

SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



Carolyn Parton

Born 1964 in Cape Town, South Africa

Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa

Carolyn Parton is primarily a sculptural painter with a focus on environmental concerns, innovatively extending the medium through her exploration of paint as physical matter; embedded with memory. Her research article *Extended Traces: Tracking the impact of painter upon environment* was published in 2010.

Her primary focus is the transformative potential of creative action to counter the destructive, particularly between us as humans and our natural environment.

“Scientists have provided compelling evidence regarding the climate emergency and its projected future impact on all living beings. As an artist, I feel drawn to absorb and reflect on this evidence, making it a foundation of my process and thereby activating it on a deeper level” says Parton.

In her process, she works with materials that have a backstory, in particular the remnants of art making. Whether artists’ paint residue built up on the base of turpentine baths over months and years, or house paint collected on walls over decades; unwanted colour mixes from paint companies or leftover cans from housepainters and spent paint tubes from artists - acclaimed and unknown, from around the world as well as from within her local community.

The Loft, 51 Surrey Row, Unit 2 La Gare
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She sees this process as “symbolic of a care for the destiny of the matter we process and use in our daily lives, especially once it is no longer of use to us. This extends into a care about the traces we leave on environment and consequently the lives of others.”

Like an archaeologist, Parton explores remnant matter in an attempt to understand our behaviour as humans, as we face a critical environmental challenge that will determine our legacy. Her sculpted paint cascades, stratified paint landscapes, freely suspended paint works and clustered jewel like paint tubes, become the archive.

Parton holds Bachelor of art in Fine Art (cum laude) from the University of South Africa, 2008 and an Advanced Diploma in Graphic Design, Cape Town University of Technology. Her solo exhibitions include *Songs Beneath the Surface* (2018), *This Remembering Land* (2015), *Release* (2009) and *Emergence* (1997). She has taken part in numerous group exhibitions throughout South Africa and in London, Venice and Rome. Her work is included in permanent collections such as Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA), University of Cape Town (UCT), University of South Africa (UNISA) and The Constitutional Court of South Africa.

Education

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2008 Bachelor of Fine Art (cum laude), University of South Africa, Cape Town, South Africa
Advanced Diploma (Graphic Design), Cape Town University of Technology, Cape Town, S.A

Permanent Collections

Southern African Foundation for Contemporary Art (SAFFCA) Collection, South Africa & France
University of Cape Town (UCT) Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
University of South Africa (UNISA) Collection, South Africa
The Constitutional Court of South Africa Collection, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
Free World Design Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Solo Exhibitions

2018 *Songs Beneath the Surface*, Sulger-Buel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
2015 *This Remembering Land II*, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, United Kingdom
This Remembering Land I, Cape Town Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Cape Town, South Africa
2010 *Paint as Matter*, X-Cape
2009 *Release*, Art-B Gallery, Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *Emergence*

Select Group Exhibitions

2019 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
2018 *Ethics, Affect and Endurance* curated by Gwen Miller, The Spier Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa
Art as Destination: Co-Creation of Culture curated By Gwen Miller, University of South Africa (UNISA) Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2015 *Terra* curated by Elfriede Dreyer, Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
Imago Mundi (Map of the New Art) curated by Nadja Daehnke, Luciano Benetton Collection, Foundation Cini, Isola do San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice
2014 *What's Going On?* curated by Kefiloe Siwisa, Lovell Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Imago Mundi (Map of the New Art) curated by Nadja Daehnke, Luciano Benetton Collection, Ca' dei Carraresi, Treviso, Italy and Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome, Italy
2012 *Terra Pericolosa* curated by Elfriede Dreyer, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa
2011 *Threshold* curated by Virginia MacKenny, Michaelis Galleries, Hiddingh Campus (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa
Transcodes curated by Gwen Miller, University of South Africa (UNISA) Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2010 *Spier Contemporary* (finalist), Cape Town City Hall, Cape Town, South Africa

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Selected Publications:

Cape Town Magazine [‘When you throw away, there is no away’](#) By Antonia Heil

2018 [Material Remains](#) By Natasha Norman

Affect and complexity of ethics in visual arts: a curatorial reflection By Prof. Gwen Miller

2017 [Transcode//Dialogues Around Intermediary Practise](#) By Prof. Gwen Miller

2015 Artslink.co.za News, [Carolyn Parton debuts in London](#)

2012 [Let Sleeping Dogs Lie: Visual Expressions Of Burial As Loss Of Teleology](#) By Prof. Elfriede Dreyer, Presented at Oxford University

2011 Koekalooks, [There’s Still Time](#)

Research Articles:

2010 De Arte Journal of Art History, [Extended traces. Tracking the impact of painter on environment](#)

2009 University of South Africa, [Release](#)

Lectures / Projects

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