

BIOGRAPHY

- 1949 Born in Namibia of Anglo-Irish descent
- 1954 to 1968 Formal education in Namibia and South Africa
- 1969 to 1978 College education in Art and Photography in South Africa, Italy and USA
- 1970 Begins career in Photography in South Africa
- 1972 to 1990 Based in Rome and New York
Travelled as freelance photographer on magazine assignments in Europe & Africa
Involved with 20thC photography collections and exhibitions for the Obelisco Gallery, Rome
Worked under Pasquale De Antonis photographing art, architecture & antiquities
- 1974 to 1994 Documented the simple and humble country life in *La Ciociaria*, a remote mountainous region south of Rome. Donated her collection to the Municipal Region in 2009
- 1978 & 1979 Journeys to South West Africa (now Namibia) and South Africa
Becomes a persona non grata under the Apartheid laws. Photographs are seized/sequestered by authorities. Renounces SA citizenship
Meets David Goldblatt. In 1980 they co-author the book *Cape Dutch Homesteads*
- 1979 to 1996 Pursued personal projects in Africa documenting the physical manifestations of shelter, mural painting and personal identity associated with the feminine domain
Photographs and writing published as books and widely exhibited, including trilogy on the Art of African Women (see book publications below) that has been translated into five languages/multiple editions and numerous reprints over 20 years
Ndebele brings about collaboration with the late poet laureate Maya Angelou to whom she remained close
- 1988 to 2008 Photographs distributed by Hoa-Qui (Paris), Speranza (Italy), Anzenburger (Austria), Mega Press (Tokyo)
- 1989/1995 Returns to South West Africa under UN protection and claims birthright to newly independent state of Namibia
Photographs evocative slivers of desert landscape which leads to the publication of a book on childhood memories *Places in The Sand*
- 1990 to 2000 Represented by the Witkin Gallery, New York (they closed in 2000)
- 1990 to 2016 Photographs distributed worldwide by Corbis (USA)
- 1994 to 1999 Collaborated on two award winning children's books with Maya Angelou
Photographed Maya Angelou and interviewed contributors for an inspirational book on her philosophy, *The Poetry of Living*
- 1999 to 2010 Established the Ndebele Foundation, a non-profit cultural organization for the Ndebele women and youth of Mabokho, Mpumalanga province in the new South Africa. Built a training centre and accommodation for facilitators and tourists. Drove fundraising for training and workshops, as well as for running the centre
Enabled Ndebele women to travel to Europe and the USA to promote their culture and learn marketing skills through museum exhibitions, college scholarships and live installations
Photographs the Foundation advancement over the years
- 2008 to date Returned to Namibia permanently and began writing her memoirs
Her current documentary work explores the landscape amidst ecological disaster and hostile conditions in a country that is undergoing rapid development
- 2015 Nominated for the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award for her series *On Borrowed Time*

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 *Cry Sadness Into the Coming Rain*. Foreword by David Goldblatt; Essay by Sean O'Toole (Steidl, Germany)
- 1999 *Maya Angelou: The Poetry of Living*. With foreword by Oprah Winfrey (Clarkson Potter, NY/ Virago, UK)
- 1997 *Places in the Sand* (Monacelli Press, NY)
- 1997 *Kofi and His Magic*. Story by Maya Angelou (Clarkson Potter; 2002 Crown/Random House)
- 1996 *Imazighen: The Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women*. (Clarkson Potter, USA)
Die Berber Frauen: Kunst und Kultur in Nord Afrika. (Frederking & Thaler, Germany)
Imazighen: the Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women. (Thames & Hudson, UK)
- 1996 *My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me*. Story by Maya Angelou (Clarkson Potter; 2002 Crown/Random House); Soft cover editions for Scholastic (USA) In print
- 1990 *African Canvas: The Art of West African Women*. Foreword by Maya Angelou. (Rizzoli, NY)
Die Farben Afrikas. (Frederking & Thaler) 10 reprints+20th Anniversary edition 2010
Tableaux D'Afrique: L'Art mural des femmes de L'Ouest. (Arthaud)
Affreschi Africani: l'Arte delle Donne Del Africa Occidentale. (Rizzoli, Italy)
- 1986 *Ndebele: The Art of an African Tribe*. Foreword by David Goldblatt (Rizzoli, NY) 15 reprints
Ndebele: L' Art d'une Tribu D'Afrique du Sud. (Arthaud 1991, 2002)
Südafrika: Die Kunst der Ndebele Frauen (Villa Arceno, Germany)
Ndebele: Die Kunst van Een Afrikaanse Stam. (Librero, Netherlands, 2002)
Ndebele: soft cover reprint with augmented text by David Goldblatt on The Ndebele Foundation and post apartheid SA (Thames & Hudson UK 2002)
- 1981 *Cape Dutch Homesteads* co-authored with David Goldblatt (Struik, S.A.)

SOLO EXIBITIONS

- 2009 *La Ciociaria*, Palazzo Comunale, Amaseno (Italy)
- 2008 *Forty Years*. Studio 77, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 2008 *Forty Years*. Woermann Haus, Swakopmund (Namibia)
- 2007 The African American Museum, Philadelphia (USA)
- 2006 Museo Della Terra, Latera (Italy)
- 2004 to 2005 New York State Museum, Albany (USA)
- 2004 National Library of Medicine, Bethesda (USA)
- 2002 to 2003 New York Public Libraries' Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (USA)
- 2001 Palazzo Comunale, Vitorchiano (Italy)
- 2000 Omba Gallery, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 1997 Gallery Teatro General San Martin, Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- 1997 The Witkin Gallery, NYC
- 1996 to 1997 Port Washington Public Library N.Y (USA)
- 1996 The Witkin Gallery, NYC (fall)
- 1996 The Witkin Gallery, NYC (spring)
- 1996 Africa House, Munich (Germany)
- 1996 to 1998 Itinerant exhibition in 12 museums; Curated by the Institut für Kulturaustausch (Germany)
- 1995 Helferei Grossmünster, Zurich (Switzerland)
- 1992 Rocca Paolina, Perugia (Italy)
- 1992 Seidlvilla, Munich (Germany)
- 1992 Saibu Gallery, Tokorozawa (Japan)

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- 1992 Sala degli Archi, Ceccano (Italy)
- 1992 Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (Italy)
- 1991 In the Room Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)
- 1991 Festa Nazionale de L'Unità, Bologna (Italy)
- 1991 Festa delle Donne, Rimini (Italy)
- 1991 Arhus, Odense and Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 1990 Galleria Il Filo di Arianna, Bergamo (Italy)
- 1990 Libreria Agora Torino (Italy)
- 1990 IL Diaframma, Milan (Italy)
- 1990 The Witkin Gallery, New York (USA)
- 1986 Overseas Press Club, New York (USA)
- 1986 International Center for Photography Book Store, New York (USA)
- 1986 Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Harvard University, Boston (USA)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

- 2016 *NAMIBIA: Art of a Young Generation*, Museum Würth, Künzelsau (Germany) NAGN (Namibia)
- 2013 *Land Matters in Art*, National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 2011 *Walter Van Beirendonck: Dream the World Awake*, MoMu Fashion Museum of Antwerp (Belgium)
- 2010 *Esther Mahlangu*, BMW Museum (Germany)
- 2004 *Beads for life*, Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Québec (Canada)
- 2003 *Earth*, Festival Couleur Café, Brussels (Belgium)
- 1998 *African Canvas*, Lexington Children's Museum, Lexington (USA)
- 1998 *Sur La Tête*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
- 1997 *African Canvas*, Dimock Community Center, Boston (USA)
- 1996 *Under 8 x 9 inches*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
- 1996 *Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana*, Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg (Germany)
- 1995 *Ndebele: Volkskunst aus Südafrika*. The Huberte Goote Gallery, Zug (Switzerland)
- 1995 *Staffs and Wands from Africa*. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis (USA)
- 1995 *Amandebele: Signals of Color from South Africa*, Museum Het Kruithuis (Holland)
- 1995 *Colour in Town-planning*. De Kunstpaviljoens (Holland)
- 1995 *Ndebele*, National Gallery, Cape Town (S.A.)
- 1995 *Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana*, Museums padagogischer Dienst, Berlin (Germany)
- 1993/1995 *Pottery and Architecture in West Africa*, Pynkilinna/Museum of Architecture, Helsinki (Finland)
- 1993 *Mostra dell'artigianato tradizionale delle Donne Ndebele*, S.A.Embassy, Rome (Italy)
- 1993 *I Biennale Donna Arte*, Sala Amministrazione Provinciale, Frosinone (Italy)
- 1991 *Encountering the Others*, University of Kassel (Germany)
- 1991 *ORISIRISI, All Different Kinds*, The Children's Museum, Seattle (USA)
- 1991 *Tableau d'Afrique*, Le Centre Culturel Français de Dakar (Sénégal)
- 1991 *Artistes Africaine*, Atelier Les Almadies, Dakar (Sénégal)
- 1991 *amaNDEBELE, Farbsignale Aus Südafrika*, Berlin (Germany)
- 1990 *Beads*, Dept of Arts of Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Baltimore Museum of Art (USA)
- 1990 *Apropos Aprons*, The Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of the Art, NYC (USA)
- 1990 *Artists Against Apartheid*, Taos, New Mexico
- 1988 *Le Città del Mondo ed il futuro delle metropoli*, XVII Triennale di Milano (Italy)
- 1987 *Chairs*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
- 1978 *Fotoreporter Donna*, Il Laboratorio d'If, Palermo (Italy)
- 1977 *Fotografi e fotografie*, Galleria d'Arte Lastasia, Rome (Italy)

FILM, TV and RADIO

- 2002 to 2007 Numerous Radio/TV interviews in NYC, Philadelphia, Albany (USA)
- 1993 RAI TV live discussion on Women & Africa (Rome, Italy)
- 1993 CANAL PLUS (Spain) documentary on MCC filmed on location in Italy
- 1992 CBC Arts TV focuses on MCC and *Ndebele* and *African Canvas* (Canada)
- 1991 NHT TV documentary featuring the Ndebele exhibition in Tokyo (Japan)
- 1990 BBC Open University Women's Program: Feature documentary filmed on location in S.A.
- 1990 *Black Penelope* by Philippe Dorison with photographs from *Ndebele*, (France)

AWARDS

- 2002 Kodak Bronze award, *Colors of Africa*, Calendar (Germany)
- 1997 Children's Book of Distinction, Hungry Mind Review (USA)
- 1994 Entertainment weekly's award for "10 best of the year" (USA)
- 1994 New York Public Library, Children's book award (USA)
- 1994 The Year's 10 Best Books for distinguished achievement in Children's Literature (USA)
- 1994 Best Book, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio (USA)
- 1993 Nomination for César best short film *Black Penelope*, (France)
- 1987 Silver Award, Art Directors Club (USA)
- 1986 Gold Award, Photo Design (USA)

WORKSHOPS, TALKS and guest LECTURES

- 2008 *Out of Africa*, Gallery 77, Windhoek (NAMIBIA)
- 2007 *The Art of African Women*, African American Museum, Philadelphia (USA)
- 2006 *The Art of an African Tribe*, Springhead, Dorset (UK)
- 2004 *The Art of African Women* New York State Museum, Albany (USA)
- 2002 *The Art of African Women*, New York Public Library (USA)
- 1990 *Ndebele Mural Painting*, Dallas Museum of the Art, Dallas (USA)
- 1990 *Affreschi Africani*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (Italy)
- 1986 *A Thousand Words*, Neuberger Museum, Purchase, New York (USA)
- 1986 *Ndebele*, International Center for Photography, New York (USA)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS (from over 2000 articles, reviews and interviews)

- 2016 *On Borrowed Time* by Francesca Marani, Il Fotografa #281 (Italy)
- 2008 *Margaret Courtney-Clarke* by Prof. André du Pisani (University of Namibia), The Namibian
- 2002 *In The Silence of the Desert/le Case Dipinte* by G. Fontana Antonelli, Lotus 114 (Italy)
- 1997 *An African Year* by Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermès, Editorial for Hermès No.30 (France)
- 1996 *Heart of Boldness* by Joelle Bentley Burrows, Print Magazine (USA)
- 1996 *Weben heist Leben* by Hans Oberlander, Gala (Germany)
- 1995 *Afrique du Sud; Un bout du monde de légende*, MuséArt (France)
- 1993 *Afrikas Farben* von Anja Lösel, Stern (voted story of the Month) Germany
- 1991 Foreword to *amaNdebele* by Wolfger Pöhlmann, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin
- 1990 *Their Workaday Art* by Catherine Stimpson, New York Times (USA)
- 1990 *Fine artists who paint their lives on Canvas* by M. Liddell, Smithsonian (USA)
- 1990 *Women Artists* by Mary Warner Marien, The Christian Science Monitor (USA)

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- 1990 *La Càmara de Courtney-Clarke* por Giovanna Calvenzi, Vogue Espana (Spain & Italy)
- 1986 *An African Tribe's Art is Endangered* by Rita Reif, New York Times (USA)
- 1986 *A colorful gift from Africa* by Sarah Wright, The Boston Herald (USA)
- 1985 *An Art, A Photographer and Apartheid* by David Goldblatt, *Ndebele* (USA UK DE France)