

## CONRAD BOTES

Conrad Botes è nato nel 1969, Ladismith, Western Cape e vive attualmente a Cape Town. Conrad ha ottenuto un Master di Fine Arts all'Università di Stellenbosch (1997) e un diploma in Second Phase Illustration alla Koninklijke Akademie voor Beeldende Kunsten, Den Haag, nei Paesi Bassi. Cresciuto in Sud Africa sotto l'Apartheid, il lavoro di Conrad affronta questioni di razza e della condizione umana con una serie di immagini di cartoni animati post-pop. La sua satira pungente, spesso diretta alla società sudafricana, alla politica e alla religione, è incanalata sia nella sua pittura e incisione, sia nel suo fumetto che è stato pubblicato nella serie Bitterkomix, insieme a quelli del suo frequente collaboratore Anton Kannemeyer, fin dai primi anni '90. Ha partecipato a diverse mostre collettive in tutto il mondo: "Victims and Martyrs" al Gothenburg Kunsthalle, Svezia, alla 17 Biennale di Sydney, Australia e alla terza Guangzhou Triennial, China.

Conrad Botes was born in 1969 in Ladismith, Western Cape, and currently lives in Cape Town. He obtained a Master's degree in Fine Arts at the University of Stellenbosch (1997) and a Diploma in Second Phase Illustration at the Koninklijke Akademie voor Beeldende Kunsten, Den Haag, in the Netherlands. Conrad grew up in South Africa during the period of Apartheid, so his work tackles serious issues of race and human condition through a series of post-pop cartoon imagery. His biting satire is channelled into both his painting and printmaking and it is frequently directed at South African society, politics and religion. Since the early 1990s his comix have been published in the Bitterkomix series, together with those of his frequent collaborator Anton Kannemeyer. He took part to important group exhibitions, including Victims and Martyrs at the Gothenburg Kunsthalle, Sweden (2011); the 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010); the third Guangzhou Triennial, China (2008); Africa Comics at the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2007) and the 2006 Havana Biennale (1994).

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2014

"Wounds of the past", .MContemporary, Sydney

2012

"Zombie Babylon", Stevenson, Johannesburg

2011

"The Temptation to Exist", Stevenson, Cape Town

2010

"On Earth as It Is in Heaven", KZNSA Gallery, Durban

"House of Judas", Fred, London

2009

"Crime and Punishment", Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg

"Hostile Territory", Aardklop arts festival, Potchefstroom

"Cain and Abel", Michael Stevenson, Cape Town

2007

"Satan's Choir at the Gates of Heaven", Michael Stevenson, Cape Town

2005

"Conrad Botes", ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg

"Notes from Underground", Gallery Momo, Johannesburg

"Devil's Bullets", Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town

2004

"Forensic Theatre", Gallery Momo, Johannesburg

"Conrad Botes", Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg

2003

"The Big White Sleep", The Scene Gallery, New York City

"The Big White Sleep", Galleria L' Ariete, Bologna, Italy

2002

"Conrad Botes", Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS - selection**

2018

"Making Africa: A Continent Of Contemporary Design", Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA

"Once When We Were Free", Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa

"Making Africa: A Continent Of Contemporary Design", The Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, NM

"Edging Forward", International Print Center New York, New York, USA

2017

"Making Africa: A Continent Of Contemporary Design", The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA

2016

"Making Africa: A Continent Of Contemporary Design", Kunsthal Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

"Making Africa: A Continent Of Contemporary Design", Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

2015

"Imago Mundi. Luciano Benetton Collection. Mappa dell'arte nuova", Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venezia

2014

"Artists Engaged? Maybe", Gulbenkian. Proximo Futuro, Lisbon

"Paperwork. An Exhibition of Contemporary South African Works On Paper", Smac Art Gallery, Stellenbosch

2013

"The Loom of the Land", Stevenson, Johannesburg

2012

"Bitterkomix: Contemporary Comics from South Africa", Llotja del Cànem, Seu de la Ciutat de la Universitat Jaume I, Castelló de la Plana, Spain

2011

"Victims and Martyrs", Gothenburg Kunsthalle, Sweden

"Contemporary South African Artists", Turner Galleries, Perth, Australia

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

2010

"Glanzlichter: Reverse glass paintings in contemporary art", Museum Villa Rot, Burgrieden-Rot, Germany

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

Ti Piment festival, Nancy, France

Rio Loco festival, Toulouse, France

"... for those who live in it: Pop culture, politics and strong voices", MU Eindhoven, The Netherlands

"The Beauty of Distance: Songs of survival in a precarious age", 17th Biennale of Sydney, Australia

"The Graphic Unconscious", Philagrafika 2010, Philadelphia, USA

2009

Cyclone BD international comics festival, Reunion

"Self/Not-self", Brodie/Stevenson, Johannesburg

"Conrad Botes, Anton Kannemeyer & Henning Wagenbreth: Recent prints and drawings",  
Gallery AOP, Johannesburg

"Bitterkomix: Un certain regard sur l'Afrique du Sud", Angoulême International Comics  
Festival,  
France

2008

"Farewell to Post-Colonialism", Third Guangzhou Triennial, China

2007

"Apartheid: The South African Mirror", Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona,  
Spain

"South African Art: Modern art and cultural development in a changing society",  
Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia

"Turbulence", Hangart-7 (air & art) Edition 6, Germany

"South African Art Now", Michael Stevenson, Cape Town

2006

"Africa Comics", Studio Museum, Harlem, New York

Bitterkomix, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town

Ninth Havana Biennale, Havana, Cuba

"New Painting", KZNSA Gallery, Durban; Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg 2004

Diaries and Dreams, Ursula Blickle Stiftung, Frankfurt, Germany

+ Positive, Biennale of Merano, Italy

"Africa Screams; the return of Evil in African Art and Cinema", Iwalewa Haus,  
Afrikazentrum der Universität Bayreuth, Germany

2003

"Mlungu in Africa", Michael Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town

2002

"Fuori Uso", 12th International exhibition, Pescara, Italy

"Dopo Buzzati. Artisti tra pittura e fumetto", Galleria d'Arte Moderna Carlo Rizzarda, Feltre,  
Italy

"Passport to South Africa", Centro Culturale Trevi, Bolzano, Italy

"Shelf Life", Spike Island Gallery, Bristol, UK

2001

"Shelf Life", Gasworks, London

"In Fumo", Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Bergamo, Italy

2000

"Towards-Transit", Pro-Helvitia, Lowenbrau, Zurich, Switzerland

## **AWARDS & RESIDENCIES**

2011

"Artist in residence", Turner Galleries, Perth, Australia

2005

"Artists Residency", Cite International des Arts, Paris

2004

Winner of the ABSA L'Atelier Competition, South Africa

2003

Art Omi International Artists Residency, New York