La Motte

a culture of excellence

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

Judith Mason (1938 -)

Mason is in 1938 in Pretoria gebore. Sy het van 1957 tot 1960 aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand gestudeer, met onderrig deur Charles Argent, ***Cecily Sash*** en Erica Berry. Sy het in 1960 die graad B.A. in die Beeldende Kunste verwerf. Mason is met dr. Revil Mason, 'n argeoloog, in die huwelik bevestig.

In 1964 het sy haar eerste solo-uitstalling gehou, by Gallery 101, Johannesburg. Van 1962 tot 1967 en weer van 1969 tot 1973 (deeltyds) het sy aan Wits Universiteit onderrig in Kunsgeskiedenis gegee. Gedurende die sewentiger en tagtigerjare, terwyl sy deur die Goodman-galery in Johannesburg verteenwoordig was, was Mason 'n dominante figuur in kunskringe, in die tyd toe Suid-Afrika polities en kultuurgewys van die res van die wêreld geïsoleer was. Sy het haar in 1977 voltyds aan die kuns gewy.

Mason het Suid-Afrika in 1966 by die Venice Biennale verteenwoordig, in 1971 by die Sao Paulo Biennale, Brasilië, in 2009 by Art Basel Miami Beach, Florida sowel as by ander internasionale kunstefeeste. Gedruende 1980 het sy haar eerste besoek aan Indië en Nepal gebring. Haar eerste oorsig-uitstalling is in 1982 gehou, by die eertydse Randse Afrikaanse Univsersiteit (vandag die Universiteit van Johannesburg), gevolg deur nog twee sodanige uitstallings – in 2008, by die Standard Bank-kunsgalery, Johannesburg en, in 2009, by die Sasol Museum, Stellenbosch.

Van 1989 tot 1991 het Mason in Italië gewoon en aan Scoula Lorenzo de Medici in Florence onderrig gegee. Daarna het sy na Suid-Afrika teruggekeer en van 1991 tot 2000 in Kaapstad gewoon. In daardie stadium het haar werk deel van die nasionale kurrikulum vir Suid-Afrikaanse skole en universiteite geword. Gedurende 1993 het sy aan die Michaelis Kunsskool onderrig gegee in Kunsgeskiedenis, teken en skilder. In daardie tyd het sy verkies om haar werk by solo-uitstallings in die Karen McKerron-galery in Johannesburg te vertoon, tussen 1992 en 2000, en in die Chelsea-galery in Kaapstad, van 1995 tot 2001. Tot tans het Mason selektief uitgestal saam met Art on Paper in Johannesburg, die Pretoriase Kunsvereniging, East End Gallery in New York en Art Basel Miami Beach. Sy het ook verskeie internasionale uitstallings in Griekeland, Italië, Nederland, Beglië, Chili, Duitsland, Switserland en die VSA gehou.

In 2011 ontvang sy die Erepenning vir Skilderkuns van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns.

Mason woon en werk steeds in Johannesburg en het 'n ateljee in Miami, Florida, VSA. Per geleentheid bied sy lesings en werkwinkels aan.

Bekende publieke opdragwerke sluit in: tapisserieë in samewerking met Marguerite Stephens, vir die Royal Hotel in Durban, in 1976, kleurvenster-ontwerpe vir die Great Park-sinagoge in Johannesburg en ***The Man who Sang and the Woman who kept Silent*** by die Grondwethof in Johannesburg.

Verskeie spesiale kunstenaarsoplae is deur Mason gepubliseer: ***A Dante Bestiary***, sowel as 'n aantal kunstenaarsoplae in gemengde media (beperkte uitgawes): litografieë vir ***Selected Poems*** deur Patrick Cullinan, ***Nagjoernaal*** deur Phil du Plessis en druk-oplae saam met The Artists' Press.

Mason was born in Pretoria in 1938. She studied at the University of the Witwatersrand from 1957 to 1960, with Charles Argent, ***Cecily Sash*** and Erica Berry as tutors, and obtained her B.A. degree in Fine Art in 1960. She married Dr. Revil Mason, an archaeologist.

In 1964 she held her first solo exhibition, at Gallery 101, Johannesburg. From 1962 to 1967 and again from 1969 to 1973 (part-time) she lectured History of Art at Wits University. During the 1970's and 1980's, while being represented by the Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg, Mason was a dominant figure in art circles, at a time when South Africa was isolated, both politically and culturally, from the rest of the world. She became a full-time artist in 1977.

Mason represented South Africa at the Venice Biennale in 1966, Sao Paulo Biennale, Brazil in 1971, Art Basel Miami Beach, Florida in 2009, as well as at other international art fairs. She visited India and Nepal for the first time during 1980. Her first retrospective exhibition was held in 1982, at the Rand Afrikaans University (today University of Johannesburg), followed by two more such exhibitions – in 2008, at the Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg and, in 2009, at the Sasol Museum, Stellenbosch.

From 1989 to 1991 Mason lived in Italy and taught at Scoula Lorenzo de Medici in Florence. She returned to South Africa and lived in Cape Town from 1991 to 2000. At that time her work became part of the National South African school and university curricula. During 1993 she taught History of Art, Drawing and Painting at the Michaelis School of Art in Cape Town. At the time she preferred to display her work at solo exhibitions in the Karen McKerron Gallery in Johannesburg, between 1992 and 2000, and in the Chelsea Gallery in Cape Town, from 1995 to 2001. To date Mason has exhibited selectively with Art on Paper in Johannesburg, the Pretoria Art Association, East End Gallery in New York and Art Basel Miami Beach. Various international exhibitions have been held in Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Switzerland and the USA.

In 2011 she received the Medal of Honour for Painting from the South African Academy of Science and Art.

Mason continues to live and work in Johannesburg and has a studio in Miami, Florida, USA. On occasion she conducts lectures and workshops.

Famed public commissions include: tapestries in collaboration with Marguerite Stephens, for The Royal Hotel in Durban, in 1976, stained-glass window designs for the Great Park Synagogue in Johannesburg and ***The Man who Sang and the Woman who kept Silent*** at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg.

Various special artist's editions have been published by Mason: ***A Dante Bestiary***, as well as a number of limited edition mixed media artist's editions, lithographs for ***Selected Poems*** by Patrick Cullinan, ***Nagjoernaal*** by Phil du Plessis and print editions with The Artists' Press.

Bronne / Sources:

Judith Mason website. Biography. Available: www.judithmason.com

Berman, E. 1983. *Art & Artists of South Africa*. AA Balkema: Cape Town.

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Photo: Judith Mason. Photograph by Tamar Mason. Copyright Tamar Mason.

Mason, Judith (1938 -)
Crucifixion, 1965
Olieverf op bord / Oil on board

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

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