary Art*, Stenersen Museum, Oslo, Norway  
*Continental Rifts*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA  
*Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body*, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California, USA
- 2008 *Transnational Convergences in African Digital Art*, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Canada  
*Traversiá*, Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Canary Islands  
*On Reflection: women artists selected from the collections of Glynn Vivian Art Gallery and*

- Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales*, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, Wales
- Home Lands/Land Marks*, Haunch of Venison, London, UK
- Disguise: The art of attracting and deflecting attention*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
- Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body*, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA
- Black Womanhood: Images, Icons, and Ideologies of the African Body*, Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts, USA
- Cross-Currents in Recent Video Installation*, Harn Museum, Gainesville, Florida, USA
- Darkroom: Photography and New Media in South Africa 1950–Present*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA
- 2007 *African Art Today: Diversity and Diaspora*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- Bare life, On The Seam*, Contemporary Art Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- Inscribing Meaning*, Fowler Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Apartheid: The South African Mirror*, Centre de Cultura Contemporània, Barcelona and Bancaja, Spain
- Cinema Remixed and Reloaded: Black Women Artists and the Moving Image Since 1970*, Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- New Photography 2007*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, USA
- Re:Print Re:Present Re:View*, Temple Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- Figuratively Speaking: The Figure in Contemporary Video Art*, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Brisbane, Australia
- The Eye Screen or The New Image*, Casino Luxembourg Forum for Contemporary Art, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg
- CAPE '07*, Cape Town, South Africa
- Global Feminisms*, Elizabeth A. Sackler Centre, Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York, USA
- 2006 *Venice-Istanbul*, Istanbul Modern, Istanbul, Turkey
- Second to None*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 7th Dakar Biennale*, Dakar, Senegal
- Personal Affects: Power and Poetics in Contemporary South African Art*, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
- 2006 *Contemporary Commonwealth*, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Melbourne, Australia
- Cross Currents*, Tufts University Art Gallery, Medford, Massachusetts, USA
- Black, Brown and White*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria
- 2005 *A Kind of Magic: The Art of Transforming*, Museum of Art, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Always a Little Further*, 51st Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- TEXTures: Word and Symbol in Contemporary African Art*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
- 2004 *Negotiated Identities, Black Bodies*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- “Dwellan” – Lingering Images*, Charlottenborg Exhibition Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark

- Horizons: Voices from a Global Africa*, Museum of World Culture, Göteborg, Sweden
- 5th Shanghai Biennale*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- Personal Affects: Power and Poetics in Contemporary South African Art*, Cathedral of St John the Divine and Museum for African Art, New York, New York, USA
- Hang In There, My Dear Geum-Sun*, Busan Biennale, Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
- Min(e)dfields*, Kunsthaus Baselland, Basel, Switzerland
- New Identities – Current South African Art*, Museum Bochum, Bochum, Germany
- Through the Looking Glass*, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- Artes Mundi Shortlisted Artists Exhibition*, National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff, Wales
- 2003 *Opzij van het Kijken*, Watou Art and Literature Festival, Watou, Germany
- Home and Away*, NMAC Montenegro Arte Contemporaneo, Vejer de la Frontera, Cádiz, Spain
- More than 1000 words*, Centre for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, USA
- Contact Zones: Colonial and Contemporary*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- De ce côté du ciel – UNESCO salue les femmes dans l'art*, Salle des Pas Perdus, Palais-de-Justice, Paris, France
- 2002 *The Spice Route*, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), Stuttgart, Germany
- The Field's Edge: Africa, Diaspora, Lens*, University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, Florida, USA
- Watching Ocean and Sky Together*, Liverpool Biennale, Liverpool, UK
- Familieverhalen uit Zuid Afrika*, Tropen Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- I.D./OLOGY*, Axis Gallery, New York, New York, USA
- Tracing the Rainbow*, Kunst:raum Sylt-Quelle, Rantum, Germany
- Tracing the Rainbow*, Kulturverein Zehntscheuer, Rottenburg am Neckar, Germany
- Fronteras*, Espacio C, Santander, Spain
- Dis-location*, Sala Rekalde, Bilbao, Spain
- Dis-location*, Centro Cultural De Maia, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal
- 2001 *Authentic/Ex-centric: Africa in and out of Africa*, 49th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- Encounters with the Contemporary*, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington, D.C., USA
- Dis-Locations*, PHotoEspaña 2001, Madrid, Spain
- Juncture*, The Granary, Cape Town, South Africa
- A.r.e.a. 2000*, Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2000 *L'Afrique à Jour*, Lille, France
- Returning the Gaze*, One City Festival, Cape Town, South Africa
- L'art dans le monde*, Paris, France
- FNB Vita Art Prize 2000*, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Artworks for Aids*, Durban, South Africa; Washington, D.C., USA; Brussels, Belgium; Boston, Massachusetts, USA

- DAK'ART 2000*, Dakar Biennale, Musee d'Art Africain, Dakar, Senegal
- Insertion*, Apex Gallery, New York, New York, USA
- Kwere Kwere: Journeys into Strangeness*, The Castle, Cape Town; Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg; NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- Distinguished Identities: Contemporary African Portraiture*, Staller Centre for the Arts, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York, USA
- Open Studio*, Gasworks, London, UK
- Portrait Africa*, House of World Cultures, Berlin, Germany
- 1999 *Staking Claims*, The Granary, Cape Town, South Africa
- Postcards from South Africa*, Axis Gallery, New York, New York, USA
- Lines of Sight: Perspectives on South African Photography*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Emergence*, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- The TRC: Commissioning the Past*, Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Isintu: Ceremony, Identity and Community*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Bloodlines/Bloedlyn*, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, South Africa
- Towards – Transit: New Visual Languages in South Africa*, Blauer Saal and Galerie Ziegler, Zürich, Switzerland
- Truth Veils*, Gertrude Posel Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1998 *7th International Cairo Biennale*, Cairo, Egypt
- 1997 *Life's Little Necessities*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1995 International Exhibition of Art Colleges, Hiroshima, Japan

## AWARDS

- 2015 Mbokodo Award, Visual Arts
- 2014 Rockefeller Bellagio Creative Arts Fellow
- 2010 Creative Puma Travel Grant
- 2004 Artes Mundi Shortlisted Artist
- 2003 Standard Bank Young Artist for Visual Art
- 2001 Civitella Ranieri Fellow
- 2000 FNB Vita Art Prize Finalist
- 2000 DAK'ART 2000 Minister of Culture Prize
- 2000 DaimlerChrysler Award for South African Contemporary Art Nominee
- 2000 British Council Grant, Gasworks Residency
- 1998 UNESCO, in conjunction with the International Art Critics Association (AICA) Award, 7<sup>th</sup> International Cairo Biennale

## RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Maitland Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

- 2014** Rockefeller Centre, Bellagio, Italy
- 2003** Kunst:Raum Sylt-Quelle, Sylt, Germany
- 2001** Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, Umbria, Italy
- 2000** Fresh, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2000** Gasworks, London, UK
- 1999** Institute of the Visual Arts (INOVA) at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
- 1998** Isintu: Robben Island Workshop
- 1992** Canberra Institute of the Arts, Canberra, Australia