



New Mexico Installation Art Project

by André Stead

A n d r é S t e a d

New Mexico Project - 14 06 2019

Santa Fe Doves

by André Stead

Tom Nickloff commissioned the “Santa Fe Doves” as part of a private collection of local and international artists in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The artwork contains around 200 doves that are in flight below the dining room ceiling. The doves are muted tones of white and grey that are scattered around the composition to represent scattering birds. In areas, different colours overlap, resulting in new tonal values that create depth throughout the artwork; this also creates interesting shadows and reflections on the walls.

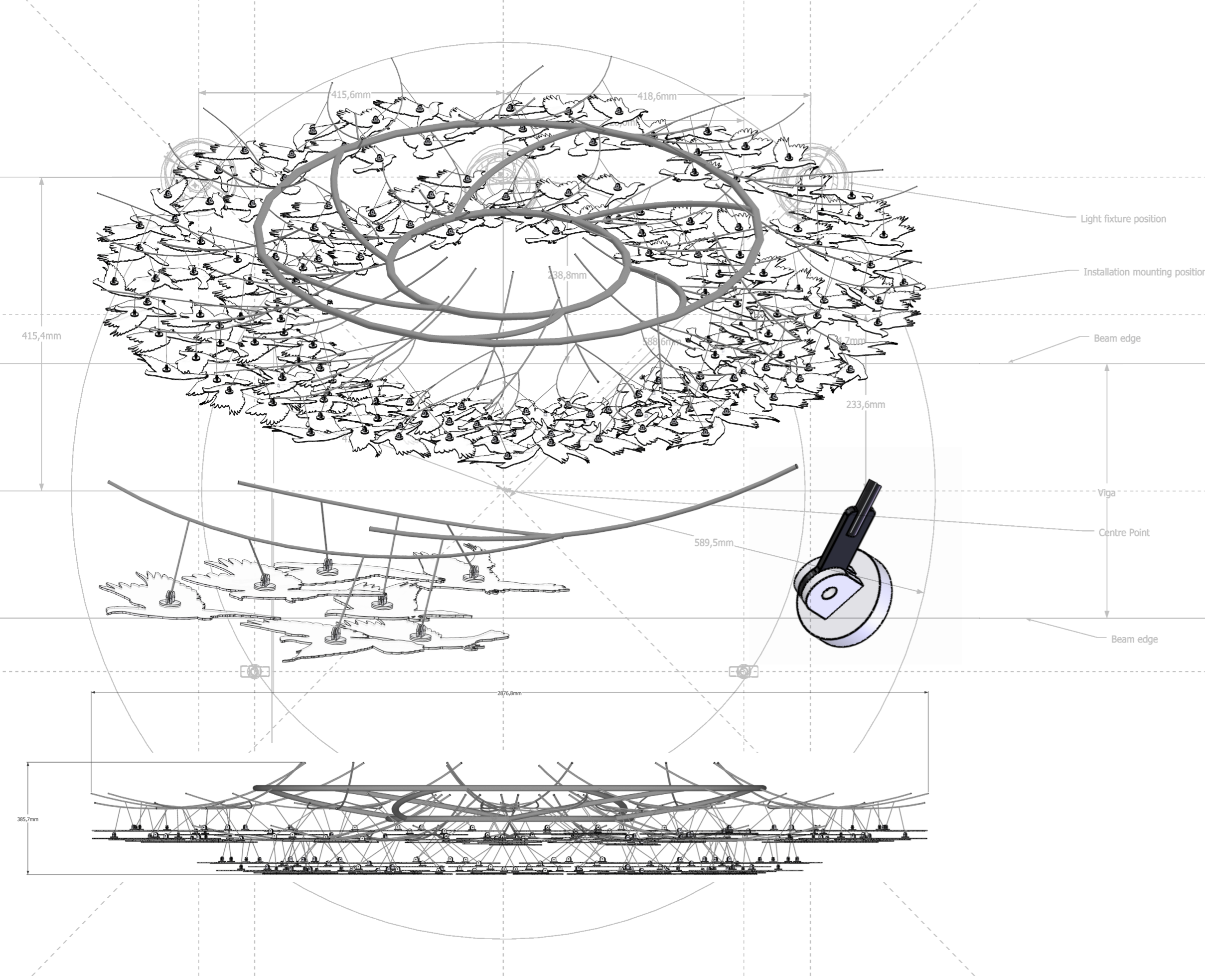
The artwork is site-specific and takes into account the size and proportions of the interior space. The lighting design for the artwork compliments the interior space creating a canopy of defused light and casting soft shadows. The colours used in the artwork are mostly light with the darker shade being transparent, allowing more light to pass through. The installation is not a chandelier, and the lighting for the artwork is essential and has to work for the piece as well as the interior space.

Santa Fe Doves
Laser cut plexiglass



Santa Fe Doves
14 06 2019
Plexiglass and stainless steel
3000 x 3000 x 450 mm





Design and development

Tom Nickloff commissioned the artwork for both installation pieces in January 2019. He supplied images and dimensions of the space and selected the bird types to use as a subject for the artwork. The main structure consists of two circular rings, with two halves designed to slot into each other for transport purposes. The framework is fabricated from rolled stainless steel bent to precise diameters, welded together and polished to a mirror finish. The main structure also supports the branches in a circular array.

The plexiglass doves are attached to the supporting structure on modular branches that maintain the birds' orientation. Tiny stainless steel bolts and lock nuts are used to attach the birds. The piece is designed to absorb any movement from the environment and disperses it over the entire installation, gently stirring each bird and creating a flutter of movement as light reflects off the birds. The artwork changes throughout the day as lighting conditions change and interact with the installation.

Doves production

Once the dove profiles are laser cut, a small plexiglass fitting is attached, allowing the bird to connect to the supporting structure with stainless steel bolts. The plexiglass fittings are assembled and attached to the swallow profiles with a permanent bonding agent.





Vision of the Artist

The main structure has a diameter of 1,8 meters, and the whole installation is about 3 meters at the fullest part. The complete installation weighs 120kg and contains 182 doves. The final design has 800 individual pieces that were produced and assembled in Cape Town, South Africa.

The artwork follows the original design and the final layout of the doves were determined on site by the artist during the final assembly of the artwork. "There will always be differences between the original design and the final artwork. The final assembly is reminiscent of flower arranging, and it's when the piece comes to life."

The artwork took approximately four months to conceptualize and complete and installed in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the 10th of June 2019.

By André Stead
Commissioned by Tom Nickloff

Santa Fe Doves
Santa Fe, New Mexico
2019
Stainless steel & Plexiglass

Ring Structure

The ring structure is made up of stainless steel tubing that has been rolled to a particular diameter and cut to size. Each part is shaped to fit the curvature of the adjoining section, then welded into position, finished off and polished to a mirror finish.





Ravens in flight

by André Stead

The 'Ravens in flight' is inspired by the ravens of Santa Fe. The American crow and the common raven are both members of the Corvidae family, which also includes magpies and blue jays. Ravens are among the smartest birds. One study in Wyoming found that, during hunting season, ravens appeared following the sound of a gunshot, presumably knowing that a carcass might be available.

The artwork, as with most of the flight related installations, is about freedom, the expression of life and movement. Crows and ravens have both been known to use tools, and young ravens have repeatedly been seen playing games by dropping sticks while flying and diving to catch them in midair. They are intelligent and playful, and I see them as a beautiful expression of life.

The artwork has a deliberately simple composition that is framed by the facade of the building and creates an ever-changing backdrop of shadows behind the artwork. The stainless steel artwork is made to withstand the exterior environment, and the Ravens were coated twice in a matt jet black powder coating for longevity.

By André Stead

Commissioned by Tom Nickloff

Ravens in flight
Santa Fe, New Mexico
2019
Stainless steel



On-site installation

The on-site assembly and installation of the artwork took place over two days. First the stainless steel supports were mounted to the wall and then the powder coated stainless steel birds were added afterwards.

Santa Fe, New Mexico
12 06 2019



Ravens in flight
Santa Fe, New Mexico
13 06 2019



Ravens in flight

13 06 2019

Stainless steel

860 x 3660 x 300 mm



Ravens in flight
Santa Fe, New Mexico, US
2019



Ravens in flight
13 06 2019
Stainless steel
860 x 3660 x 300 mm



André Stead

Born in Evander, 1975. Lives and works in Cape Town.

Andre attended the Pro Arte School of Arts in Pretoria (1989 – 1993) where he studied painting and graphics. He flourished at art from an early age attending regular art classes from age 6. He received various merits and awards for his artistic abilities and continued study in several artistic disciplines including painting, sculpture, printmaking and graphic design.

In 1994 he relocated to Cape Town where he trained in metalworking under the direction of John Allesandri. He worked extensively with wood during the late 1990s and also worked at the Doyle Art Foundry (1997-1998) to become familiar with the mould making and bronze casting processes. He later started working at the Bronze Age Art Foundry, where he became efficient in all the various stages of the lost-wax casting process.

From 2004 to 2007 he was a partner at the Bronze Age Art Foundry learning all the aspects of sculpture production and resource management. André played an integral part in the implementation of various art exhibitions and trade shows and worked with many renowned artists such as Maureen Quin, Dylan Lewis, and William Kentridge. During this time André also developed a foundry sculpture course that taught all the various aspects of bronze reproduction and even built his own family home in Scarborough.

During 2007 André was commissioned to create nine large bronze relief panels for the Burj Khalifa Development in Dubai (tallest human-made structure in the world). In 2008 Stead created a series of illustrative studies and showcased the Female series in two solo exhibitions in Cape Town and Johannesburg (2009 - 2010) with works from the Female series also exhibited in various group shows.

In 2010 Stead started working on the “Anamorphic” series, launching it with a solo exhibition “Evolution” in August of 2011 in Franschoek at IS ART gallery. At this time, the figurative studies paid off, and for the first time, he had a firm grip on the “essential” form. During 2011 he was commissioned by Laurence Graff to create a sculptural installation, “Flight of the Swallows” for the Indochine restaurant at the Delaire Graff Wine Estate in Stellenbosch.

Over the next two years, André would create a collection of installation artworks using stainless steel and plexiglass as a medium. He developed two new bodies of figurative sculpture in various mediums including bronze and aluminium. The ‘Illumination’ exhibition opened during July 2012 at the Christopher Møller Art Gallery in Cape Town followed by the ‘Elemental man’ exhibition at the Knysna Fine art gallery. The Anamorphic Series directly influenced both bodies of work.

“The Emergence of Man” exhibition (2014) brought the stainless steel/plexiglass and figurative sculpture work together in a colourful look at human nature and its underlining motivations and primal driving forces. The 2016 solo exhibition “Sublimation” explored the social aspect of modern society interconnected in a digital age. Stead continues to ask relevant questions regarding the nature of human perception and the expression of beauty and life. He continues to exhibit at the Christopher Møller Art Gallery in Cape Town and attends the Cape Town International Art Fair exhibitions from its inception in 2013.

Stead’s technical skill and first-hand experience in a multitude of materials and sculpture processes have allowed him to produce work of exceptional quality with high expression and elegance. He continues his work studying the “human condition” and supports the idea that people are generally good and a part of nature rather than separate from it.

André Stead

Qualifications and awards

2007 Eight years bronze casting and Foundry Course at Bronze Age Art Foundry, Simon's Town

1997 Metal forging tuition, John Allesandri, Cape Town

1995 Graphic design course, Gunther Komnick, Cape Town

1994 Goldsmith apprenticeship, Pretoria

1993 Pro Arte School of Arts, Distinction with colours for Art, Pretoria

1991 Merit award, Iscor Art Competition, Iscor Permanent Art Collection, Pretoria

Selected Exhibitions and Commissions

2019

Ravens in flight, Private commission, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe Doves, Private commission, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Cape Town Art Fair 2018, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

2018

Sculptx, Group exhibition, Melrose Arch Gallery, Johannesburg

Celebration of Winter, Group exhibition, Grande Provence Gallery, Franschhoek

Charity Auction, Private Auction in aid of Groote Schuur Hospital, Stellenbosch

Sculpture on the Cliffs, Public art exhibition, Hermanus Fine Arts, Hermanus

Timeless, Group exhibition, Melrose Arch Gallery, Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal

Guest Artist, Stellenbosch Arts Association Members' Exhibition, Stellenbosch

Cape Town Art Fair 2018, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

2017

Stable 2017, Group exhibition, Melrose Arch Gallery, Johannesburg

Charity Auction, Private Auction in aid of The Rainbow Academy, Cape Town

20-year celebration, Group exhibition, Knysna Fine art, Knysna

Art at the Clock Tower, Group exhibition, Cast - Cape Town, V&A Waterfront

Sculptx, Group exhibition, Melrose Arch Gallery, Johannesburg

Black and white, Group exhibition, Absolute Art Gallery, Stellenbosch

Summer Exhibition, Group exhibition, Art at Durban Ville Hills, Durban Ville

Public artwork, Rand Merchant Bank - Private Collection, Johannesburg

Cape Town Art Fair 2017, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

Mute Wisdom, Group exhibition, Art at Almenkerk, Algin Grabow

2016

Sublimation, Solo exhibition, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

A Sense of Place, Group exhibition, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West

Self-I, Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Franschhoek.

Transmutation, Group exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna

Cape Town Art Fair 2016, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

A Certain Kind Of Madness, Group exhibition, Imibala Gallery, Somerset West

2015

Summer Exhibition, Group exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna

Signature, Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Franschhoek.

US Woordfees, Group exhibition, P J Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch

Cape Town Art Fair 2015, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

Bring your own identity, Group exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna

Is Sculpture at Tokara, Group exhibition, Tokara Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

2014

Murmuration, Corporate commission, Delaire Graff Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

Woordfees 2014, Group exhibition, P J Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch

Cape Town Art Fair 2014, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

The Fountain of youth, Private commission, Oxford, United Kingdom

The Wall of Words, Corporate Commission, Oxford, United Kingdom

2013

Koi Fish Installation, Private commission, Singapore

Cape Town Art Fair 2013, Art Fair, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

National Heritage Project Company Commission

Elemental man, Solo exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna

Woordfees 2013, Group exhibition, P J Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch

2012

Summer, Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town

Young Minds Charity Fund Raiser, st. Lorient, Pretoria

Illumination, Solo exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town

Oxford Swallows, Private commission, Oxford, United Kingdom

2011

Flight of the Swallows, Corporate commission, Delaire Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

Evolution, Solo exhibition, Is Art Gallery, Franschhoek

Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Dawid's Choice Gallery, Johannesburg

Roodt Inc, group exhibition, Dawid's Choice Gallery, Johannesburg

2010

Group exhibition, Dimitrov Art Gallery, Dullstroom

Rooftop exhibition, group show, St. Lorient, Pretoria

Group exhibition, The Upper Deck Gallery, Plettenberg Bay

Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

2009

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg

Identity, group exhibition, Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria

Figures, solo exhibition, Northcliff, Johannesburg

Female series launch, Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate, CTICC

2008

Angels, group exhibition, Grande Provence Gallery, Franschhoek

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

Medallions, Corporate Commission, Burj Khalifa Development, Dubai

2006

Corporate commission, Graham Beck Wine Estate, Franschhoek

Group exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Cape Town

2000 – 2005

Group exhibition, Seidelberg Wine Estate, Paarl

Miniatures, group exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Cape Town

Board of Executors, Corporate Commission, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Vineyard Gallery, Cape Town

1999

Group exhibition, The Christie Gallery, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

1998

Wooden figures, Solo exhibition, Novalis Institute, Cape Town

Sanlam Restoration - Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Cape Town

Group exhibition, Association for visual arts, Cape Town

1997

Sanlam Literary Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Grahamstown

Group exhibition, Primart Gallery, Cape Town

Collections

Laurence Graff

Bernard Fontannaz

Board of Executives

Rand Merchant Bank Collection

National Heritage Project Company

Graham Beck Estates

Johnny Walker

Tom Nickloff

Willy Woestyn

Sanlam Collection

Iscor Collection



