

Richard Ketley

Richard Ketley is a South African artist based in Dubai and Johannesburg. He holds a Masters in Fine Art degree from the University of the Witwatersrand. His work centres on his global travels and experience of place and culture that he captures in abstract works executed in a diverse range of media.

Artist's statement

At the moment I am interested in formal elements of painting and drawing inspired by the world around me and the many countries I visit, and in finding meaning where others do not - in the fall of light on a sandy building in Riyadh, the chaos of the shacks of Kampala, the jumble of exports on a Dubai Creekside, the crowded taxi parks of Johannesburg. My art is a search for perfection that is not often found in life. I am fortunate enough to travel widely in the Middle East and Africa, but I have not found my Tahiti - a landscape populated with many Venuses and primary colours, I find landscape covered in sandy construction sites, tin roofed shacks, humanity sweating as trucks are loaded with voluminous bundles. But within these spaces there is balance and form and structure - all elements that are abstracted in my paintings.

Profile and CV

Born in 1964, Richard held his first solo exhibition while in school at Hyde Park High School, Johannesburg. During his early years he exhibited at Artist in the Sun, the Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, and also participated in an exhibition at the National Gallery in Kampala, Uganda. After a career break Richard recommitted to his painting career in 2013 and has held a string of exhibitions in the last five years. Today Richard works principally in charcoal, acrylic and oil and seeks to develop images that are drawn from life but extend the viewer's imagination.

Qualifications

BA University of Witwatersrand

MSC London University

MFA University of Witwatersrand

Representation

XVA Gallery : Al Fahidi Neighborhood, Bur Dubai, Dubai

Exhibitions

- Sandton Gallery, Johannesburg, various 1982-1987
- Nommo Gallery, Kampala, 1993
- 50: Private exhibition, Johannesburg, 2015
- Call / Response Art Clip Africa, Lagos, 2016

- Call / Response The Gavin Project, Johannesburg 2016
- The Joburg Fringe, Johannesburg 2016
- Summer Salon, AVA, Cape Town
- Art Africa Fair, Cape Town, 2017
- Closer than Ever, Momo Gallery, Cape Town, 2017
- Whats Art For, Cape Town, 2017
- Night Landings, 70 Juta, Johannesburg 2017
- Art Makes Water: Minerton Gallery, Kampala, November 2017
- Creeksyde, Al Fahidi District, Dubai, 2018
- O|32 The Point of Order, Johannesburg, 2018
- Wayfarers, ArchiAfrica Gallery, Accra, 2018

Media

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Saatchi art: #Richard Ketley