



Karel Nel

Translucent
Worlds

EVERARD READ | JOHANNESBURG



Karel Nel

Translucent Worlds

1 September – 21 November
2026

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Translucent Worlds

*Long rain of May
The whole world is
A single sheet of paper
Under the clouds*

Basho (1644 – 94)

The works on this exhibition are distillations of experiences gathered from my own life's journey, and by extension from those of others. I am thinking of the haiku that the Japanese poet, Basho, wrote in *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*, and the hundred woodcuts that Hokusai did of views of sacred Mount Fuji. I am thinking as well of the visual poems of Hiroshige's series of woodcuts, produced in the 1830s, after his first travels along the road to Tokaido that connects Edo to the imperial capital, Kyoto. I am thinking too of the sculptor, Brancusi, walking from Rumania to Paris, and Gauguin's long journey from Marseilles to Tahiti to escape from the rampant industrialisation he saw in Europe. Journeys such as these have layered my consciousness during my own travels to places like Brancusi's studio, to the temples of Kyoto and Nara, and to Uppsala, Linnaeus's university, as well as to the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden. These places have – in turn – brought me to new insights that flow into these works.

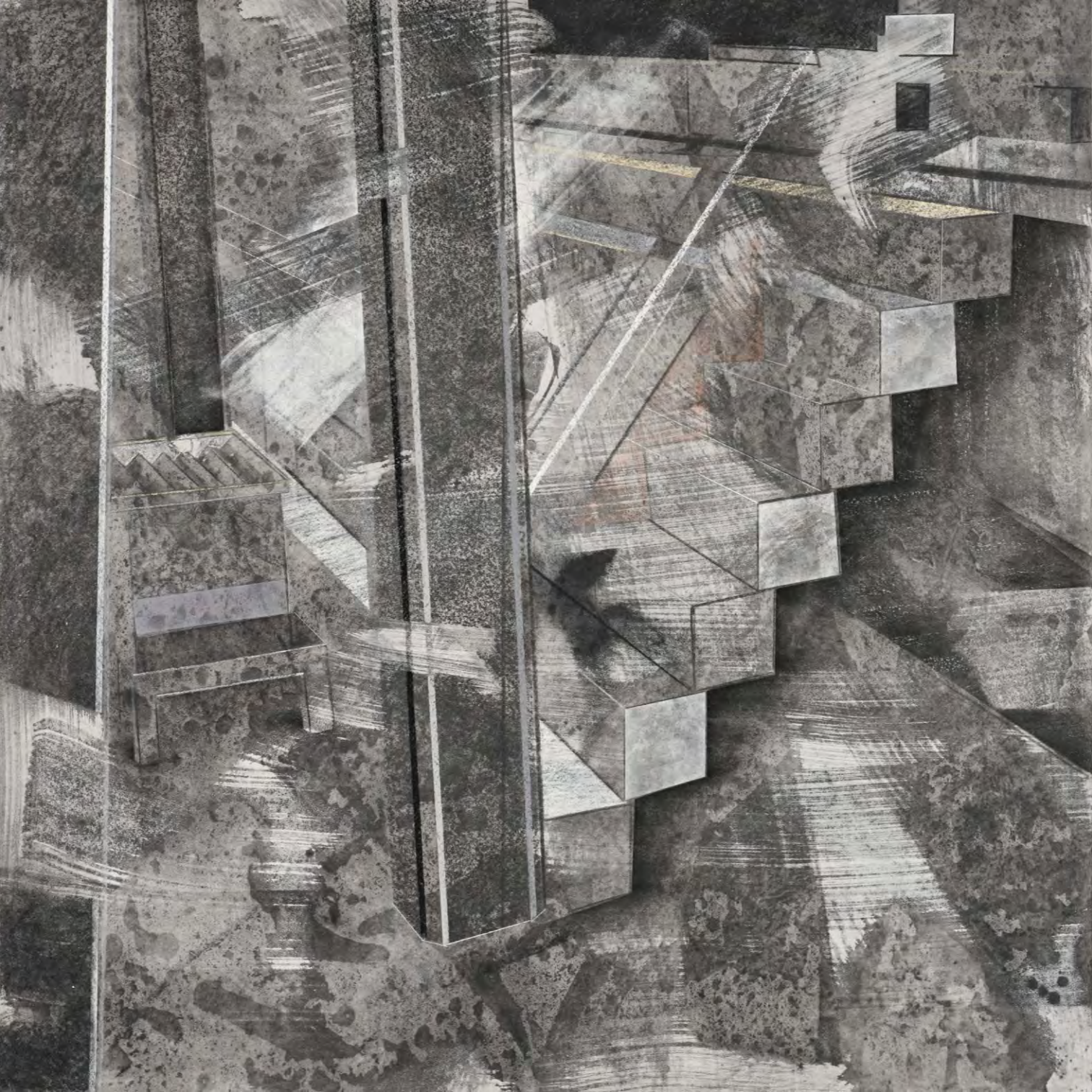
The complex process of drawing, for me, is a way of trying to understand, to grasp both the manifest and the ineffable. This interest in the world and its shifting paradigms has led to a lifetime of journeying, thinking, connecting with others, and always drawing. While the finished drawings are undertaken with great precision, they are also infused with the ungraspable, created by vanishing points and shifts in perspective. In *Portrait of Per Wästberg*, for example, the third library of his lifetime stands in for him: each coloured line, the spine of a book, represents a world that he has read and entered, as head of the Nobel Literary Committee for almost two decades. The black and white works, begun as rubbings on the pavements and columns of Paris, evoke after-images of Brancusi's studio in *Dreams and Tools, Impasse Ronsin, Paris*, as well as the forest shrines of Uji and Kyoto, visited in the previous year, in *Unfolding Worlds, Kyoto/Paris*.

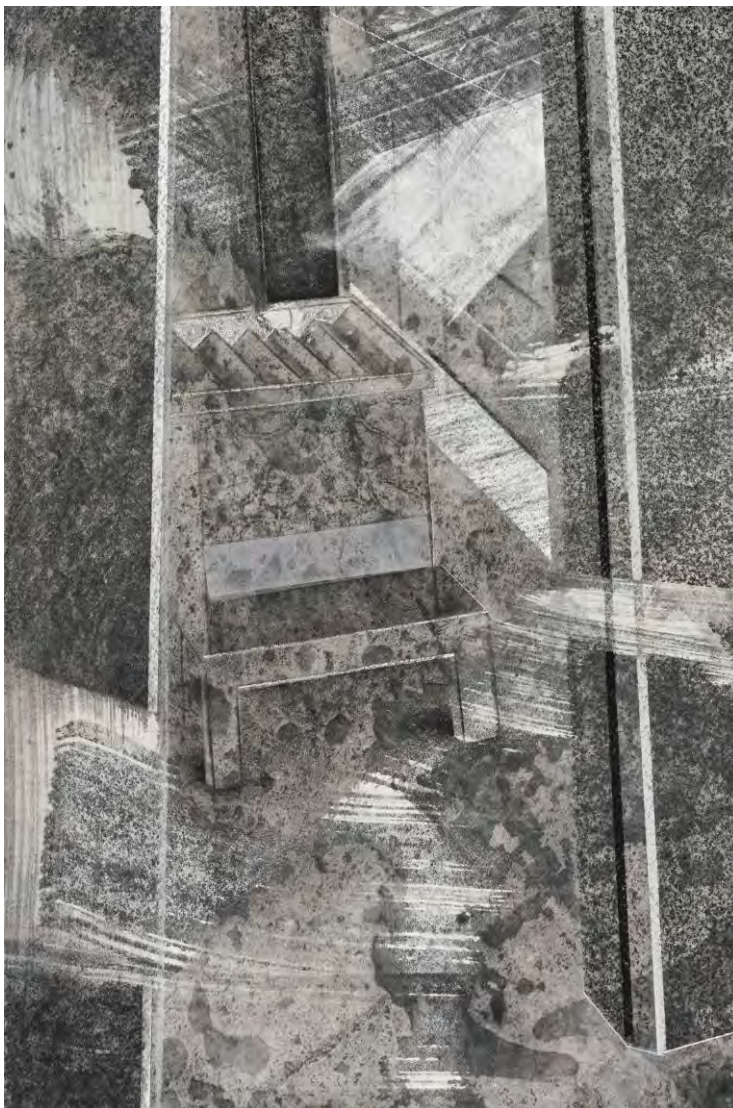
These new works once again evoke Brancusi's studio, and his Kyoto visits, but reflect shifts in Nel's consciousness between visits, bringing about changes and

COVER PAGE: **Dreams
and Tools, Impasse
Ronsin, Paris** (DETAIL)

PAGE 2: **Insight,
Uppsala, Sweden**
(DETAIL)

PAGE 3: **Unfolding
Worlds, Kyoto/Paris**
(DETAIL)





Ujikami Forest Shrine, Uji, Japan/Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 185 x 185 cm

R800,000





Afterimage: The Studio Absented, Impasse Ronsin, Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 185 x 185 cm

R800,000



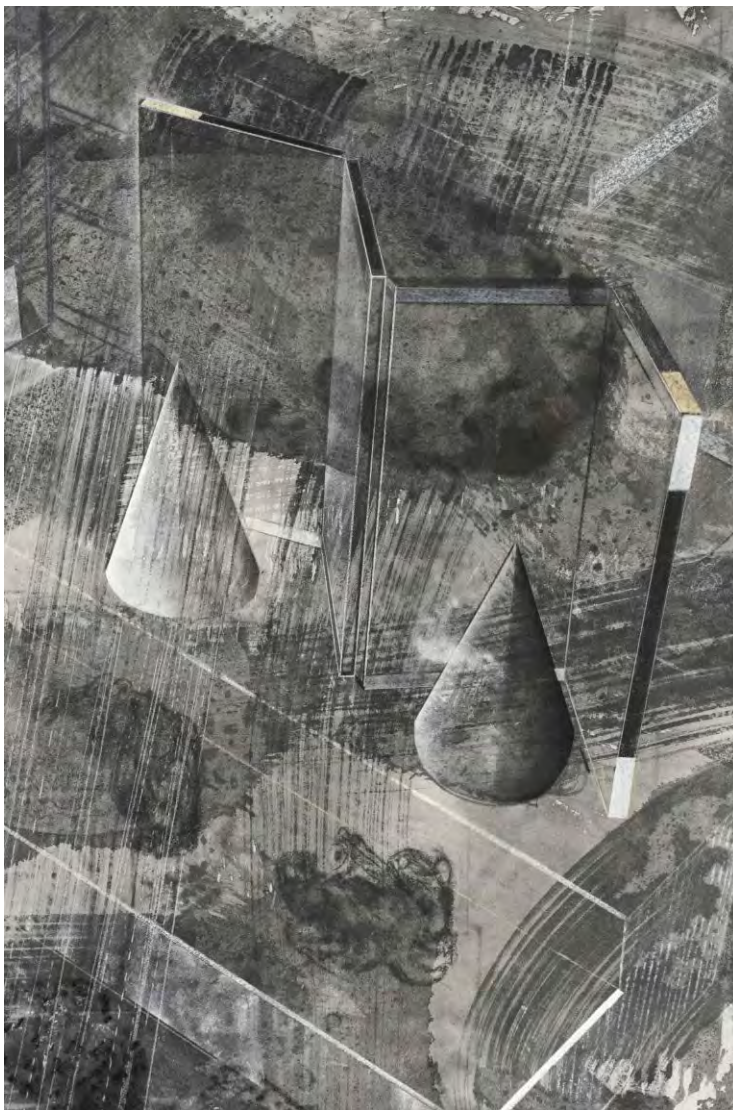


Unfolding Worlds, Kyoto/Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 185 x 185 cm

R800,000





Remembering Hiroshige, Kyoto/Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 185 x 185 cm

R800,000





The Sorcerer, Impasse Ronsin, Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 180 x 180 cm

R800,000

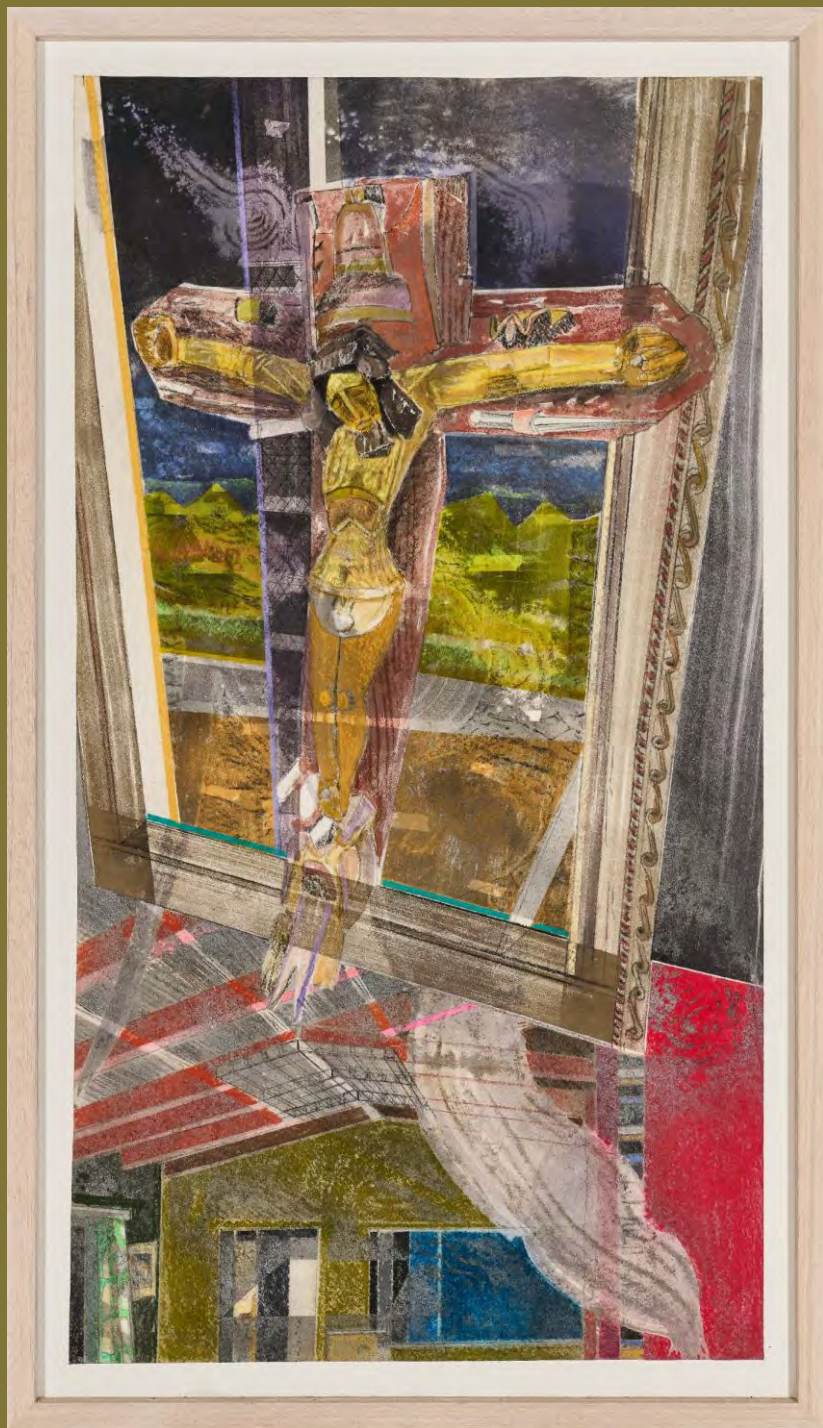




The Kiss, Montparnasse, Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 181 x 181 cm

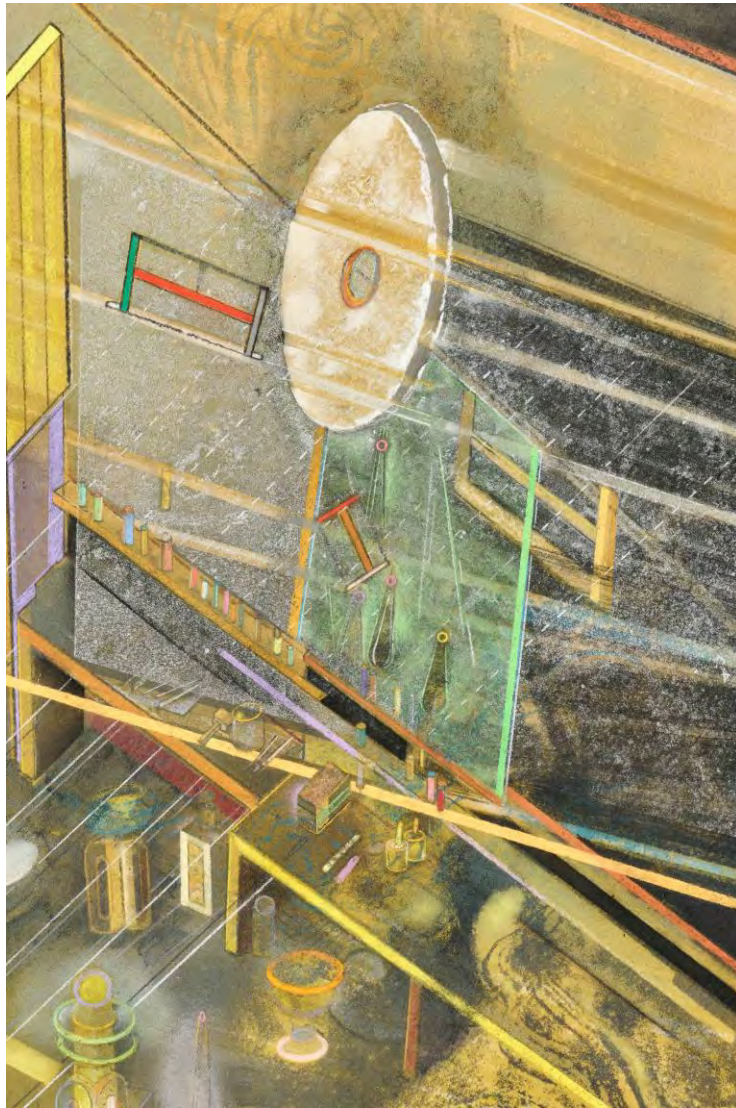
R800,000



Jackson Hlungwani/My Father's House
2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric,
165 x 195 cm

SOLD





Dreams and Tools, Impasse Ronsin, Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 172 x 172 cm

R800,000





Insight, Uppsala, Sweden

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 172 x 172 cm

R800,000





The Kundalini Forge, Impasse Ronsin, Paris

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 116 x 116 cm

SOLD



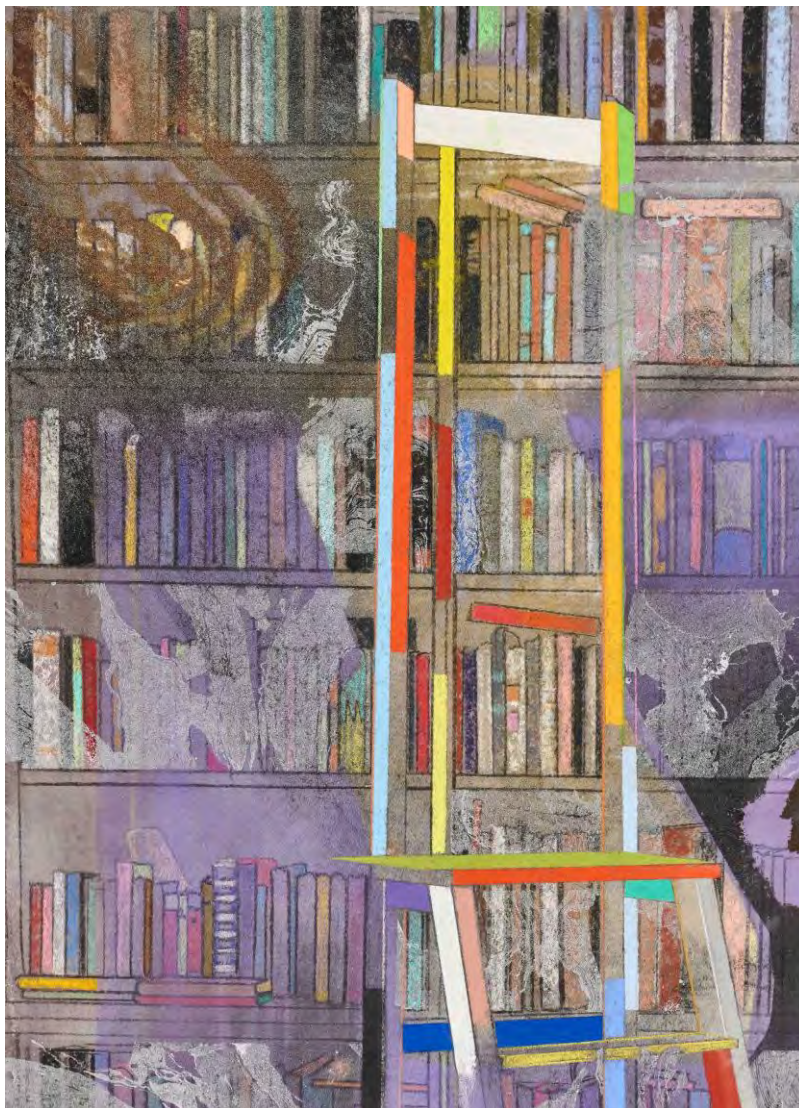


Stacked Worlds: Portrait of a Reader, Stockholm

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 181 x 181 cm

R800,000





Portrait of Per Wästberg, Stockholm

2026, Pastel, pigment on bonded fibre fabric, 116 x 116 cm

SOLD



BIOGRAPHY

Nel's latest exhibition, *Translucent Worlds*, to be exhibited at Circa in Johannesburg as of September 2026, follows on from his large survey exhibition at WAM in 2023. It explores, in part, the notion of portraiture as place rather than figure. It also considers places that hold layered significance for him – from Stockholm to Paris to Kyoto. The South African poet, Stephen Watson, wrote that: "Of necessity, (Nel's) art has had to follow the trajectory of an inner journey, trawling amidst the rich multiplicity of the world's cultural traditions, their rites and symbols, searching for that imagery which might connect our conscious lives with the deepest spiritual potential within ourselves".

While Karel Nel known for his own artistic output, mainly drawing, he is also a recognized collector and curator. He frequently works with pastel and other richly coloured pigments on bonded fibre fabric, but is also known for his use of a range of other materials such as ochre, volcanic glass, sand and dust from places of historical significance such as Ground Zero, Soweto, the Bastille, White Sands, the site of the first atomic bomb detonation and Swartkrans, the first known site of humans' controlled use of fire. He also uses unusual and sometimes rare materials as the basis for his drawings: Baobab bark fibre, bark cloth made from the *Ficus ficus* tree, Pandanus leaves from Micronesia and the giant leaves from the Coco de Mer palms of the Seychelles. Often on a large scale (2 x 3 m), his works range from rigorous mental abstraction to the subtly observed representational, depicting objects and textiles from his collection or structures and environments observed during his extensive travels.

Apart from his longstanding teaching post in the Fine Arts Department at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in Johannesburg, Nel has, since 2004, served as a resident artist with a team of the world's foremost astronomers on COSMOS, an ambitious project to map a two-degree field of the universe. Much of Nel's work is informed by the ideas, insights, images and raw data captured by the radio-, infrared, optical and x-ray telescopes used in the scientists' research. Annually Nel joins the COSMOS team in different cities around the world, as they exchange their latest findings. In 2017, at the University of Tokyo, Nel delivered a presentation entitled *The Structure of Darkness* which engaged with ideas related to dark matter, dark energy and other powerful informing agents that shape our universe. In 2018, at the Copenhagen conference, the focus in Nel's related paper was the visual and scientific conventions for representing the notion of vanishing points and their impact on what becomes the centre of attention while other objects remain on the periphery or go unobserved. In 2019, Nel engaged the scientists with thoughts on time that had been prompted by his engagement with their work.

Nel is a respected collector of African, Oceanic and Asian art with a particular interest in currencies. He has expertise in southern African art and advises and consults with museums in South Africa, New York, London and Paris. He has also been part of curatorial teams for major international exhibitions on early Zulu, Tsonga and Shangaan art, and has contributed to numerous publications on this material. In 2012, for example, Nel was an advisor, contributor and participant of the major exhibition *African Cosmos, Stellar Arts: African Cultural Astronomy from Antiquity to the Present*, conceived and curated by Christine Mullen Kreamer at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Washington D.C.

Nel also contributed his expertise to the management of the collections at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, where he served as member and also chairperson of the Acquisitions Committee between 2010 and 2018. He was also a longstanding member of the acquisitions committee for the Wits Art Museum and the Standard Bank Collection of African Art, and has assisted in the return of significant collections of Southern African art from Europe and Britain. He also serves on the board of the Edoardo and Claire Villa Trust.

Until 2017, Nel was Associate Professor at the School of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand. He currently serves as a Senior Curator at the Norval Foundation in Cape Town: to date he has curated a major collective retrospective exhibition, *Re-/Discovery and Memory* of the work of Sydney Kumalo, Ezrom Legae and Edoardo Villa; an exhibition of David Goldblatt's *On the Mines*; and a William Kentridge retrospective exhibition of sculptures, *Why Should I Hesitate?* as well as a major retrospective of the works of Alexis Preller entitled *Mythical Lexicon*. Most recently he has curated *Wild Life*, a major exhibition of the sculptures of Brett Murray, as well as two smaller ones showcasing the works of Irma Stern, also at Norval Foundation. These exhibitions at Norval unfold a history of modern South African art, attending to areas worthy of recollection, and positioning important developments within the evolving context of African art as a whole.

Together with the South African art historian, Esmé Berman, Nel has contributed two volumes on the South African artist, Alexis Preller. He served as an editor and author of *Villa at 90*. He has also written more recently on the work of Ezrom Legae, Sydney Kumalo, Edoardo Villa and William Kentridge for the exhibitions at Norval Foundation.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026** *Translucent Worlds* – Circa, Johannesburg
2023 *Close and Far* – Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg
2015 *Observe* – Art First, London
2013 *Silent Thresholds* – Art First, London
2011 *There but Not There* – Art First, London
2008 *The Brilliance of Darkness* – Art First, London
2007 *Lost light: fugitive images from deep space* – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg
2005 *In the Presence of Leaves* – Art First, London
2004 *Unfathomable Depths* – Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles
2003 *Status of Dust* – Art First, London
2002 *Status of Dust* – Art First, New York
2000 *Volcanic Texts* – Art First, London
1999 *Solo Journey* – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg
1998 *Images of Paradise and Death* – Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles
1996 *View on the Inner House* – Art First, London
1995 *Isles and the Inner House* – Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles
1994 *Inner Province* – Art First, London
1990 *Recent Work* – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg
1986 *Quiet Lives* – Gertrude Pösel Gallery, University of Witwatersrand
1983 *Recent Drawings* – Guest Artist, Johannesburg Art Gallery
1980 *Drawings* – Olivetti Gallery, Johannesburg



SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|-------------|--|
| 2016 | South Africa: Art of a Nation, British Museum, London, UK | 1995 | Temenos – Johannesburg Art Gallery, installation for the Johannesburg Biennale |
| 2014 | Exact Imagination, 300 Years of Botanically Inspired Art in South Africa – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, SA | | Common and Uncommon Ground, South African Art to Atlanta – City Gallery East, Atlanta, USA |
| 2013 | Wits Art Museum, selected works for endowment auction | 1994 | Artists Under the Southern Cross (with Doris Bloom and Marlene Dumas) – Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Giholte-Baard-Breda Fonden, Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 2012 | African Cosmos – Museum of African Art, Smithsonian, Washington DC, USA | 1993 | Resident Artist – Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, SA |
| 2011 | Water: The [Delicate] Thread of Life – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, SA | | Affinities, Contemporary South African Art – Venice Biennale (and Rome) |
| | Life of bone – art meets science, Origins Centre, Johannesburg, SA | 1992 | Institute of Contemporary Art, Johannesburg, SA |
| | Twenty Years – Art First, London, UK | | Art Meets Science – Grahamstown Festival of the Arts |
| 2009 | Penelope and the Cosmos (with Willem Boshoff) – CIRCA, Johannesburg, SA | 1991 | University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, USA |
| | The Discerning Eye – Mall Galleries, London, UK | | Three South African Artists: A Contemplative View – Midlands Contemporary Art, Birmingham, UK |
| 2008 | Angaza Afrika, African Art Now – October Gallery, London, UK | 1988 | Cape Town Triennial |
| 2005 | New Beginnings: the best of the Standard Bank Corporate Collection – Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, SA | | Fort Worth Ryder Gallery – University of California (prize-winner) |
| 2004 | Ten Years of Democracy – South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA | 1987 | Vita Art Now – Johannesburg Art Gallery |
| 2003/4 | Sted//Place – Galerie Asbaek, Copenhagen and Kastrupgardsamlingen, Kastrup, Denmark. Touring to Pretoria Art Museum and Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa | | National Drawing Competition Exhibition, Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, SA |
| 2001 | Art First at 10 – Art First, London, UK | | Valparaiso Biennale, Chile, South African Association of Arts |
| 2000 | The Schachat Art Collection – SASOL Art Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa | | Tapestries – Goodman Gallery, and South African National Gallery |
| 1999 | Claiming Art/Reclaiming Space: Post-Apartheid Art from South Africa – Smithsonian, Washington DC, USA | 1986 | The Volkskas Atelier Award (and 1987, 1988) |
| | Emergence – Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, touring exhibition | | Selections from a Century – Johannesburg Art Gallery |
| 1998 | Nearer than Bronze – Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, SA | 1985 | Tributaries A View of Contemporary South African Art, BMW Exhibition, touring Europe |
| 1996 | Three Years On – Art First, London, UK | | Cape Town Triennial |
| | Insights – Wright Gallery, New York, USA | | Paperworks (prize-winner) – NSA Gallery, Durban, SA |
| | Vita Art Now – Johannesburg Art Gallery | 1983 | Tatham Gallery, Pietermaritzburg Association of Arts, Natal |
| | | 1982 | Cape Town Triennial (gold medalist) |
| | | 1980 | Durban Arts '80 |
| | | | Young Artists, Olivetti Gallery, Johannesburg, SA |
| | | | Sculpture '80, University of Pretoria, SA |
| | | 1977 | University of Witwatersrand Fine Arts Staff exhibition |

ART FAIRS

- 1993** Islington Art Fair, London, Art First Gallery
1994 Islington Art Fair, London, Art First Gallery
1995 Islington Art Fair, London, Art First Gallery
1996 Islington Art Fair, London, Art First Gallery
1997 Islington Art Fair, London, Art First Gallery
2004 London Art Fair, Art First Gallery
2005 London Art Fair, Art First Gallery
2010 London Art Fair, Art First Gallery
Dubai Art Fair, October Gallery
Johannesburg Art Fair, October Gallery
2011 Johannesburg Art Fair, October Gallery
2013 Johannesburg Art Fair, Art First
2014 Johannesburg Art Fair, Art First
2015 Johannesburg Art Fair, Art First
Cape Town Art Fair, Art First
2018 Cape Town Art Fair, Art First

COMMISSIONS

- 2011** Reflective Field – Standard Bank commission for Water: The [Delicate] Thread of Life
2004 Design: Oval Nguni Wool Carpet – South Africa House, London, UK
Design, Book cover for Gordimer, N. (ed.). Telling Tales, Bloomsbury Publishing: Great Britain
2002 Field of Value, Nedbank headquarters, Sandton, SA
1999 Place of Nurture – ABSA Bank, Johannesburg, SA
1997 Signs of Fire – B/M/D Headquarters, Cape Town, SA
1996 The Way of Stone – Réunion, Indian Ocean
1995 Four Core Tapestries – Gencor, Johannesburg, SA
1992 Three Lithographs – Grahamstown Festival of the Arts: Art/Science exhibition
1988 Geological Stratigraphy – mixed media mural, Anglo Vaal, Main Street Headquarters, Johannesburg, SA
Parallel Worlds – Tapestry woven by Marguerite Stephens for the new Glynnwood hospital complex, Springs, Gauteng
1986 Intact – print edition for Brenthurst Press/Johannesburg Art Gallery
1984 Trance-Atlantic – mural panel, Anglo American Headquarters, 44 Main Street, Johannesburg, SA
Inner Dance – Sand du Plessis Theatre, Bloemfontein, SA

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2005** South African Museums Publication Design Award: Phillip Tobias poster/invitation: At My Wits End
2004 Artist in residence – the COSMOS Project (ongoing)
2003 Gammel Dok Copenhagen artist's residency
1999 South African Museums Publication Design Award for Evocations of the Child, published by Human and Rousseau with the Johannesburg Art Gallery
1991 The Old Mutual Vita Award (overall winner)
The Simpson Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, USA
1989 Art Gallery Founders' Prize of the University of California, Berkeley, USA
1987 Fulbright Placement (University of California, Berkeley)
University Council Fellowship (University of the Witwatersrand)
1986 The Volkskas Atelier Award
1982 Olivetti Travel Grant
Cape Town Triennial, (Gold Medalist)
1981 Almaks Stainless Steel Sculpture Prize
1979 Montague White Travel Grant to St. Martin's School of Art, London, UK
1978 Montague White bursary
Afrox Metal Art Sculpture competition, Afrox Prize (open category)
1977 Afrox Metal Art Sculpture annual competition (student award)

CURATION

- 2026** Irma Stern – Closer to Home, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Irma Stern – The Berlin Years, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
2025 Brett Murray – Wild Life, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
2024 Cyprian Shilakoe and Lucas Sithole – 'They came and left Footsteps', Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Norman Seeff – Homecoming, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Walter Oltmann – Metamorphosis, Norval Foundation
2023 Alexis Preller – Mythical Lexicon, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Collectors' Focus – The Kilbourne Collection, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Maggie Laubser – Portraits and the Landscape, 1886 – 1973, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA

2021	Irma Stern – the Zanzibari Years, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA	2002	Curator: early traditional Zulu, Sotho, Tsonga, Shangaan and Xhosa artifacts, library in South Africa House, London (proposed installation) Consultant: African Currency exhibition in Rotterdam to coincide with the launch of the Euro Curator: Ashanti weights at the Gold Museum, Cape Town. (Exhibition withdrawn.)
2020	Jackson Hlungwani – Alt and Omega, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA	2002 - 1	Consultant: selection and presentation of Southern African artworks in the permanent installation of African art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas
2019	Why should I Hesitate? – William Kentridge sculpture retrospective, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA On the Mines – David Goldblatt with a voice-over of Nadine Gordimer's text, read by Brenda Goldblatt, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA	2001	Consultant and Installation: 15th century Nigerian Sculpture, Meneghelli Foundation at Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
2018	Re/Discovery and Memory: The works of Kumalo, Legae & Villa, Norval Foundation Serge-Alain Nitegeka – Structural Response, Norval Foundation Appointed as Senior Curator, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA	2000	Consultant: Ubuntu, Southern African material, Musee de l'homme, Paris, France
2012	Consultant: African Cosmos – Stellar Arts, Smithsonian Museum of African Art, Washington D.C. Consultant: WAM! Seeing Stars, opening exhibition, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, SA Curator: Between rock: grinding stones from southern Africa, Circa, Johannesburg, SA	1999	Curator: Bridewealth, Currency and Other Assets, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
2011	Co-curator (with Joni Brenner and Gerhard Marx), design and installation: Life of Bone: art meets science, Origins Centre, Wits University, Johannesburg, SA Consultant: The Art of Daily Life: Portable Objects from Southeast Africa, Cleveland Museum of Art	1998 - 7	Co-Curator (with Nessa Leibhammer): Evocations of the Child: Fertility Figures of the Southern African Region, national touring exhibition Coordinator, designer, contributing author: Evocations of the Child: Fertility Figures of the Southern African Region, book published by Human & Rousseau and Johannesburg Art Gallery
2010	Consultant: Alan Crump, A fearless Vision, Johannesburg Art Gallery	1995	Consultant: Isiqhaza-Zulu Earplugs, exhibition, Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, SA Curator: Johannes Segogela – Guest Artist, Standard Bank National Festival of the Arts, Grahamstown, SA
2009	Curator: Alexis Preller – Africa, the sun and shadows, Standard Bank Gallery	1994	Curator: African Architectural Elements and Traditional Furniture, Gertrude Pösel Gallery, University of the Witwatersrand
2008	Co-Curator (with Mary-Jane Darroll): Edoardo Villa – Changing Worlds, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind	1990	Consultant and Installation: Art and Ambiguity: Perspectives on the Brenthurst Collection of Southern African Art, Johannesburg Art Gallery
2007	Consultant: Dungamanzi, Stirring Waters, curated by Nessa Leibhammer, national touring exhibition Curator: Oceanic Values: currencies of the Pacific, Standard Bank Gallery	1989	Consultant: Transformed Fibres, national touring exhibition curated by Nessa Leibhammer
2006	Consultant: Picasso and Africa, Standard Bank Gallery	1988	Curator: Cyprian Shilakoe – Guest Artist, Grahamstown Festival of the Arts
2004	Consultant: Democracy X, The Castle, Cape Town, SA Curator: Glimpses from the South: traditional Zulu, Tsonga/Shangaan objects, Museum for African Art, New York, USA Consultant: Voice-Overs: Wits Writings exploring African Artworks, Gertrude Pösel Gallery, Wits University	1987	Consultant: African Art Alternative Approaches, Museums Conference Exhibition, Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, Natal

MUSEUM ACQUISITION AND EXHIBITION COMMITTEES

- 1981 – 2019** Johannesburg Art Gallery acquisitions committee (chair from 2010)
- 1980 – 2020** Wits Art Galleries / Wits Art Museum: exhibitions and acquisitions committee, also for Standard Bank Collection of African Art
- 1984 – 7** African Art Advisor: William Humphries Museum, Kimberley, SA
- 2011 – present** The Claire and Edoardo Villa Will Trust

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023** Nel, K. Maggie Laubser – Portraits and the Landscape, 1886 – 1973, Norval Foundation: Cape Town, SA
- 2022** Burroughs, E., Leibhammer, N. & K. Nel (eds.). Jackson Hlungwani. Norval Foundation & Villa Will Trust: Cape Town., SA
 Nel. K. and N. Leibhammer. "Jackson Hlungwani: His Life (c 1923 - 2010)" in Burroughs, E., Leibhammer, N. & K. Nel. Jackson Hlungwani. Norval Foundation & Villa Will Trust: Cape Town., SA
 Nel. K., Leibhammer, N. & E. Burroughs, "Jackson Hlungwani: Alt and Omega – Sculptures that teach" in Burroughs, E., Leibhammer, N. & K. Nel. Jackson Hlungwani. Norval Foundation & Villa Will Trust: Cape Town., SA
 Nel. K. "Shangaan – In search of a genealogy" in Burroughs, E., Leibhammer, N. & K. Nel. Jackson Hlungwani. Norval Foundation & Villa Will Trust: Cape Town., SA
- 2021** Nel, K. The Zanzibari Years: Irma Stern, Norval Foundation: Cape Town, SA
- 2019** Nel. K. "Off the Cuff to Monumental" in Martin, O (ed.). Why should I Hesitate? – William Kentridge Sculpture, Norval Foundation & Koenig Books: Cape Town., SA

- 2018** Burroughs, E. and K. Nel (eds.). Re/Discovery and Memory: The works of Kumalo, Legae, Nitegeka & Villa, Norval Foundation and Villa Will Trust: Cape Town., SA
- 2016** Nel. K. "Rock pools and islands" in Ginsberg, J. and Siebrits, W. (eds). Walter Battiss: "I invented myself", Ampersand Foundation: Johannesburg., SA
- 2012** Nel, K. "The Cosmos and Africa: Balancing Data and the Poetics of Knowledge" In Kreamer, C. (ed.). African Cosmos / Stellar Arts: African Cultural Astronomy from Antiquity to the Present, Smithsonian National Museum of African Art: The Montacelli Press.
- 2011** Nel, K. "Matter out of Place: four new pieces" in Brenner, J. Burroughs, E. Nel, K. (eds.). Life of bone: art meets science, Wits University Press: Johannesburg., SA
 Nel, K. "Migratory aesthetics: the art of the cattle cultures of Southern Africa" (chapter) in Petridis, C. (ed.). The Art of Daily Life: Portable Objects from Southeast Africa, 5 Continents editions: Milan., Italy
 Nel, K. "Reflective Field" in Freschi, F. (ed.). Water: The [Delicate] Thread of Life, Standard Bank Gallery: Johannesburg., SA
- 2010** Nel, K. "Self, Land and Power: the art of Alan Crump" in Freschi, F. (ed.). Alan Crump, A Fearless Vision, Johannesburg Art Gallery: Johannesburg., SA
- 2009** Nel, K. Introduction (Vol 1) In Berman, E., Nel, K. (eds.). Alexis Preller: Africa, the Sun and Shadows, Shelf: Johannesburg., SA
 Nel, K. 'All Africa'; "The Family"; "Discovery"; "You will never know"; "The Unfinished Mudief" (Vol. 2) In Berman, E. and K. Nel (eds.). Alexis Preller: Collected Images, Shelf: Johannesburg, SA
 Nel, K. "to Work is to Live" (curator's note) in Freschi, F. (ed.). Edoardo Villa: Changing Worlds, Nirox / Shelf/Everard Read / Liza-Nicole Fine Art: Johannesburg., SA
 Nel, K. "Disrupted Knowledge" in Penelope and the Cosmos, Circa on Jellicoe: Johannesburg., SA
 Nel, K. "Co-Ordinates" in Charlton, J. (ed.). Signature Pieces, Bell Roberts Publishing: Cape Town., SA

2008	Nel, K. "The Brilliance of Darkness" in The Brilliance of Darkness, Art First exhibition catalogue. Nel, K and N. Christopher. "Beyond the Line – Johannesburg" in Christopher, N. (ed.). Beyond the Line, Wits School of Arts: Johannesburg., SA	2002	Nel, K. "Consonant with cattle-culture: the art of the portable" in Klopper, S. and K. Nel. The Art of South East Africa: From the Conru Collection, 5 Continents editions: Milan., Italy Nel, K. "Southern African artifacts in the Horstmann Collection" in Bassani, E. Power of Form: African Art from the Horstmann Collection, Skira: Milan., Italy
2007	Nel K. "Shangaan: In Search of a Genealogy" in Leibhammer, N. (ed.). Dungamanzi, Stirring Waters, Wits University Press: Johannesburg., SA Nel, K. "Meneghelli: bold collector of the unexpected" in My Life, My Collection: memoir and selected pieces from the collection of Vittorino Meneghelli, Totem Galleries: South Africa.		Nel, K. "Towards a Southern African Aesthetic" in Ubuntu: arts et cultures d'Afrique du Sud, Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Musée national des arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie/Musée de l'homme: France.
2006	Nel, K. "A New Language Distilled" in Art South Africa V 4.4.		Nel, K. "Off the Wall" in Joni Brenner: Infra-red, exhibition catalogue, NAC/Anglo American Chairman's Fund/Gertrude Pösel Gallery: Johannesburg., SA
2005	Nel, K. and Von Maltitz, A. "Edoardo Villa: A Life Considered" in Nel, K., Burroughs, E., Von Maltitz, A. (eds.). Villa at 90, Jonathan Ball Publishers with Shelf Publishing: Johannesburg., SA Nel, K. "Edoardo Villa: creating an African Presence" in Nel, K. Burroughs, E. Von Maltitz, A. (eds.). Villa at 90, Jonathan Ball Publishers with Shelf Publishing: Johannesburg., SA Nel, K. and Sack, M. "Villa, Johannesburg and the modernist context" in Nel, K., Burroughs, E., Von Maltitz, A. (eds.). Villa at 90, Jonathan Ball Publishers with Shelf Publishing: Johannesburg., SA		Nel, K. "Constructing Likeness" in Joni Brenner: Infra-red, exhibition catalogue, NAC/Anglo American Chairman's Fund/Gertrude Pösel Gallery: Johannesburg., SA Nel, K. "Re-inventing the present" in FNB Vita Craft Now Awards, exhibition catalogue, Johannesburg., SA
	Nel, K. "Re-Wired" (foreword) in Arment, D. & Fick-Jordaan, M. Wired: Contemporary Zulu Telephone Wire Baskets, Museum of New Mexico Press: USA.	2000	Nel, K. "The Way of Stone: to move a stone is to change the world" in Volcanic Texts, exhibition catalogue: Art First, London., UK
2004	Nel, K. "Ferocious Beauty" in Nettleton, A. Charlton, J. Rankin-Smith, F. (eds) Voice-Overs: Wits Writings exploring African Artworks, University of the Witwatersrand Art Galleries: Johannesburg., SA Nel, K. "Extracts from letter to Doris, October 10, 2002" and "Extracts from letters to Jessica, July 9, 2002" in Spliid, L. (ed). Sted//Place, exhibition catalogue, Denmark/South Africa.	1998	Nel, K. "Swazi Umntfwana: Swazi evocations of the child" in Becker, R. and E. Dell (eds.). Evocations of the child: fertility figures of the southern African region, Human and Rousseau, Cape Town., SA Nel, K. and N. Leibhammer. "The puzzle of the pendant figures" in Becker, R. and E. Dell (eds.). Evocations of the child: fertility figures of the southern African region, Human and Rousseau, Cape Town., SA
2003	Nel, K. "Headrests and Hair Ornaments: Signifying More than Status" in Sieber, R. and Herreman, F. (eds). Hair in African Art and Culture, Prestel /Museum for African Art: New York., USA	1995	Nel, K. Catalogue entries for southern African tobacco pipes and snuff containers in Phillips, T. (ed.). Africa: The Art of a Continent, Prestel: Munich., Germany
		1990	Nel, K. and Givon, L. Cyprian Shilakoe (1946-1972), Standard Bank National Arts Festival: South Africa.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Absa Bank, Johannesburg, SA

Anglo American Corporation, Johannesburg, SA

Barloworld Corporate Collection, Johannesburg, SA

BHP Billiton Art Collection, Johannesburg, SA

Bloemfontein University Art Collection

British Museum, United Kingdom

Durban Art Gallery

General Electric Company, USA

Johannesburg Art Gallery

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

MTN Collection, Johannesburg, SA

Nedbank Art Collection, Johannesburg, SA

Pretoria Art Museum

Rembrandt Foundation, Stellenbosch Sanlam, CT Schachat Art Collection

Smithsonian Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA

South African Broadcasting Corporation, Jhb.

South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA

Standard Bank Collection, Johannesburg, SA

Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, SA

Trust Bank, Johannesburg, SA

University of South Africa, Pretoria, SA

William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, SA

Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, SA





ABOVE: **Remembering Hiroshige, Kyoto/Paris** (DETAIL)

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