

JOHANN VAN DER SCHIJFF



Biography

(Version Française ci-dessous)

Johann van der Schijff is an artist living and working in Cape Town, South Africa. As an Associate Professor at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, he teaches in the sculpture section of the school. He holds a Master of Fine Art (new media) degree from the Frank Mohr Instituut, Groningen, The Netherlands; a Master of Fine Art (sculpture) from the University of Cape Town; and a Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Pretoria. His sculptural/new media works have been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Johann's research interests are in the areas of computer-aided design and manufacturing techniques and the design of interactive systems. Growing up in South Africa, questions of power relations in society underlie much of his work, forcing the viewer into a position of choice in their engagement with his artworks. His work has been concerned with the effects of apartheid and the pervasiveness of violence that continues in its wake. Central to his exhibitions has been the presence of interactivity as he tempts his viewers to interact with his sculptures even as they realise such interactions are suggestive of aggression and complicity in violence.

For an extensive selection of images of his artistic work and additional supportive video clips and text, please refer to www.johannvds.co.za

Biographie

Johann van der Schijff est un artiste qui vit et travaille au Cap, en Afrique du Sud. En tant que professeur associé à la Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, il enseigne dans la section sculpture de l'école. Il est titulaire d'un Master of Fine Art (nouveaux médias), Frank Mohr Institut, Groningen, Pays-Bas, une maîtrise en beaux-arts (sculpture), Université de Cape Town, et un baccalauréat en beaux-arts de l'Université de Pretoria. Ses sculptures / œuvres des nouveaux médias ont été exposées nationalement et internationalement.

Johann est principalement intéressé par la recherche dans les domaines de la conception de systèmes interactifs et les techniques de fabrication assistée par ordinateur. Ayant grandi en Afrique du Sud, les questions de relations de pouvoir dans la société sont sous-jacents d'une grande partie de son travail, ce qui oblige le spectateur à prendre position par rapport à son engagement vis-à-vis de ses œuvres. Les effets de l'apartheid et l'omniprésence de la violence qui perdure ont influé son travail. La présence de l'interactivité est le point commun à ses expositions. Il souhaite que les spectateurs interagissent avec ses sculptures même s'ils réalisent que de telles interactions évoquent l'agression et la complicité avec la violence.

Pour une sélection élargie d'images de son travail artistique, de vidéos et de texte, veuillez vous référer à son site www.johannvds.co.za

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I. PERSONAL DETAILS

Surname: Van der Schijff
First names: Lucas Johannes (Johann)
Date of birth: January 11th, 1969
Sex: Male
Nationality: South African
Mother tongue: Afrikaans
Language abilities: Afrikaans, English, and Dutch

2. EDUCATION

DATE QUALIFICATION INSTITUTION

2015
[MultiCam, Inc.](#) Specialized EnRoute with Operator Training
Dallas, Texas, United States of America

2013
Autodesk Inventor, Inventor Advanced Part Modelling Course
[Modena Design Centres](#), Cape Town, South Africa

2012
Exchange project on prototyping methods and design materials, [David Cuatillies'](#) Arduino course
Malmo University, [School of Arts and Communication \(K3\)](#), Sweden

2002
Macromedia Dreamweaver Course
Hirt and Carter Graphics, Cape Town, South Africa

2002
Macromedia Flash Course
[Concept Interactive](#), Cape Town, South Africa

1997
Alias/Wavefront – Level 2 Animation Course
Silicon Graphics Computer System, Johannesburg, South Africa

1997
Master of Fine Art
[Frank Mohr Instituut](#) (previously Media-GN & SCAN), Academie Minerva, Hanze University for Professional Education, Groningen, The Netherlands

1994
Multimedia Course
Hirt and Carter Graphics, Cape Town, South Africa

1994
Master of Fine Art
[University of Cape Town](#), South Africa

1990
Bachelor of Fine Art
[University of Pretoria](#), South Africa

1986
Matric
[Afrikaanse Höer Seunskool](#), Pretoria, South Africa

3. WORK EXPERIENCE

DATE
POSITION
COMPANY OR INSTITUTION
LOCATION

2012 – present
Associate Professor – Fine Art (Sculpture)
[Michaelis School of Fine Art](#)
University of Cape Town
Cape Town

2007 – 2011
Senior Lecturer – Fine Art (New Media)
Michaelis School of Fine Art
University of Cape Town
Cape Town

2001 – 2006
Lecturer – Fine Art (New Media)
Michaelis School of Fine Art and Institute for Film and New Media
University of Cape Town
Cape Town

1999 – 2001
Senior Lecturer – Fine Art (Multimedia)
Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture
[University of Johannesburg](#) (previously Technikon Witwatersrand)
Johannesburg

1999 – present
Freelance Design / Animation Workⁱⁱ
Johannesburg

1998 – 1999
Creative Director
SHiFT Interactive Communicationⁱⁱⁱ
Johannesburg

1997 – 1998
3D Computer Animator
DELAPSE – broadcast design / motion graphics^{iv}
Johannesburg

1995
Creative Director: *Coca-Cola Dome*
[HAPTICS](#)
Johannesburg

1995
3D Computer Animator
Hassall House, multimedia productions
Johannesburg

1992 – 1994
Assistant to sculptor David Brown; worked on commission and erection of sculpture for Mr. Charles Diamond, Henley-on-Thames, United Kingdom
Cape Town / Henley UK

1990
Welder
Marnitz & Van der Schijff Welding
Pretoria

1989 – 1990
Assistant photographer
Graeme Bridger Photography
Pretoria

1988 – 1989
Editor of Rag magazine
University of Pretoria
Pretoria

1988
Truck off-loader
Woolworths
Pretoria

1988
Assistant to sculptor Etienne de Kock
Pretoria

1988
Third man, steel smelting
ISCOR (now ArcelorMittal)
Vanderbijlpark

1987
Marketing portfolio, Rag Committee
University of Pretoria
Pretoria

4. EXHIBITIONS / INSTALLATIONS

DATE TITLE LOCATION

2019

- *STATE OF EMERGENCY*, solo exhibition, [Lizamore and Associates Gallery](#), Johannesburg, 29 August – 5 October 2019

2018

- *Snapshot*, solo exhibition, [Lizamore and Associates Gallery](#), Johannesburg, 1 February – 24 February 2018

2017

- *Boschendal Sculpture Garden*, group exhibition, Boschendal Wine Estate, Franschhoek, 27 October 2017 – 23 January 2018
- *In a Different Time*, solo exhibition, [Fried Contemporary Art Gallery](#), Pretoria, 26 January – 25 February 2017

2015

- *I to I*, solo exhibition, Gallery AOP, Johannesburg, 28 November – 19 December 2015 and 14 – 30 January 2016

2014

- *La Techné, l'Art du Designer*, 6th Edition of the International Festival of Contemporary Art of Algiers – FIAC 2014, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAMA), Algiers, Algeria, 10 November – 2 December (artist workshop), 3 December – 28 February 2015 (accompanying exhibition)
- *Going Forward*, Yango Biennale 2014, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 21 November – 19 December
- *Capital: Contemporary* – a selection of works of artists who originally come from Pretoria but who now live and work elsewhere and who have a strong national and or international presence, Fried Contemporary Gallery, Pretoria, 15 November – 13 December
- *Brave New World... 20 Years of Democracy* – a selection of works acquired between 1994 and 2014 for the permanent collection, Iziko South African National Gallery (ISANG), Cape Town, 3 July – 1 November

2012

- *Community Punching Bags or CPBs project* – an artwork by Johann van der Schijff in collaboration with art educators and high school learners from and around Cape Town, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, 10 – 29 July
- *Community Punching Bags or CPBs* – an artwork by Johann van der Schijff in collaboration with art teachers and learners from Cape Town, Iziko South African National Gallery Annexe, Cape Town, 23 May – 16 June (extended until 23 June)

2011

- One-year study and research leave

2010

- *3rd World Festival of Black Arts and Cultures*, Biscuiterie, Dakar, Senegal, 10 – 31 December
- *Spier Contemporary Winners Tour*, Polokwane Museum, Polokwane, 8 November – 8 December
- *Draw Links* – an exhibition of contemporary drawings, Gallery AOP (Art on Paper), Johannesburg, 9 – 30 October
- *Spier Contemporary Winners Tour*, Aardklop Festival, North West University, Potchefstroom, 27 September – 2 October
- *Spier Contemporary Winners Tour*, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, 27 July – 15 August
- *Spier Contemporary Winners Tour*, Eastern Province Society of Arts and Crafts, Port Elizabeth, 17 June – 17 July
- *TWENTY – South African Sculpture of the Last Two Decades*, Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, 6 June – 15 August

- *Own Goal*, The Association of the Visual Arts Gallery, Cape Town, 31 May – 25 June
 - *Current Matters*, The Gallery at Grande Provence, Franschhoek, 18 April – 19 May
 - *Salon Africain du Design*, Cotonou, Benin, 26 – 30 April
 - [Spier Contemporary 2010](#), Cape Town City Hall, Cape Town, 14 March – 14 May.
Prizewinner: Artist-in-Residency award, Thamgidi Foundation, Arnhem, Netherlands
- 2009
- *Temporary Art Product Exchange or T-A-P-E*, Made in Arnhem festival of visual arts, Arnhem, The Netherlands, 27 September – 25 October
 - *Ways of Life, Reconsideration*, Exhibition of African designers, 2nd edition of the Pan-African Festival of Algiers, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MAMA), Algiers, Algeria, 5 July – 20 July
 - [Spot on...DAK'ART](#), The Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, ifa), ifa-Gallery, Berlin, Germany, 3 April – 21 June & ifa-Gallery, Stuttgart, Germany, 15 October – 3 January 2010
- 2008
- *A Century in the Service of Knowledge: Visuality/Commentary*. The centenary exhibition of the University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 11 – 23 May
 - [DAK'ART 2008](#), International Exhibition of the Biennale of African Contemporary Art, Théodore Monod Museum (IFAN), Dakar, Senegal, 9 May – 9 June. Prizewinner of two main awards: European Union Award & Zuloaga Corporation Award
 - *Joburg Art Fair*, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, 13 – 16 March
- 2007
- [The Arm-Wrestling Podium or AWP](#), unveiling of public sculpture, The AVA in collaboration with the J.K. Gross Trust and Spier, The Association of the Visual Arts Gallery, Cape Town, 1 November
 - *The Arm-Wrestling Podium or AWP*, solo exhibition, Worldart Gallery, Cape Town, 1 November – 9 November
- 2006
- *Home*, curated group exhibition, The Old Biscuit Mill, Cape Town, 26 September – 6 October
 - Public Sculpture Competition and Exhibition, J.K. Gross Trust, Spier and the Association For Visual Arts, Cape Town, 23 August – 1 September
 - [Power Play, solo exhibition](#), Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, 25 April – 20 May
- 2005
- *Klein Karoo National Arts Festival (KKNK)*, curated group exhibition, Oudshoorn, 25 March – 2 April
- 2004
- *Curiosity CLXXV*, Hiddingh Hall, Cape Town, 22 November – 1 April
 - *The Design Indaba Expo*, Bell-Roberts Gallery Stand, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, 26 – 29 February
 - [The 2nd Spier Outdoor Sculpture Biennale](#), Spier estate, Stellenbosch, 15 January – 15 March
- 2003
- *Picnic*, a group show for summer lightly curated by Andrew Lamprecht, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, 8 – 29 November
 - *YDEsire, The 4th Softserve Art Party*, The Castle of Good Hope, Cape Town, 22 February
- 2002
- *Michaelis School Of Fine Art Staff, Variable Contrast* – group exhibition as part of The Cape Town Month Of Photography exhibition, Michaelis Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
 - *Insig Bioskoop Absolut* – animation festival, Klein Karoo Kunsfees, Oudtshoorn
- 2000
- *Yield* – group installation as part of Urban Futures exhibition, Civic Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg
 - *Unplugged* – group exhibition, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg

1997

- *Yield* – solo installation, Ziegler Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands

1996

- *Groundswell* – contemporary South African art exhibition, The Mermaid Theatre Gallery, London, UK

1995

- *Radio South Africa: radios by artists* – group exhibition, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- *Johannesburg Biennale* – fringe exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa

1994

- *Transport Show* – group exhibition, Everard Read Contemporary Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- *An Electronic Laager* – solo exhibition, Master of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa

1993

- *Volkskas Atelier Award* – competition, Johannesburg, South Africa
- *Volkskas Atelier Award* – competition, regional finalist, Cape Town, South Africa

1991

- *Volkskas Atelier Award* – competition, finalist, Johannesburg, South Africa

1990

- USA Information Service – group exhibition, Pretoria, South Africa
- Private group exhibition, Pretoria, South Africa

1989 – 1990

- *SANLAM bursary competition* – competition, Cape Town, South Africa

1988 – 1990

- *Sasol New Signatures Competition*, overall winner 1988, Pretoria, South Africa

5. PUBLICATIONS

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. (ed.) 2015. *I to I* – a solo exhibition by Johann van der Schijff, Johannesburg, November 2015 – January 2016 ([exhibition catalogue](#)), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 1-42. ISBN: 978-0-620-53521-2

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. (ed.) 2012. *Community Punching Bags or CPBs* – an artwork by Johann van der Schijff in collaboration with art teachers and learners from Cape Town ([exhibition catalogue](#)), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 1-85. ISBN: 978-0-620-53521-2

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 2010. 'Heartbreaker', [Artworks in Progress: Journal of the Staff of the Michaelis School of Fine Art](#), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 56-60. ISBN: 978-0-620-48450-3

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 2008. 'Participatory Podia', [Artworks in Progress: Journal of the Staff of the Michaelis School of Fine Art](#), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 86-91. ISBN: 978-0-620-42166-9

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 2006. 'Iron Triangle', [Artworks in Progress: Journal of the Staff of the Michaelis School of Fine Art](#), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 70-73. ISBN: 978-0-620-37407-1

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. (ed.) 2005. *Power Play* (exhibition catalogue). Bell-Roberts Publishing, Cape Town. 1-24. ISBN: 0-9585104-7-4

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 2003. 'Missile/Missile', [Artworks in Progress: Journal of the Staff of the Michaelis School of Fine Art](#), University of Cape Town, Cape Town. 55-59.

EBERT, D. (ed.) 1997. *ACM SIGGRAPH 97 Visual Proceedings: The Art and Interdisciplinary Programs of SIGGRAPH 97*. New York: The Association for Computer Machinery, Inc. ISBN 0-89791-921-1 page 144, The Virtual Harvester Project.

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 1997. [The Virtual Harvester](#). Documentation and commentary on the body of practical work submitted for Postgraduate Programme in New Media, Academie Minerva, Hogeschool van Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands. 51 pages.

VAN DER SCHIJFF, J. 1994. [An Electronic Laager](#). Documentation and commentary on the body of practical work submitted for the degree of Master of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town. 110 pages.

6. PRESENTATIONS

2011

- *Community Punching Bags* as part of a round table discussion *What are the Components Needed to Create a Good Platform for Intercultural Dialogue and Art?*, Oslo Platform, 54th Venice Biennial, Italy, June 2
- Artist presentation, Thamgidi Foundation, Arnhem, Netherlands, June 19

2010

- *Salon Africain du Design*, Cotonou, Benin, 26 – 30 April

2009

- *Ways of Life, Reconsideration*, Exhibition of African designers, 2nd edition of the Pan-African Festival of Algiers. Related conference at École supérieure des beaux arts d'Alger (ESBA) Parc Ziriyab – Boulevard Krim Belkacem, Algeria, 6 July

2008

- Conference Co-Chair, *DIS2008* – the ACM conference on Designing Interactive Systems, Cape Town, South Africa, Monday 25 February – Wednesday 27 February.
Available: <http://old.sigchi.org/dis2008/>

2006

- Chair, 'New Forms of Interaction' session, *DIS2006* – the ACM conference on Designing Interactive Systems, Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania, USA, Monday June 26

2004

- *Design Symposium: Reflections on Design and Design Education*, Department of Fine Arts, University of Stellenbosch, 29 – 30 March

2002

- *UCT Film and New Media Institute*, Sithengi, The 7th Southern African International Film and Television Market, Cape Town, 10 – 14 November
- *UCT Institute for Film and New Media*, DEFSA (Design Education Forum of South Africa) National Conference, *Design, Research and Development*, Clarens, Eastern Free State, 22 – 24 September
- *Web Design and the Use of the Web in Film and New Media Production*, 4th Annual Conference on World Wide Web Applications, University of Stellenbosch Business School, Bellville, Cape Town, 4 – 5 September
- *Institute for Film and New Media*, CITI Listening Lunch – public presentation. Cape Information Technology Initiative, The Bandwidth Barn, Cape Town, 12 July

1999

- *Two Opposing Trends – Partitioning of Media Subjects at Educational Level, Convergence of Media in the Workplace* – public presentation, DEFSA 1999 – DESIGN FUSION: THE DEVELOPMENT OF DESIGN BEYOND 2000, Johannesburg

1997

- *The Virtual Harvester* – public presentation, [SIGGRAPH 97 Art & Design Sketches, Los Angeles, USA](#)
- *The Virtual Harvester* – public presentation, Postgraduate Programme in New Media, MEDIA-GN, Groningen, The Netherlands

7. AWARDS

DATE

AWARD

INSTITUTION OR EVENT

2013

UCT Creative Works Award – *Community Punching Bags*. The Creative Works Award was established to recognise major creative works, including art works, performances, productions, compositions and architectural designs produced by UCT staff.

2010

Spier Contemporary 2010, Cape Town City Hall, Cape Town, 14 March – 14 May. Prizewinner: Artist-in-Residency award, Thamdigi Foundation, Arnhem, Netherlands.

2008

International Exhibition of the Biennale of African Contemporary Art, *DAK'ART 2008*, Dakar, Senegal, 9 May – 9 June. Prizewinner of two main awards: European Union Award & Zuloga Corporation Award.

2006

Winner

Public Sculpture Competition, Association For Visual Arts, Cape Town

1991

Merit award

Volkscas Atelier Award

1990

Merit award

New Signatures Competition, South African Association of Arts

1990

Runner up

Best rag magazine, South African Universities – Editor

1989

Winner

Best rag magazine, South African Universities – Editor

1988

Overall winner

New Signatures Competition, South African Association of Arts

1986

Best matric art student, Afrikaanse Höer Seunskool

8. BURSARIES / GRANTS

DATE INSTITUTION

2016

National Research Foundation (NRF) rating, C category, level 2 – Established Researcher
Available: <http://www.nrf.ac.za/rating>

2011

Prince Claus Fund award to the project Community Punching Bags
Available: <http://www.princeclausfund.org/>

2010

National Research Foundation (NRF) rating, C category, level 2 – Established Researcher
Available: <http://www.nrf.ac.za/rating>

2003 – 2004

National Research Foundation (NRF) Research Grant, Vector and 3D Animation for the Web, ICT Focus Area

2002 – 2016

University Research Committee (URC), Research Grant, University of Cape Town (UCT)

2002 – 2003

URC, Special Grant to Stimulate Research, UCT

2002

The Nelson Mandela Chair in Humanities, funding to bring Dutch academics to South Africa

2001

URC, Start-up Grant, UCT

1997

Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology

1997

Academie Minerva, Groningen, The Netherlands

1997

CasTel, EDON Group, Groningen, The Netherlands

1997

de Gemeente Groningen

1996

University of Pretoria

1996

Foundation for Research Development

1995

Human Sciences Research Council

1995 – 1996

Stichting Nederlandia

1991 – 1994

Jules Kramer Grant, University of Cape Town

1992 – 1994

Irma Stern Scholarship

1992

University of Cape Town, Research Council

9. POSTGRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

No.	Surname	Initials	Level	Name of Degree	Graduating Year	Completed
11.	Raath	P	Masters	MFA	2017	Yes
10.	Le Riche	P	Masters	MFA	2017	Yes
9.	Guald	Q	Masters	MFA	2015	Yes
8.	Mbikayi	M	Masters	MFA	2015	Yes
7.	Jenks	P	Masters	MFA	2012	Yes
6.	Ginsburg	J	Masters	MFA	2011	Yes
5.	Scadden	D	Masters	MFA	2010	Yes
4.	Maggs	C	Masters	MFA (New Media)	2006	Yes
3.	Kasibe	W	Masters	MFA (New Media)	2006	Yes
2.	Verwey	M	Masters	MFA (New Media)	2005	Yes
1.	Grobler	N	Masters	MFA	2004	Yes

CONTACT DETAILS

Johann van der Schijff

Work Address:

Michaelis School of Fine Art & Institute for Film and New Media
31–37 Orange Street
Gardens
8001
Cape Town
South Africa

Home Address:

4 Sunnybrae Road
Rondebosch
7700
Cape Town
South Africa

Tel (work): +27 (0)21 – 650 7116 / 7103

Tel (home): +27 (0)21 – 686 3181

Mobile: +27 (0)82 – 330 5335

Fax: +27 (0)21 – 424 2889

Email (work): johann.vanderschijff@uct.ac.za

Web: www.johannvds.co.za & www.michaelis.uct.ac.za

ENDNOTES

i Reading and comprehension knowledge of Dutch.

ii Major freelance work includes:

- a. Website for South African sculptor David Brown – 2000.
- b. Website for DEFSA 1999 conference – 2000.
- c. The new website for TVWR, Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture was designed by myself in collaboration with Marc Edwards – 2000.
- d. 3D computer animation as part of CD ROM for SIEMENS – Saudi Arabia – 2000.
- e. 3D computer animation as part of CD ROM for SIEMENS – South Africa – 1999.
- f. Website for 'De Rijksuniversiteit Groningen' – 1996.

iii I worked as Creative Director for *SHiFT Interactive Communication*. Founded in June 1997, SHiFT specialised in the development of high-bandwidth audiovisual interactive software applications for hard drive, CD-ROM and touchscreen-based kiosks.

While working as Creative Director at SHiFT, the company secured a retainer contract from MTN, developing all MTN's interactive information kiosk applications. SHiFT's other client's include the following: ABSA, AST, BMW SA, Califa (US), CTP, Daihatsu, DStv, Eskom, Jupiter Drawing Room, Magic Company, Nestlé SA, Netstar, Novartis, SA Breweries, Somerston Holdings (US), Ster Kinekor, Telkom, Trilogy, The Agency, tool®, Vodacom, Wasau Financial Systems (US).

iv *DELAPSE* made use of advanced 3D computer graphics technology for the film and video, games and interactive media, industrial design and visualization markets. Their work included the children's programme *Tube* on SABC 2, television identity for SABC 2 and 'leaders' for television programmes such as *Pasella* and *Mamepe*. They also produced work for all the major advertising agencies in Johannesburg.

v In 1997 I delivered a 15-minute lecture as part of SIGGRAPH 97: Art and Design Sketches, forming part of the session *Bending, Corn, Face and Gender for Social Provocation*. SIGGRAPH is the largest and leading showcase for new developments in the field of digital media, computer graphics and visualisation, and interactive media. Held annually in a different city in the USA, SIGGRAPH 97 was staged in the Los Angeles Convention Centre on 3 – 8 August 1997 and had a record attendance of 48 700 people.