

Advance Information

Clive van den Berg

The evocative artistic practice of Clive van den Berg, whose work weaves together themes of landscape, absence, and echoes

Clive van den Berg (b. 1956, Zambia) – artist, curator, designer, writer and activist – has been working across mediums throughout the course of his prolific career, producing a range of works unified by his enduring focus on five interrelated themes: memory, light, landscape, desire, and the body. Embodied in his lush paintings, mixed-media sculptures, delicate prints, films, and public projects, these themes are bound up with the history of his native South Africa and its ongoing ramifications. He has marked sites affected by Apartheid with human figures formed out of fire, and often depicts the body itself as a landscape, bearing the marks of AIDS. For van den Berg, both the body and the landscape are sites that carry memories and scars and that evoke desires, which he aims to reveal in his work, often through the illuminating power of light.

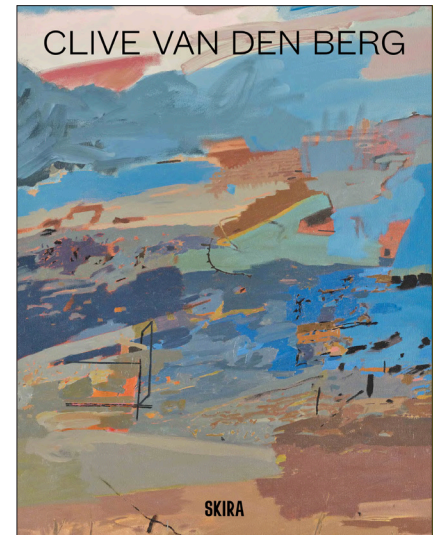
As a visual artist he is interested in both formal beauty and conceptual depth. His extensive body of work ranges in size and format, and includes paintings, prints, multi-media sculpture, landscape installation, and videography. His art is both known and respected Internationally, being included in many public and private collections, and his work has garnered him several major awards and prizes.

Clive van den Berg lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

- Clive van den Berg is an artist, curator, and designer, who has exhibited extensively in South Africa and on group exhibitions abroad. He is well known for his large public sculptures in and around Johannesburg, and exceptional curatorship projects at Constitution Hill and in association with the Nelson Mandela Foundation.
- Van den Berg's 40-year practice has formed part of a small movement of artists pioneering the insertion of queer perspectives into the larger rewrite of South African history.
- Clive van den Berg is represented by one of the most powerful art galleries in the world, Goodman Gallery, based in Johannesburg, Cape Town, London and New York.

Rosalind Morris is an anthropologist and cultural critic. Her work encompasses a variety of forms and media. It reaches from scholarly articles to essayistic prose and ethnographic monographs, and also includes the documentary film *We are Zama Zama* (2021), as well as expanded cinematic installations and a narrative film. Her previous book on Clive van den Berg, *Unlearning the Grounds of Art*, was published in 2011.

Graeme Reid is the UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). He was previously director for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch. Reid has conducted research, taught and published extensively on gender, sexuality, LGBT issues, and HIV/AIDS.



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Exhibition Schedule

Porous at Wits Art Museum (WAM)

in Johannesburg, opening August 2024

Unsettled Air at Goodman Gallery London

opening January 2025

Out at Smithsonian National Museum

of African Art in Washington

scheduled for 2025

