

Gerrie van Tonder

Gerrie van Tonder is a contemporary impressionist working in oils. He explores interior and exterior spaces and the effects of light and shadows on surfaces. Preferring to paint from life, his work evokes a strong feeling of atmosphere. This is all the more remarkable when one realises how little descriptive content is provided by the work, and that one's response is almost exclusively the result of his application of light and colour.

His great love is the beauty and allure of the Karoo, a subject he continually returns to.

Gerrie started painting at a young age. He has had little formal art training, and is mostly self-taught. Joining the Artists Co-operative in Cape Town in 1989 his work developed considerably under the direction of Ryno Swart.

He has held exhibitions, solo and group, in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Gerrie is a qualified architect with his own architectural practice in Simon's Town which, apart from a five year break between 2010 to 2015 to paint full-time, is a career he continues to pursue.

1961	born Noupoot, Cape Province
1987	Baccalaureates Architecture: UOFS
1989	Ryno Swart oil painting tuition, Artists' Co-operative, Cape Town
1993 -	own Practice: Gerrie van Tonder Architect, Simon's Town
2000	Ryno Swart oil painting group tour, Greece (2000) and Venice (2002)
2006 - 2011	exhibit at Canterbury Gallery, Newlands, Cape Town
2011	solo exhibition Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria
2012	group exhibition Upstairs @ Bamboo, Melville, Johannesburg
2012	exhibition Tina Skukan gallery, Pretoria
2013	group exhibition Rust-En-Vrede Gallery, Durbanville, Cape Town
2013	group exhibition, Halifax Art, Parkhurst, Johannesburg
2013	group exhibition "Scenes of Space: An Exhibition of Interiors" In Toto Gallery, Johannesburg
2014	solo exhibition Halifax Art, Parkhurst, Johannesburg

Publications

Cover and Featured Artist: South African Artist magazine, Issue # 20, 2015

Artist Statement

There is such beauty in ordinary things – the mysteries within shadows, the curves of a tea cup, a pattern on a tablecloth, the luminosity of sunlight on a wall – and oil paint captures this so well.

I work primarily from life. I try to restrain descriptive content in order to evoke the atmosphere, mood and introspection of abstract work. This delicate balance between the abstract and the representational is a continual challenge for me.

I paint for myself and the fact that my paintings are sought-after is a great delight to me.