

## BIOGRAPHY

- 1949 Born in Namibia of Anglo-Irish descent
- 1954 – 1968 Formal education in Namibia and South Africa
- 1969 - 1978 College education in Art and Photography in South Africa, Italy and USA
- 1970 Begins career in Photography in South Africa
- 1972 - 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 - 1994 Documented the rural 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 by authorities. Renounces SA citizenship  
Meets David Goldblatt. In 1980 they co-author the book *Cape Dutch Homesteads*
- 1979 - 1996 Pursued personal projects in Africa documenting the physical manifestations of shelter, mural painting and personal identity associated with the female 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 - 2008 Photographs distributed by Hoa-Qui (Paris), Speranza (Italy), Anzenburger (Austria), Mega Press (Tokyo), Photo Researchers (NYC)
- 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
- 2013-2018 Returns to Namibia to work on *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* that marks a new phase in her photographic work, documenting her engagement with its people and a landscape in crisis
- 2019 Begins a new series of work *Kalahari* documenting the human endurance of the Bushmen in Namibia
- 2020 (Covid Lockdown) Redesigns her Trilogy, *The Art of African Women* into a 4-book series for reprint (Steidl 2025); Design & layout of new work on the Kalahari *When Tears Don't Matter* (Steidl 2025)
- 2021-ongoing *Burning Beasts*, a collaborative project (Courtney-Clarke and Mackenny); found material on site forms improvised constructions/hybrids in conversation with land under duress, transformed by fire, photographed & sketched.

## BOOK PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 *When Tears Don't Matter* Foreword/Virginia MacKenny; Essay/Rob J. Gordon, Kileni Fernando (Steidl, Germany)
- 2024 *The Art of African Women* (Boxed edition, Steidl, Germany)
- 2018 *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*. Foreword/David Goldblatt; Essay/Sean O'Toole (Steidl, Germany)
- 1999 *Maya Angelou: The Poetry of Living*. Foreword/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, NY)
- 1996 *Imazighen: The Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women* (Clarkson Potter, USA)  
*Imazighen: The Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women* (Thames & Hudson, UK)  
*Die Berber Frauen: Kunst und Kultur in Nord Afrika* Frederking & Thaler, (Germany)
- 1996 *My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me*. Story by Maya Angelou, ClarksonPotter; 2002 Crown/Random House); Soft cover editions for Scholastic (USA)
- 1990 *African Canvas: The Art of West African Women*. Foreword/Maya Angelou. (Rizzoli, NY)  
*Die Farben Afrikas*: (Frederking & Thaler) 10 reprints+20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ed. 2010  
*Tableaux D'Afrique* : L'Art mural des femmes de L'Ouest. (Arthaud, France)  
*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* (Frederking & Thaler, Germany)  
*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.) Reprinted 1982

## SOLO EXIBITIONS

- 2024 *Dust on the Wind*, curated by Prof Virginia MacKenny, Francisco Carolinum Museum of Photography, Linz (Austria)
- 2021 *When Tears Don't Matter*, curated by Prof Virginia MacKenny/SMAC, !Khwa-ttu San Heritage Center, Yzterfontein (Cape Province)
- 2021 *Phenomenal Women: Maya Angelou & Margaret Courtney-Clarke*, curated by Dr Siona O'Connell, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town
- 2018 *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain: In the Harsh Light of the Present* Exhibition presentation of a fifty-year career: curated by Nicola Brandt, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
*Fragility of Existence*, P46 Gallery, Comogli GE (Italy)
- 2017 *Margaret Courtney-Clarke* Booth M02, SMAC Gallery, Joburg Art Fair (S.A.)
- 2009 *La Ciociaria*, Palazzo Comunale, Amaseno (Italy)
- 2008 *Forty Years*. Studio 77, Windhoek (Namibia)  
*Forty Years*. Woermann Haus, Swakopmund (Namibia)
- 2007 The African American Museum, Philadelphia (USA)
- 2006 Museo Della Terra, Latera (Italy)
- 2004 - 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 - 1997	Port Washington Public Library N.Y (USA)
1996	The Witkin Gallery, NYC (fall) The Witkin Gallery, NYC (spring) Africa House, Munich (Germany)
1996 - 1998	Itinerant exhibition in 12 museums; Curated by the Institut für Kulturaustausch, Germany
1995	Helferei Grossmünster, Zurich (Switzerland)
1992	Rocca Paolina, Perugia (Italy) Seidlvilla, Munich (Germany) Saibu Gallery, Tokorozawa (Japan) Sala degli Archi, Ceccano (Italy) Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (Italy)
1991	In the Room Gallery, Tokyo (Japan) Festa Nazionale de L'Unità, Bologna (Italy) Festa delle Donne, Rimini (Italy) Arhus, Odense and Copenhagen (Denmark)
1990	Galleria Il Filo di Arianna, Bergamo (Italy) Libreria Agora Torino (Italy) IL Diaframma, Milan (Italy) The Witkin Gallery, New York (USA)
1986	Overseas Press Club, New York (USA) International Centre for Photography Book Store, New York (USA) Carpenter Centre for Visual Arts, Harvard University, Boston (USA)

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Selected)

2023	CAGED series, Milan Art Foto (MIA) Curated by Denis Curti, STILL Gallery, Milano
2022	<i>North East South West: Over the Edge</i> curated by Francesco Finotto, Civic Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, San Donà di Piave, Venice (Italy)
2021	<i>Women on Women: Relationships, Identity and Power Explored Through Photography</i> , curated by Robert Taylor, Oxford Outdoor Photo. 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration: <i>Face to Face: Rethinking the Role of Reportage</i> , curated by Ekow Eshun for the Guernsey Photography Festival, U.K.
2019-2021	HOPE, [Prix Pictet global award in photography and sustainability travelling exhibition], Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Hillside Forum, Tokyo; Luma Westbau, Zurich; Mouravieff-Apostol Museum, Moscow; Verona, Milan, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Shanghai and Beijing
2020	<i>Face to Face: Rethinking the Role of Reportage</i> , curated by Ekow Eshun, The Outside Art Project at Kings Cross Tunnel, London
2019	<i>Crossing Night: Regional Identities</i> curated by Josh Ginsburg, Larry Ossei-Mensah and Jova Lynne, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCAD), Detroit USA.
2019	8 <sup>th</sup> Contemporary African Photography (CAP), Photo Basel Art Fair, Basel (Switzerland) <i>SMAC Gallery artists</i> , Investec Cape Town Art Fair (S.A.) <i>African Canvas</i> , Gallery 116; <i>Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain</i> , Omuntu Gardens, Omaruru (Namibia)
2018	<i>Wish You Were Here: SMAC Gallery artists</i> , Investec Cape Town Art Fair (S.A.) FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg (S.A.)
2017	<i>Peer: Five Photographers</i> , SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch (S.A.)
2016	NAMIBIA: Art of a Young Generation, Museum Würth, Künzelsau (Germany) National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (Namibia)
2013	<i>Land Matters in Art</i> , National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (Namibia)
2011	<i>Walter Van Beirendonck: Dream the World Awake</i> , 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)  
*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)  
*Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana*, Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg (Germany)
- 1995 *Ndebele: Volkskunst aus Südafrika*. The Huberte Goote Gallery, Zug (Switzerland)  
*Staffs and Wands from Africa*. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, (USA)  
*Amandebele: Signals of Color from South Africa*, Museum Het Kruidhuis (Holland)  
*Colour in Town-planning*. De Kunstpaviljoens (Holland)  
*Ndebele*, National Gallery, Cape Town (S.A.)  
*Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana*, Museums padagogischer Dienst, Berlin (Germany)
- 1993/1995 *Pottery and Architecture in West Africa*, Pynnikilinna Museum of Architecture, Helsinki (Finland)
- 1993 *Biennale Donna Arte*, Sala Amministrazione Provinciale, Frosinone (Italy)
- 1991 *Encountering the Others*, University of Kassel (Germany)  
*ORISIRISI, All Different Kinds*, The Children's Museum, Seattle (USA)  
*Tableau d'Afrique*, Le Centre Culturel Français de Dakar (Sénégal)  
*Artistes Africaine*, Atelier Les Almadies, Dakar (Sénégal)  
*amaNDEBELE, Farbsignale Aus Südafrika*, Berlin (Germany)
- 1990 *Beads*, Dept of Arts of Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Baltimore Museum of Art (USA)  
*Apropos Aprons*, The Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of the Art, NYC (USA)  
*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)  
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.  
*Black Penelope* by Philippe Dorison with photographs from Ndebele, (France)

#### AWARDS and Nominations

- 2022 Lens Culture *Critics Choice* winner for her series from the Namib Desert *Caged*.  
BJP and 1854, *Decade of Change 2022*, single image winner for *Singing the Rain*
- 2021 16<sup>th</sup> Julia Margaret Cameron Award (Worldwide Photo) "Women Seen by Women", 1<sup>st</sup> place single
- 2020 Contemporary African Photography (CAP) shortlist for *Kalahari*, Basel (Switzerland)

- 2019 PRIX PICTET cycle HOPE, shortlist for *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*.  
Contemporary African Photography (CAP) shortlist for *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*,  
Basel (Switzerland)
- 2018 On the centenary anniversary of women's suffrage in the UK, the Royal Photographic  
Society names her as one of The Hundred Heroines for 2018.  
Deutscher Fotobuchpreis 18/19, *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, Stuttgart (Germany)  
Published by Steidl, *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* is long listed for the Kraszna Krausz  
Best Photography Book Award 2018, Photo London, Somerset House  
Photo District News (PDN) Award, *A Lifelong Obsession with Finding Shelter*,  
New York City (USA)
- 2015 Nominated for the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award for her series *On Borrowed Time*
- 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)  
New York Public Library, Children's book award (USA)  
The Year's 10 Best Books for distinguished achievement in Children's Literature (USA)  
Best Book, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio (USA)
- 1993 Nomination for César best short film *Black Penelope*, (France)
- 1987 Silver Award (NDEBELE), Art Directors Club (USA)
- 1986 Gold Award (NDEBELE), Photo Design (USA)

#### WORKSHOPS, TALKS and guest LECTURES

- 2022 *A Lens on Sustainability*, a panel discussion with David Ozochukwu and Margaret  
Courtney-Clarke, moderated by Isabelle Von Ribbentrop. Photo London
- 2019 *Finding Hope in the Darkness*, a panel discussion at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- 2018 Documentary Photography, Master Workshop, Raffles Institute of Design, Milan (Italy)
- 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)  
*Affreschi Africani*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (Italy)
- 1986 *A Thousand Words*, Neuberger Museum, Purchase, New York (USA)  
*Ndebele*, International Center for Photography, New York (USA)

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

- 2023 "Not the kind of life a human being should live" 3-part series on sanitation in Namibia  
<https://www.veza.news/article/2023/05/01/how-namibias-sanitation-crisis-is-endangering-its-people-and-its-future/>  
<https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/namibias-sanitation-crisis>
- 2022 <https://www.lensculture.com/articles/margaret-courtney-clarke-cry-sadness-into-the-coming-rain>
- 2018 *In the Harsh Light of the Present* by Nicola Brandt, Exhibition catalogue, SMAC Gallery, Cape  
Town (S.A.)  
*The Women who Dream of Hope and Elephants* by Sean O'Toole, (S.A.)  
*Fragility of Existence* by Goldblatt <https://aperture.org/blog/fragility-existence-courtney-clarke/>
- 2016 *On Borrowed Time* by Francesca Marani, Il Fotografa #281 (Italy)
- 2008 *Margaret Courtney-Clarke, The Namibian* by Prof. André du Pisani (University of Namibia)

- 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)  
*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 Wolferger Pöhlmann, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin
- 1990 *Their Workaday Art*; Catherine Stimpson, New York Times (USA)  
*Fine artists who paint their lives on Canvas*; M. Liddell, Smithsonian (USA)  
*Women Artists*; Mary Warner Marien, The Christian Science Monitor (USA)  
*La Càmara de Courtney-Clarke* por Giovanna Calvenzi, Vogue (Spain/Italy)
- 1986 *An African Tribe's Art is Endangered* by Rita Reif, New York Times (USA)  
*A colorful gift from Africa* by Sarah Wright, The Boston Herald (USA)
- 1985 *An Art, A Photographer and Apartheid* by David Goldblatt, (USA UK DE France)