

Deurdagte Reis – 'n viering van vrouekunstenaars Thoughtful Journey – a celebration of female artists

Anna Verschoyle (1920 – 1972)

Verschoyle is in 1920 in Cheshire, Engeland gebore. Met haar eerste formele kunsopleiding in mosaïekwerk, tussen 1953 en 1958, onder die leiding van Alfred Krenz in Italië, het sy stadsbeplanning by die Association of British Town Planning Institute bestudeer.

In 1944 het sy na Suid-Afrika verhuis en haarself in Kaapstad gevestig, waar sy as stadsbeplanner begin praktiseer het en 'n lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Stadsbeplanners geword het.

Teen die middel-vyftigerjare het Verschoyle haar werk by uitsluitlik groep-uitstallings vertoon. Haar eerste solo-uitstalling was gedurende 1958 in Kaapstad. Tot 1969 het sy net solo-uitstallings in Kaapstad gehou.

Die vernaamste groep-uitstallings waaraan Verschoyle deelgeneem het, was die Vierjaarlikse Uitstallings van Suid Afrikaanse Kuns in 1956, 1960 en 1964. Ander vrouekunstenaars wat aan hierdie uitstallings deelgeneem het, was:

1956: **Nerine Desmond, Eleanor Esmonde-White, Cecil Higgs, May Hillhouse, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Ruth Prowse, Cecily Sash** en **Irma Stern**.

1960: **Bettie Cilliers-Barnard, Nerine Desmond, Nel Erasmus, Eleanor Esmonde-White, Cecil Higgs, May Hillhouse, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Cecily Sash, Irma Stern, Marjorie Wallace** en **Adele White**.

1964: **Bettie Cilliers-Barnard, Nerine Desmond, Nel Erasmus, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Cecily Sash, Maud Sumner** en **Marjorie Wallace**.

In 1965 is een van die belangrike kunsroepe, bekend as 'The Artists' Gallery', in Suid-Afrika gestig. Die kommersiële galery, as 'n koöperatiewe onderneming, is op 15 Desember 1965 in 'n groot solderkamer van die Manne-gebou aan Adderleystraat, Kaapstad geopen. Verschoyle was een van die stigterlede. Ander was die kunstenaars Brian McMinn, Kevin Atkinson, Bokkie Basson, Claude Bouscharain, Peggy Delpont, Willem Gravett, **May Hillhouse**, Johannes Koorzen, Martinus la Grange, Erik Laubscher, Stanley Pinker, Annabelle Oberholzer, Helmut Starcke, Herman van Nazareth, Peter Webber, beeldhouers Bill Davies, Nico Verboom en Richard Wake en pottebakkers Sonja Gerlings, Brian Haden en Hym Rabinowitz.

Verschoyle se styl het gedurende die sestigerjare en tot 1972 ontwikkel van, aanvanklik, die skep van landskap- en stillewerke tot halfabstrakte studies tot abstrak-ekspressionistiese komposisies. 1972 was ook die jaar waarin sy oorlede is.

Verschoyle was born in Cheshire, England in 1920. With her first formal artistic training in mosaic work, between 1953 and 1958 under Alfred Krenz in Italy, she studied town-planning at the Association of British Town Planning Institute.

In 1944 she moved to South Africa and settled in Cape Town, where she started practising as a town-planner and became a member of the South African Institute of Town Planners. In the mid 1950's Verschoyle started exhibiting at group exhibitions only.

Her first solo exhibition was held in Cape Town during 1958. Until 1969 she only held solo exhibitions in Cape Town.

The major group exhibitions in which Verschoyle participated were the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Quadrennial Exhibitions of South African Art. Other female artists who participated in these exhibitions:

1956: **Nerine Desmond, Eleanor Esmonde-White, Cecil Higgs, May Hillhouse, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Ruth Prowse, Cecily Sash** and **Irma Stern**.

1960: **Bettie Cilliers-Barnard, Nerine Desmond, Nel Erasmus, Eleanor Esmonde-White, Cecil Higgs, May Hillhouse, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Cecily Sash, Irma Stern, Marjorie Wallace** and **Adele White**.

1964: **Bettie Cilliers-Barnard, Nerine Desmond, Nel Erasmus, Dorothy Kay, Maggie Laubser, Cecily Sash, Maud Sumner** and **Marjorie Wallace**.

1965 marked the establishment of one of the notable art-groups in South Africa, known as The Artists' Gallery. The commercial gallery, as a co-operative enterprise, was opened on 15 December 1965 in a large attic of Manne Buildings in Adderley Street, Cape Town. Verschoyle was one of the founder members. Others were artists Brian McMinn, Kevin Atkinson, Bokkie Basson, Claude Bouscharain, Peggy Delpont, Willem Gravett, **May Hillhouse**, Johannes Koorzen, Martinus la Grange, Erik Laubscher, Stanley Pinker, Annabelle Oberholzer, Helmut Starcke, Herman van Nazareth and Peter Webber, sculptors Bill Davies, Nico Verboom and Richard Wake and potters Sonja Gerlings, Brian Haden and Hym Rabinowitz.

Throughout the 1960's and until 1972 Verschoyle's style developed from initially creating landscape and still life works, through semi-abstract studies towards abstract-expressionistic compositions. 1972 was also the year of her death.

Bronne / Sources:

Berman, E. 1970. *Art & Artists of South Africa*. AA Balkema: Cape Town.



Verschoyle, Anna (1920 - 1972)
Patchwork Landscape, 1963
Olieverf op bord / Oil on board

Versameling / Collection:
Rupert Kunststiging / Rupert Art Foundation, Stellenbosch