

Michèle Nigrini

CV

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 Michele Nigrini Artist

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Michèle believes that art is a medium for the elevation of the spirit yet remains rooted in the experience of everyday life. Her aim is not to copy nature, but to interpret the essential character of things, submitting it to the spirit of the place. Her approach is based on visual sensations, and mark making is the most fundamental element in her art - a scratch of charcoal, a line of ink, a splash of colour, is how she expresses emotion, movement, the essence of her theme. She plays with different mediums, draws with different objects. The outcome is never predictable, and the theme is always just a starting point.

Michèle matriculated from Afrikaans Girls' High School, Pretoria, in 1982, and went on to study Tourism at Pretoria Technicon and then Fine Arts at the University of Pretoria under Prof. N.O. Roos and other artists like Jean Kotze, Gunther van der Reiss, John Clarke and Judith Mason, where she was ultimately awarded an MA (Fine Arts) in 1993.

Michèle attracted nationwide interest in 1994 when the Rupert Art Foundation bought all of the available work on her first Solo Exhibition, including her Masters degree installation 'Kleursimfonie', an extraordinary piece consisting of 300 A4 sized paintings. The installation is currently in the permanent collection of the Rupert Museum in Stellenbosch and is exhibited every few years. This once in a lifetime event launched her career as a professional artist.

Michèle's career to date has included:

25 solo exhibitions, more than 200 group exhibitions, numerous Art Festivals and art residencies including twice at the Cite des Arts in Paris

Participation in international projects, including the Florence Biennial, Italy 2005, Chianciano Biennial, Italy 2009 and, by invitation, the London Biennial 2013

- Lectures and workshops on art appreciation, colour theory and creativity;
- Documentary installations ;
- Audio and Visual stage productions;
- Animation for Filmverse I and Filmverse II.

Since 2004, Michèle has been living and working in Rosendal in the Eastern Free State where her work is on permanent display at @arkcontemporary gallery. She also has a presence in several other galleries in Gauteng and the Western Cape. Her work is included in numerous collections all over the world, including those of banks, other corporates, museums, universities and private collectors.