

ADELLE VAN ZYL

Artist's website: [About | Adelle Van Zyl](#)

ARTIST'S ABBREVIATED CV

Summary

Born in 1981, I grew up on a farm in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, and currently reside in Pretoria. I studied Visual Art at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and, after completing short courses in painting, drawing, computer graphics, and children's book illustration, I obtained a postgraduate diploma in Museum and Heritage Studies from the University of Pretoria. I also hold a Master's degree in Visual Art from UNISA.

I taught design at the Lady Grey Arts Academy and worked as a studio manager and art administrator for galleries in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng, including the UNISA Art Gallery. I was appointed as a technical assistant in UNISA's Department of Art and Music for several years. Since 2008, I have worked as a freelance educational illustrator for major publishing companies, including Tafelberg, Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Shuter & Shooter, and Pearson. To date, I have contributed to over 300 textbooks and readers published across seven Southern African countries.

My artworks form part of several collections. I have held five solo exhibitions, participated in three shared solo exhibitions, and taken part in more than forty group shows locally and internationally. My work has been selected for the Absa L'Atelier, Sasol New Signatures, the Sanlam Portrait Award, and the Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Award. In 2024, I was named one of ArtBank's most prolific women artists, and in 2023, I was included in Art.co.za's list of the ten most promising emerging South African artists. In 2023 and 2024, I served as a mentor for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's Presidential Economic Stimulus Program, and I remain in contact with the program's emerging urban and rural artists. I am currently preparing for an upcoming solo exhibition, as well as several group exhibitions.

Selected Awards

2024 *Prolific female artists in ArtBank SA's collection*, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

2022 *Watchlist 2023, 10 of the most on-the-rise artists in South Africa*, Art.co.za

Selected projects & commissions

2024-2026 - Artist for Spier Arts Trust & Nando's Creative Block Project, Johannesburg

2025 - Study guide writer for Painting for Unisa's Department of Art & Music, Pretoria

2025 - Adjudicator for the National Championships of Visual Arts, Pretoria

2023-2024 - Mentor for the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture's Presidential Economic Stimulus Program

2022 & 2023 - Official portrait painter of the Vice Chancellor and office bearers for Unisa, Pretoria

2011 - Technical assistant for Dr Gwenneth Miller's D Litt et Phil exhibition TRANSCODE at Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria

2009 - Curatorial assistant for Dystopia, curated by Dr Elfriede Dreyer. Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Belgium

Permanent collections

ArtBank South Africa

South African Military Health Services Art Collection

The Nando's Art Collection

Unisa Official Academic Portrait Collection

Education

2017 Masters' Degree in Visual Art, Unisa, Pretoria. *Cum laude*

2009 Advanced Diploma in Heritage and Museum Studies, University of Pretoria, Pretoria

2009 Children's Book Illustrations course, Centre for Comic, Illustrative & Book Arts, Stellenbosch

2008 - 2009 Short Courses in Drawing and Painting, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria

2008 Short Course in Computer Graphics, Unisa, Pretoria

2005 Bachelors of Visual Arts, Unisa, Pretoria. *Cum Laude*

1999 Matriculate at Grens High, East London

Solo and shared solo exhibitions

2025 - *Collective Childhood*, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria (Shared Solo)
2024 - *Spirit Place*, Association of Arts, Pretoria
2024 - *A Glass Darkly*, KZNSA, Durban
2023 - *Hidden*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria (Shared Solo)
2022 - *Ordinary Light*, art.b, Bellville (Shared Solo)
2020 - *Fables of the Mind*, Association of Arts, Pretoria
2018 - *Ducks in a Row*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
2015 - *S(h)elves*, Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria (MVA Student Exhibition)

Selected group exhibitions

2026 - *Domus*, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria
2026 - *Inward*, The Viewing Room Gallery, Pretoria
2026 - *Union Art Fair*, House Union Block and Spier Arts Trust, Cape Town
2026 - *Moon*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
2026 - *Annual Members' exhibition 2026*, Association of Arts Pretoria
2025 - *Art for the Festive Season*, Association of Arts Pretoria
2025 - *Union Art Fair*, House Union Block and Spier Arts Trust, Cape Town
2025 - *Clémentine et agrumes*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
2025 - *Vice Versa*, Momentum Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom
2025 - *Mini Masters*, Pretoria Arts Association, Pretoria
2025 - *Klein Wêreld*, Greenhouse Café Conservatory, Pretoria
2025 - *Annual Members' exhibition 2026*, Association of Arts Pretoria
2024 - *Uncurated*, art.b, Bellville
2024 - *Proximity*, Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria
2023 - *Bird's Eye View*, Artbox, Pretoria
2023 - *Spier LightArt Festival*, Spier Wine Farm, Stellenbosch
2023 - *WOLF. ESEL. ELF.* Association of Arts, Pretoria
2022 - *Under the Surface*, White River Gallery, White River
2022 - *Idiom/Idiom*, Johann van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria
2022 - *Doodles*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
2022 - *Love in Fine Art*, Foxwood House Theatre, Johannesburg
2022 - *The Association of Arts Pretoria's 75th birthday Exhibition*, ArtsPTA, Pretoria
2022 - *An Experiential of Musshero(i)ns*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria
2022 - *Tiny Treasures*, art.b, Bellville
2021 - *Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Awards Top 100*, City of Ekurhuleni
2021 - *Folds & Faults*, Curate.A.Space and UFS Art Gallery, Bloemfontein
2021 - *Affordable Art Fair*, Edg2020, Johannesburg
2020 - *Folds & Faults*, Curate.A.Space and UFS Art Gallery, Online
2020 - *Winged Creatures*, Johann van Heerden Art Gallery, Pretoria
2020 - *The Feast of St Valentine – The Art of Love*. Association of Arts, Pretoria
2019 - *Inspired by Inktober*, Victoria Yards, Johannesburg
2019 - *Sanlam Portrait Award – Portrait 100*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town
2018 - *Art as Destination*, CSIR International Conference Centre, Pretoria
2012 - *Sasol New Signatures*, Pretoria
2009 - *Absa L'Atelier Finalists Exhibition*, Johannesburg
2009 - *Dystopia*, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Belgium
2008 - *Intervention*, Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria
2006 - *Ekurhuleni Finalists Exhibition*, City of Ekurhuleni