

ALTA BOTHA

Bachelor of Visual Arts – UNISA
Master of Fine Art – Michaelis School of Fine Art

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Alta Botha was born in 1955 in Pretoria, South Africa, and works as an independent artist in Cape Town. Her work currently focuses on the processes and materiality of contemporary drawing, exploring the fragile and often contradictory balances that operate within relations of power.

Botha regards drawing as a complex filtering process between inner and outer processes – between deep structures of thought and its manifestation into action as surface structure. Using paper and found and activated charcoal as primary materials, she works towards transforming the materiality of substances and surfaces through reductive and ‘abusive’ procedures. These transformations are central to the incremental unfolding between processes of conscious and unconscious awareness.

Dematerialising actions of erosion and perforation – the scraping and sanding of paper, and the burning of wood to charcoal – are counterbalanced by processes of retrieval and reconstruction, like the sewing together and dressing of torn surfaces. Alta Botha’s acts of reparation recall an earlier career in nursing – her hand stitching, as a mark and a conveyer of meaning, is linked to care.

Solo exhibitions include *Angle of repose*, *Odd objects* and *Fragile equilibriums*.

2014

Master of Fine Art, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town – graduated cum laude.

2005

Bachelor of Visual Arts, UNISA – awarded Visual Arts Prize.

EARLIER YEARS

Alta Botha embarked on a career in nursing (1973–1980), caring predominantly for intensive care patients after qualifying in General Nursing and Midwifery. On raising a young family of her own, a course in pattern design (1983) enabled her to generate income producing high-end clothing from home. Jewellery design and manufacture (1991–92) honed artisanal skills and satisfied a persistent longing for creativity until she was in a position to start her fine art studies.

EXHIBITIONS ...

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2016

FynArts, Abalone Gallery, Hermanus

Contemporary Artists from South Africa, Imago Mundi, Pratt Institute of Brooklyn, New York

2015

However, ArtHub Gallery, Creekside, London

Contemporary Artists from South Africa, Imago Mundi, Venice

2014

What lies beneath, Equus Gallery, Cavalli Estate, Somerset West

Fragile equilibriums, MFA Examination Exhibition, Michaelis Galleries, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town

2013

HereThere: A conversation between Michaelis and Wits Masters 2013, Michaelis Galleries, Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town

2010

15², Kunst macht Schule gGmbH, Hamburg

The gift of fine art, iArt, Cape Town

Kladboek, Woordfees, University of Stellenbosch

2009

(sub)Teks, Woordfees, University of Stellenbosch

2008

Odd objects, Abalone Gallery, Hermanus

2006

Angle of repose, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

Artwords, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

Seven deadly sins, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

2004

Angle of repose, BVA Examination Exhibition, UNISA, Art.b, Bellville

2003

Self portrait, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

Trilogy, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

Flowers and vases, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

2002

Memories of Hadrian, International Group Exhibition, Temple of Hadrian, Rome

Summer salon, Cultural Centre, Durbanville

2001

Vuleka, Art.b, Bellville (awarded New Signatures Cape Best Graphic Work)

Crisp, Art.b, Bellville