La Motte

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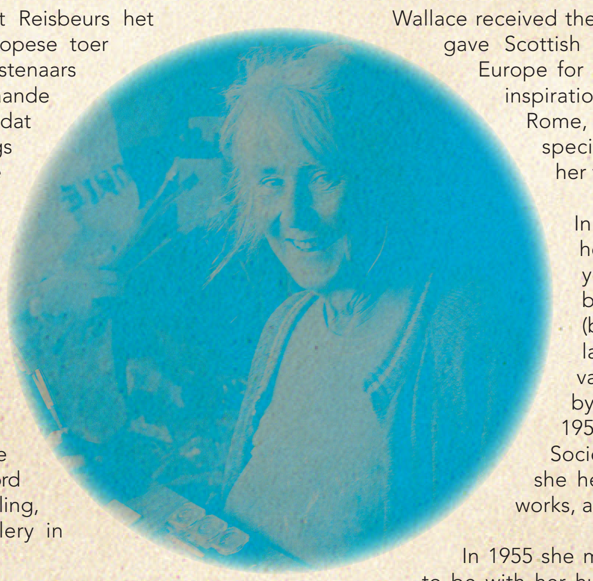
Deurdagte Reis – 'n viering van vrouekunstenaars
Thoughtful Journey – a celebration of female artists

Marjorie Wallace (1925 – 2004)

Wallace is op 24 September 1925 in Edinburg, Skotland gebore. Sy het haar skoolonderrig deels as tuisonderrig en deels by Cranley in Edinburg ontvang. Laasgenoemde is tydens die Tweede Wêreldoorlog ontruim en Wallace het haar skooljare op die Skotse Hooglande (Grantown-on-Spey) deurgebring. Haar kunsopleiding het begin met studies aan Edinburg Art College (1942 tot 1946) met W.G. Gillies as leermeester. In die veertigerjare was die modernisme van Picasso en Braque aan die voorpunt van studies aan hierdie kollege.

As ontvanger van die Andrew Grant Reisbeurs het Wallace tussen 1946 en 1947 'n Europese toer onderneem. Die beurs het Skotse kunstenaars die geleentheid gebied om vir ses maande na Europa te reis, met die vereiste dat inspirerende Italiaanse bestemmings soos Rome, Florence en Venesië spesiale aandag moes geniet.



Sy het haarself in 1947 in Parys, Frankryk gevestig. Tydens haar verblyf daar het sy haar latere eggenoot Jan Rabie en vriend Uys Krige (albei later bekende Suid Afrikaanse skrywers) ontmoet en aan verskeie groep-uitstallings, wat deur Salon dés Surindépendants aangebied is, deelgeneem. In 1952 het sy 'n lid van die Vereniging van Skotse Kunstenaars geword en in 1953 haar eerste solo-uitstalling, met 39 werke, by The Scottish Gallery in Edinburg gehou.

In 1955 het sy na Groenpunt, Kaapstad verhuis om saam met haar man terug in sy geboorteland te wees. Hulle het by Erik Laubscher en Claude Bouscharain geloseer.

Wallace het haar debuut in Suid-Afrika gemaak met 'n reisende solo-uitstalling wat in Kaapstad, Johannesburg en Pretoria vertoon is. Die meeste van die werke was ook in Edinburg te sien – werke wat Wallace in haar Parys-ateljee geskilder het.

Haar nuwe omgewing het 'n invloed op haar skilder-onderwerpe gehad en temas het werkende bruinmense, vissers van Hawston en Waenhuiskrans, troues, begrafnisse en sosiale aktiwiteite ingesluit.

Die volgende solo-uitstalling van 45 werke – dié keer almal in Suid-Afrika geskep – is tydens November 1957 by die Suid-Afrikaanse Kunsvereniging, Kaapstad gehou. Die jaar daarna het Wallace haar laaste Edinburg solo-uitstalling, in Leceum Galleries, gehou. Al die werke wat vertoon is, is ook in Suid-Afrika geskep. Wallace het ook kunsklasse vir die township-kunstenaar Gladys Mgudlandlu aangebied.

In die sestigerjare was Wallace aktief as kinderboekskryfster asook illustreerder en omslagontwerper vir verskeie publikasies, veral die boeke deur Jan Rabie. Tydens Junie 1966 het Wallace en Rabie besluit om na Europa en Amerika te reis – die reis het hulle drie en 'n halfjaar lank uit Suid-Afrika geneem en het, onder meer, 26 streke ingesluit. Hul langste verblyf was in Griekeland waar hulle ***Adele White*** in Plaka ontmoet het. Gedurende die 30 maande lange verblyf in Griekeland is Wallace veral gefassineer deur geleenthede waar die lewe gevier word – soos by doopplegtighede en begrafnisse – kerkhowe is dus as tema ingesluit.

Na hul terugkoms na Suid-Afrika was Wallace en Rabie in Onrus (naby Hermanus) woonagtig en dit is hier waar Wallace en ***Cecil Higgs*** bevriend geraak het. In die jare in Onrus het Wallace verskeie portrette van bekende figure in Suid-Afrika, onder andere Uys Krige, Ingrid Jonker, ***Ruth Prowse*** en ***Cecil Higgs***, geskilder. Gedurende die jare 1972 tot 1979 het Wallace verskeie solo-uitstallings in Kaapstad en Pretoria gehou. Die inspirasie vir die werke was haar Griekeland-ondervinding en reise, asook skrywersvriende soos Uys Krige en André P. Brink se boeke. In 2003 is die teaterstuk *Jan en Jorie* – op Jan Rabie en Marjorie Wallace se lewens gebaseer – opgevoer, met Francios Toerien en Nicole Holm, en Juanita Swanepoel as regisseuse.

Wallace is op 26 Junie 2004 in Onrus oorlede. In Augustus 2004 is die *Orde van die Ikhamanga* (brons) aan haar toegeken. Wallace en Rabie se bydrae tot die skryf- en skilderkuns leef voort in die Jan Rabie & Marjorie Wallace Beurs vir die skryf- en skilderkuns wat aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad gestig is.

Wallace was born in Edinburg, Scotland on 24 September 1925. Her school career was split between home-schooling and training at Cranley in Edinburg. During World War II the latter was evacuated and Wallace spent three years in the Scottish Highlands (Grantown-on-Spey). Her art training started with studies at Edinburg Art College, from 1942 until 1946, with W.G. Gillies as her tutor. In the 1940's the modernism of Picasso and Braque was at the forefront of studies at this college.

Wallace received the Andrew Grant Travel bursary that gave Scottish artists the opportunity to travel Europe for six months, on the condition that inspirational Italian destinations such as Rome, Florence and Venice should receive special attention. Wallace undertook her travels between 1946 and 1947.

In 1947 Wallace made Paris, France her home. It was during her Paris years that she met her husband-to-be Jan Rabie and friend Uys Krige (both famous South African writers in later years). She also participated in various group exhibitions presented by Salon dés Surindépendants. In 1952 she became a member of the Society for Scottish Artists and in 1953 she held her first solo exhibition, of 39 works, at The Scottish Gallery in Edinburg.

In 1955 she moved to Green Point, Cape Town to be with her husband in his native country. They stayed with Erik Laubscher and Claude Bouscharain.

Wallace made her debut in South Africa with a traveling solo exhibition, on show in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Pretoria. Most of the works were also seen in Edinburg, all painted by Wallace in her Paris studio.

Her new surroundings had an influence on the subjects she painted – themes included working brown people, fishermen of Hawston and Waenhuiskrans, weddings, funerals and social gatherings.

The next solo exhibition – 45 works, all painted in South Africa – was on show at the South African Art Association, Cape Town in November 1957. During the following year Wallace held her last Edinburg solo exhibition, at the Leceum Galleries. All the works on show were created in South Africa. She also gave art classes to township artist Gladys Mgudlandlu.

In the 1960's Wallace was active as a children's book author, as well as an illustrator and cover designer for various publications, especially the books by Jan Rabie. In June 1966 she and Rabie decided to travel Europe and America. This journey took them away from South Africa for three and a half years and included about 26 regions. Their longest stay was in Greece, where they met ***Adele White***, who lived in Plaka. It was during the 30-month stay in Greece that Wallace was fascinated by events celebrating life – christening and funerals – and cemeteries were included as a theme.

Upon their return to South Africa, Wallace and Rabie resided in Onrus (near Hermanus), where Wallace befriended ***Cecil Higgs***. During the years at Onrus, Wallace painted various portraits of famous South Africans, such as Uys Krige, Ingrid Jonker, ***Ruth Prowse*** and ***Cecil Higgs***. During the period 1972 until 1979 Wallace held several solo exhibitions in Cape Town and Pretoria – the inspiration for works exhibited was mostly her travels, her experience in Greece, as well as the books by her writer friends Uys Krige and André P. Brink. In 2003 the theatre production *Jan en Jorie* – based on the lives of Jan Rabie and Marjorie Wallace – was performed, with Francois Toerien and Nicole Holm, and Juanita Swanepoel as director.

Wallace passed away in Onrus on 26 June 2004. In August 2004 the *Order of Ikhamanga* (bronze) was awarded to her. Wallace's and Rabie's contributions to writing and painting live on in the Jan Rabie & Marjorie Wallace bursary for writing and painting, founded at the University of Cape Town.

Bronne / Sources:

Botha, A. 2006. *Marjorie Wallace: Drif en Vreugde*. David Phillip, New Africa Books. Claremont, Suid-Afrika.

Photo: Marjorie Wallace in her studio at Onrus. Courtesy of MC Botha

Wallace, Marjorie (1925 – 2004)
The Studio, 1955
Olieverf op doek / Oil on canvas

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

Wallace, Marjorie (1925 – 2004)
Graves and Gannets, 1963
Olieverf op doek / Oil on canvas

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