

Adrian de Villiers

1951-

Sculptures, Assemblages, Graphics, Design



Adrian de Villiers in 1985

Brief CV

Adrian Victor de Villiers, born 13th January, 1951, in Cape Town, 1969/72 studied at Pretoria Technikon and Witwatersrand Technikon, Johannesburg, under Neels Coetzee and Eben Leibbrandt, gaining a Dipl. F.A.; printed silkscreen editions for Walter Battiss, Larry Scully, Stephanie Watson a.o., during 1972/73; won the Education Trust Award at "Art South Africa Today", 1973.

Left South Africa to study sculpture at St. Martin's School of Art (London); tutored by Anthony Caro, Philip King and Flanagan during 1973/76, obtaining his B.A. Hons (Sculptures) 1976.

Invited to join "London Performance Co-Op", 1976; married Ellen Pearson, 1977; moved to the Lake District, 1978, and set up "Artists Craftsman Workshops" to reintroduce traditional British crafts that were being lost, also taught part-time at the Cumbria Adult Education Centre (sculpture and drawing).

In 1979, he was awarded a "British Arts Council" grant to continue his own sculpture and performance.

In 1980, he returned to South Africa as Manager of Menalco Prints (Pty) Ltd., Cape Town (an exclusive textile printing company), when he also produced wooden toys with Ellen Pearson, as collectors' items.

In June 1984, he joined the Technikon OFS, Bloemfontein, as Sculpture lecturer. He exhibited then in "O.F.S. Contemporaries" and in a group lecturers' show. In 1985, he was appointed senior lecturer in sculpture at the University Bophuthatswana, Mmabatho.

In 1987 he was living in Kings Norton, Birmingham, UK; he did a one-year post-graduate University course in Design and Technology, finishing in June, 1988; from September 1988 started teaching Sculpture and Design Technology in Hereford.

Since 1990 he has lived in Glasgow, having been appointed then by the Glasgow Academy as Head of both their Art and their Design Departments. He retired from teaching at the end of 2011.

His eldest son Tam is a professional jazz player and composer in Paris, his youngest son Fen an established sculptor in Antwerp.

Selected Exhibitions

- 1970 New Signatures, SA Association of Arts, Pretoria
- 1973 Art South Africa To-Day, Durban (won award)
- 1985 O.F.S. Contemporaries, University of the O.F.S., Bloemfontein
- 1985 Cosmos Gallery, Bloemfontein (Lecturers' Show)
- 1985 Gallery 21, Johannesburg (Solo Show: sculpture and assemblages) (8th to 21st October)
- 1986 Gallery 21, Johannesburg (UNIBO Group) 4th to 15th November, 1986 (Estelle Marais, Adrian de Villiers, Julie Kilian, Collin Cole, Melvyn Burger)
- 1987 Gallery Birch & Conran, Soho, London "Young Contemporaries" (19th August to 10th September)
- 1987 "Artists in Public" group show in Birmingham (September)

Selected Publications

Listed in:

- ARTLOOK, Johannesburg 84, 1973 November, Vol. 6, No. 11, p. 23
- "Art & Artists of South Africa" (Balkema, 1983) (Esmé Berman), p. 300 – ISBN 0 86961 144 5
- "The Dictionary of South African Painters and Sculptors including Namibia" (Everard Read) (Ogilvie) (1988) – ISBN 0 620 12663 9
- ["A donation from the PELMAMA Permanent Art Collection"](#) published by the Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, 2007, p. 51, cat. 313

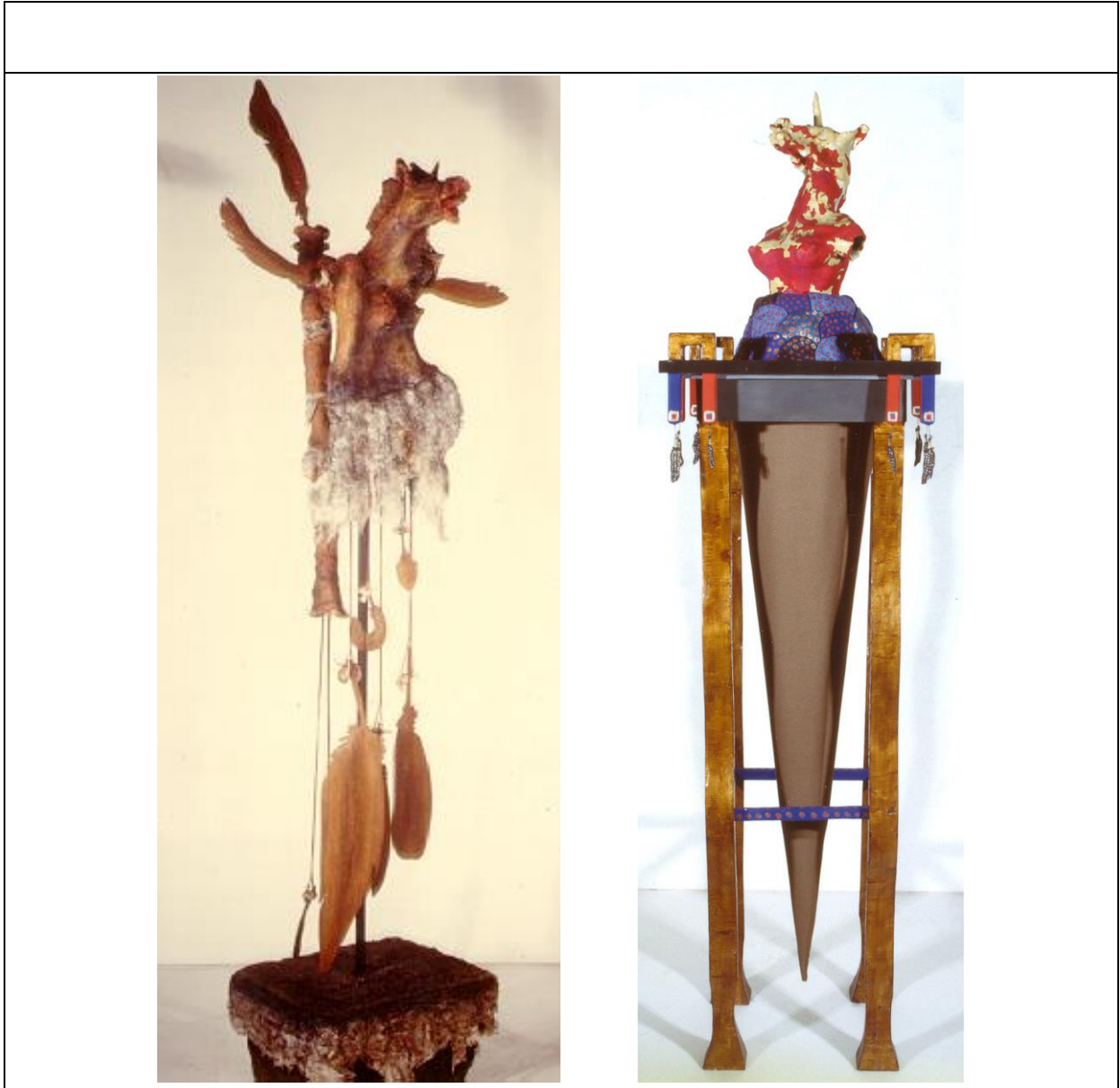
Press reviews:

- The Citizen Johannesburg – 12th October, 1985 (*with sketch of artist*)
 - Die Beeld Johannesburg 17th October, 1985 (Elza Miles)
 - The Citizen Johannesburg – 18th October, 1985
 - Die Beeld, Johannesburg – 11th November, 1986 (Elza Miles)
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Web references

http://www.pelmama.org/DeVILLIERS_Adrian.htm

Selected Works



"The Keeper of the Feather", 1984 - ADVI 84/01 (at left)

(Coll. Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein)

http://www.pelmama.org/DeVILLIERS_Adrian_ADVI8401.htm

"She figured it out", 1984 – ADVI 84/02 (at right)



"Holding the secret of the Wish fulfilling Golden Gem", 1984 – ADVI 84/03 (at left)

http://www.pelmama.org/DeVILLIERS_Adrian_ADVI8403.htm

"She rides a cock horse", 1985 – ADVI 85/01 (at right)

http://www.pelmama.org/DeVILLIERS_Adrian_ADVI8501.htm



"Rain Queen", 1986 – mixed media panel – 25x18x7.5 cm

http://www.za-ch-art-kunst.ch/ARTLinks/PrivateCollection/DE_VILLIERS_Adrian.htm

Since 2009 in the Collection of the Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein

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Exhibition of Sculptures and
Assemblages by

ADRIAN DE VILLIERS

and

ELLEN PEARSON DE VILLIERS

8. - 21.10.1985

| Cat. | Title | Year | Medium | Price |
|----------------------------------|---|------|--------------|---------|
| <u>ELLEN PEARSON DE VILLIERS</u> | | | | |
| EP 1 | Dog Star | 1985 | M/med. | R 850 |
| EP 2 | Looking glass cake | 1984 | M/med. | R 850 |
| EP 3 | Order of the Nile | 1985 | M/med. | R 1,100 |
| EP 4 | Nagual Busa | 1985 | M/med. | R 980 |
| <u>ADRIAN DE VILLIERS</u> | | | | |
| ADV1 | Friendship Oasis | 1985 | Wall sculpt. | R 500 |
| ADV2 | The Great Divide | 1985 | Assemblage | R 500 |
| ADV3 | The surrender of the unique horn | 1985 | Wall sculpt. | R 1,000 |
| ADV4 | She figured it out | 1984 | M/med. Sc. | R 750 |
| ADV5 | Who would have thought she'd be capable of this! | 1985 | Assemblage | R 580 |
| ADV6 | She rides a cock horse | 1985 | M/med. Sc. | R 2,000 |
| ADV7 | The voyage of a future Belic | 1985 | M/med. Sc. | R 1,500 |
| ADV8 | Holding the secret of the wishfullfilling golden Gem | '84 | M/med. Sc. | R 2,000 |
| ADV9 | The keeper of the Feather | '84 | M/med. Sc. | R 1,000 |

N.B.: 1. All prices are net, excluding 12% G.S.T.
2. Terms over 12 months accepted (P.D. Cheques),
min. R100 p.m.
3. Part proceeds in favour of the PELMAMA Museum Project.



Adrian de Villiers with "She rides a cock horse", 1985 – ADVI 85/01

Updated 17th May, 2020

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<https://art-archives-southafrica.com/selected-artists-from-south-africa>