**Artist’s CV: Bio and Resumé**

**Artist Bio**

**Marian Hester**(1971- ) is an artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. After an 18-year career in law and banking, Marian changed direction in 2014 to focus on her art practice, completing her fine art honours degree through the University of South Africa (Unisa) in 2018.

Marian’s body of work explores the broader concepts of damage, loss and absence of connection. In a time of deepening ecological crisis, it may be easy to see the work as a literal reference to the pressures placed on ecology by the current “Anthropocene” era. And indeed the work does address her sense of dismay about how recent our collective knowledge about the functioning of forests is and how much damage has been done to ecosystems. But a thread also runs through her practice that draws on her personal experience of loss. The shadow image recurs throughout her work, connoting insubstantiality, absence, the negative, the sombre, the idea of obstruction, the blinkered view, darkness, and the mirage. Shadows in general are interpreted as analogues or metaphors. Marian often layers the shadow, combining it with the reflection: her work becoming a way of re-thinking: reflecting on and reinterpreting the world, layer by layer, idea by idea, experience by experience, suggesting that the viewer also consider the contrast between what is and what might be. Her site-specific installation, entitled “The Weight of the Dead” (2017-2018), uses pieces of dry tree roots and trunks, lit so that the shadows are integral to the work, together with a meditative sound installation, to communicate some of these concerns. Her broader practice addresses these ideas in richly diverse ways: using the idea of thriving nature as a ghostly presence, the world of shadows as a parallel world, and the use of the distorted or unresolved reflection as a metaphor for a persistent inability to reach a final conclusion. The questions remain unanswered, and the hopeful possibility exists for another way of approaching the problem.

In most of her work, Marian’s tree representations are partial, metaphorically in some kind of between-state: their provisional quality opens the possibility for other outcomes – perhaps hopefulness or regeneration. She works in sculpture, installation, sound, painting and printmaking.

**Website**: [www.marianhester.com](http://www.marianhester.com/)

**Instagram**: @marianhester

**Artist Resumé**

**Group Exhibitions**

2021 Unisa ARTWalk Public Art competition: finalists’ maquettes exhibition, Pretoria (December 2021).

2020 Jan Celliers group exhibition, Johannesburg - <https://issuu.com/jancelliersartexhibition2020/docs/jc_catalogue_1>.

2020 “Learning to Breathe Differently” virtual group exhibition, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg - <https://bermancontemporary.com/learning-to-breathe-differently/>.

2019 “Voices from the eARTh” group exhibition, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg.

2019 Saatchi START Art Fair, Saatchi Gallery, London, with Berman Contemporary.

2019 “Artybollocks” group exhibition, Johannesburg.

2018 “Forward? Forward! Forward...” group exhibition, Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch.

2018 Assemblage “Inktober” group exhibition, Johannesburg.

2018 “The Unexpected” group exhibition, The Viewing Room Art Gallery, Pretoria.

2018 Turbine Art Fair, Intethe Gallery, Johannesburg.

2018 Intethe Gallery group exhibition, Johannesburg.

2018 “Silent Spaces” joint exhibition, Johannesburg.

2017 Kgorong Gallery examination exhibition, University of South Africa, Pretoria.

2017 Turbine Art Fair, Intethe Gallery, Johannesburg.

2017 Association of Arts members’ exhibition, Pretoria.

2017 Cité Internationale des Arts former residents’ group exhibition, The Tank Gallery, Stellenbosch.

2017 Intethe Gallery group exhibition, Johannesburg.  
2016 Turbine Art Fair, Intethe Gallery, Johannesburg.

2013 Cité Internationale des Arts “open studios” exhibition, Paris.

**Collections**

2020 Vumatel Corporate Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2020 Various private collections: USA and South Africa.

2019 Various private collections: South Africa.

2019 Exxaro Corporate Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2018 Sylt Foundation Collection, Sylt, Germany and Johannesburg, South Africa.

2018 Various private collections: USA and South Africa.

2017 Various private collections: Belgium and South Africa.

2016 Various private collections: USA, UK and South Africa.

**Commissions**

2020 Still life painting commissions, private collectors, USA and South Africa.

2018 “The Weight of The Dead: Birches” installation commission, Sylt Foundation, Johannesburg.

2017 Landscape painting commission, private collector, South Africa.

2016 Portrait painting commission, private collector, UK.

**Awards**

2021 Top ten finalist, University of South Africa Science Campus ARTWalk Public Art competition.

2017 Top final year art student, University of South Africa: Department of Art History, Visual Arts and Musicology, Pretoria.

2016 Certificate of Merit, University of South Africa: Department of Art History, Visual Arts and Musicology, Pretoria - for meritorious work produced in the field of Visual Arts.

**Artist articles**

2017 “The Weight of the Dead”, catalogue essay: final year examination exhibition catalogue.

**Publications**

2020 “Voices of the eARTh” by Els van Mourik, Art Africa Magazine, South Africa, March 2020.

2019 “A Winter Tale” by Indra Wussow, Creative Feel Magazine, South Africa, May 2019.

2019 Artybollocks catalogue by Chrisel van der Merwe and Odette Graskie, Johannesburg, South Africa.

2019 “Art Appreciation: The Berman Contemporary Artist” by Katekani Shivambu, Joburg Post, South Africa, April 2019, <http://www.joburgpost.com/articles/14909>.

2019 “Forward, the Future of Higher Education in Africa”, Stellenbosch University Institute for Futures Research, March 2019, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

2018 “O” Magazine, edited & published by Vera Lossow & Amit Goffer, October 2018, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

2018 “What to Look out for at Turbine Art Fair 2018” by Grethe Kemp, City Press, <https://www.w24.co.za/PopCulture/Entertainment/Arts/what-to-look-out-for-at-turbine-art-fair-2018-20180708>

2017 “[The Anthropocene Shifts in Visual Arts: A Case against Anthropocentrism](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00043389.2017.1332504)”, by Dr Ania Krajewska, de arte 52, [Issue 2-3](https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rdat20/52/2-3). <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/aRpeFWVwtTFhSP8ijEre/full>

2016 “Highlights from the Turbine Art Fair” by Between 10and5.com, <http://10and5.com/2016/07/18/photo-highlights-from-the-turbine-art-fair/>

**Artist Residencies**

2019 Research residency at the Sylt Foundation, Sylt, Germany.

2016 Residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France.

**Education**

2014 – 2018 BA (Visual Arts) degree – The University of South Africa

1994 LLB degree - University of Stellenbosch

1992 BA degree – University of Stellenbosch