

CURRICULUM VITAE

Nina Liebenberg

Nationality: South African

Profession: curator, researcher, teacher

Link to selected portfolio:

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/profile/?person=245128>

Doctoral publication:

<http://hdl.handle.net/11427/36770>

EDUCATION

2022 **PhD in Fine Art** at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town

Title of dissertation: *The virus and the vaccine: curatorship and the disciplinary outsider*

2011 **Master of Fine Art**, with distinction. University of Cape Town

Title of dissertation: *Point Counter Point*

2003 **BA Fine Art** (with English Literature). University of Stellenbosch

EXHIBITIONS CURATED

Liebenberg, N.; Fatz, W.; Lopez Orteiz, J. & Sims-Huopaniemi, K. 2024. *Fascination of Plants*. An exhibition in the Viikki Arboretum that pairs 22 Viikki Plant Science research projects with artworks. Viikki Arboretum, Viikintie. 18 May – 18 June.

Liebenberg, N. & Halonen, H. 2024. *'Book Fair'*. An exhibition of artists' books that formed part of a mini symposium, titled *Open book: Exploring the artist's book, its different forms, and publishing*. University of the Arts, Helsinki. 16 April 2024.

Liebenberg, N. 2024. *Wayfinding*. A small display of wayfinding devices produced by Mika Elo, Maiju Loukola, Denise Ziegler, Elif Erdogan, Jueon Woo & Simona Rukuižaitė as part of the *Claws and Connections – All the World's Senses* exhibition. Kuva/Tila, Uniarts, Helsinki. 26 January – 25 February.

Liebenberg, N. 2024. *Planthology (Object studies)*. An exhibition (part of a Viikki PhD Society event) showcasing the research of Uniarts, Aalto, and Viikki students. The displays highlighted relationships between different disciplinary research materials through utilising curatorial strategies. Viikki Plant Sciences Centre, University of Helsinki. 19 January 2024.

Liebenberg, N. 2023. *Object studies*. An exhibition of objects sourced from various research environments in Helsinki and further afield, which formed the focus of the annual KuvA Research Days. 14 December 2023.

Liebenberg, N. 2023. *Planthology (The Anthropocene)*. An exhibition that brought together a range of research material from the Viikki plant scientist centre, with artworks produced by students and researcher from the University of the Arts, and Aalto University of Design. 17 November 2023.

Liebenberg, N., Nair, J. & Zaayman, C. 2022. *Assembling: exhibition making and women's labour*. An exhibition that honours the lived experiences of women of the Cape, from the colonial period to the present day. The Michaelis Upper Gallery, University of Cape Town. Curated and researched by Nina Liebenberg, Jade Nair & Carine Zaayman, in collaboration with womxn doctoral scholars from the University of the Western Cape. Website: <https://undercoverofdarkness.co.za/assembling/>

Liebenberg, N. 2022. *Diagnosing loss*. An exhibition about loss as it is studied, understood, and manifests in different disciplines. The Michaelis Upper Gallery, University of Cape Town. In collaboration with the University of Oxford (Ethox), the Wellcome Trust, University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine and Department of Social Anthropology (Health

Humanities and the Arts programme). Curated and researched by Nina Liebenberg. Link: <https://www.ethox.ox.ac.uk/blog/2018beyond-the-body2019-2018diagnosing-loss2019-a-conversation>

Liebenberg, N. 2018 – 2019. *Object ecologies*. An exhibition of object studies. Iziko South African Museum, Cape Town. Curated and researched by Professor Pippa Skotnes, Associate Professor Fritha Langerman and Nina Liebenberg. Website: <https://www.iziko.org.za/exhibitions/object-ecologies/>

Liebenberg, N. & Saptouw, F. 2014. *Suspicious Minds: artists' exploration of mind and matter*, a second exhibition iteration (see 2013) in collaboration with local NPO [Comacare](#) to raise brain trauma injury awareness as part of their World Design Capital Project. Iziko National Gallery Annexe, Cape Town. Curated and researched by Nina Liebenberg and Fabian Saptouw. Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/cca/projects/suspicious-mind-artists-exploration-of-mind-and-matter/>

Liebenberg, N., Simons, B. & Zaayman, C. 2014. *Drawing from the ground*. An exhibition of drawings and pastels produced by learners from the Frank Joubert Art Centre. A workshop preceding the exhibition consisted of pastel-making and a drawing demonstration presented by artist, Jeannette Unite, in context of her research into Earth extracted material, and the Earth as archive of memory in deep time, as well as a talk on archaeological methodology and knowledge production concerning the past by UCT's Nick Zachariou. The Ritchie Gallery, University of Cape Town. Curated, facilitated and researched by Carine Zaayman, Bridget Simon and Nina Liebenberg. Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/news/drawing-ground-exhibition-opening-bindery-michaelis-school-fine-art>

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Playtone*. An exhibition following a workshop on taxonomy. The Bindery, University of Cape Town. Curated and researched by Nina Liebenberg (facilitator) and the Honours in Curatorship students. Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/cca/projects/playtone-an-exercise-in-taxonomy/>

Liebenberg, N., Inggs, S. & Higgs, J. 2014. *Index: A Stephen Inggs retrospective*. An exhibition presenting a survey of Inggs's work spanning 25 years – a nexus of an ever-expanding anthology of the overlooked, recording that which is inherently transient through the development of an 'archaeographical' method of unearthing, collecting and photographing found objects. Michaelis Main Gallery and Centre for African Studies. Researched and curated by Stephen Inggs, Josephine Higgs and Nina Liebenberg.

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Appendix: A response to Index*. An exhibition in conversation with Index and in collaboration with UCT's Archaeology, Zoology and Botany departments, displaying pottery shards, soil samples, bones and rocks from the Fine Art campus and subjecting these to the scientific scrutiny of specialists from each department – to classify and combine with specimens from existing collections, using their own playful taxonomic devices. Michaelis Upper Gallery. Curated by Nina Liebenberg (with Honours in Curatorship interns). Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/cca/projects/appendix-a-response-to-index/>

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Where the wild things are*. An exhibition exploring the political, social, and historical narratives embedded in the more-than-human world through investigation, observation, mapping, archival research and art making. The Michaelis Upper Gallery and Hiddingh Campus, University of Cape Town. Curated by Nina Liebenberg (with Honours in Curatorship interns). Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/cca/projects/where-the-wild-things-are/>

Liebenberg, N. & Saptouw, F. 2013. *Suspicious Minds: artists' exploration of mind and matter*. An exhibition staged for a major international neuropsychology conference held on Hiddingh campus which featured artworks by local artists, and materials gathered from different UCT departments and from further afield (also forming part of the Honours teaching programme). Michaelis Main Gallery. Curated and researched by Fabian Saptouw and Nina Liebenberg. Website: <http://www.cca.uct.ac.za/cca/projects/suspicious-mind-artists-exploration-of-mind-and-matter/>

Exhibitions (ARTWORKS PRODUCED)

Liebenberg, N. 2024. *city is sound, city is quicksand – voicing imaginaries and dissonances*. Hietsu Pavilion, Helsinki. May 21–23. Website: <https://cityasspaceofrulesanddreaming.net/>

Liebenberg, N & Roumagnac, V. 2024. *Tokonoma 2: Slow Blue Love*. Pengerkatu 7 – Työhuone. Helsinki. 16 – 19 May.

Liebenberg, N. 2023. *Peripheral perspectives*. A FilmEU Artistic Research Exhibition (ARE) that brings together a selection of international artistic research projects that make visible that which lies hidden in academic departments and enrich the debate on artistic research. Genk, Belgium. Website: <https://are.filmeu.eu/>

Liebenberg, N. 2023. *City is a thin line by the sea*. A selection of works, installations, or gestures to form specific relationships where sea and soil meets. Curated by Aino Hirvola, Maiju Loukola, Tanja Tiekso & Paul Tiensuu. Website: <https://cityasspaceofrulesanddreaming.net/>

Liebenberg, N. 2019. *Monochrome*. A group exhibition featuring painting, photography, drawing, video work and collage by selected artists. Barnard Gallery, Cape Town. Curated by Alastair Whitton. Collaboration with UCT's Astronomy Department. Website: <https://barnardgallery.com/exhibitions/11-monochrome-curated-group-exhibition/overview/>

Liebenberg, N. 2019. *Conversations*. An exhibition of work by the staff of the Michaelis School of Art. Michaelis Gallery, Cape Town. Curated by Virginia MacKenny. Collaboration with UCT's Astronomy Department. Website: <http://www.michaelis.uct.ac.za/news/conversations-michaelis-staff-exhibition>

Liebenberg, N. 2019. *Re-imagined realities*. An exhibition that engages with work where artists have taken reference from the existing and the natural. Open24Hours (The Harrington), Cape Town. Curated by Morne Visagie.

Liebenberg, N. 2018 – 2019. *Chest: a botanical enquiry*. An exhibition that formed part of my PhD research. Iziko South African Museum. Collaboration with the Special Collections Library, Department of Biological Sciences, Pharmacology, Dermatology, Pathology and the South African College of Music, UCT.

Liebenberg, N. 2018. *Age of innocence*. An exhibition that investigate this "age of innocence" from the era of the Anthropocene. Klein Karoo Arts Festival. Curated by Nadja Daehnke.

Liebenberg, N. 2018. *The Landis Museum*. A "museum of the encounter" – an institution-within-an-institution constructed to explore various forms of interfacing made visible by the objects exhibited within it. Glasgow International 2018 (20 Apr - 7 May); CCA, Derry-Londonderry (28 May - 31 Jul). Curated by Chapter Thirteen. Collaboration with the Special Collections Library, UCT. Website: <https://www.ccadld.org/exhibitions/the-landis-museum>

Liebenberg, N. 2017. *The confessional*. An exhibition about guilt and confession. Klein Karoo Arts Festival. Curated by Libby Battson. Collaboration with the Department of Biological Sciences (Botany), UCT. Website: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/lifestyle/2017-07-25-art-that-speaks-for-itself-exhibit-skillfully-pairs-artworks-with-audio/>

Liebenberg, N. 2016. *Bona fides*. An exhibition of work that uses the written word, Jan Royce Gallery, Cape Town. Curated by Michelle Aucamp. Collaboration with UCT's Astronomy Department. Website: <https://www.whatsonincapetown.com/post/review-bona-fides-jan-royce-gallery/>

Liebenberg, N. 2016. *About empty spaces*, Klein Karoo Arts Festival. Curated by The Dead Bunny Society.

Liebenberg, N. 2016. *Air: inspiration-expiration*. The fourth exhibition in a series based on the four elements of water, fire, earth and air. Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg. Curated by Cyril Coetzee.

Liebenberg, N. 2015. *Death speaks*. An exhibition exploring notions and sensations of death in tactile, poetic, and metaphorical senses. Spin Street Gallery, Cape Town. Curated by Alice Toich, Suzanne Duncan and Dale Washkansky. Website: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-10-15-death-speaks-a-curious-meditation-on-living/>

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Scintilla: an alchemy show*. An exhibition of practice-led artists oriented towards intuitive connections that can reveal an encounter with the scintilla in whichever form or guise it may take. Commune.1, Cape Town. Curated by Leigh-Anne Niehaus. Collaboration with UCT's Astronomy Department. Catalogue: https://issuu.com/commune.1/docs/scintilla_catalogue_r_forweb

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Do it*. An exhibition of do-it-yourself descriptions or procedural instructions for art conceptualised by Christian Boltanski, Bertrand Lavier and Hans-Ulrich Obist. Michaelis Gallery. Curated by Josephine Higgins. 2014.

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *ABSA L'Atelier Art Finalists Exhibition*. An exhibition that showcases the finalists of one of Africa's most prestigious art competitions. ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom. Curated by Dr Paul Bayliss and Stephan Erasmus. Collaboration with Department of Biological Sciences (Botany).

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Post-Colonial Africa*. An exploration of the contemporary reading of the economic potential across the African continent. Klein Karoo Arts Festival. Curated by Dr Paul Bayliss. Collaboration with Department of Biological Sciences (Botany).

Liebenberg, N. 2014. *Language Games*. A shifting series of micro exhibitions formulated to spark visitor engagement and conversation. Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town. Curated by Josh Ginsburg.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *Absa L'Atelier Regional Exhibition*. An exhibition that showcases the finalists of one of Africa's most prestigious art competitions. Rust and Vrede Gallery, Durbanville. Collaboration with Department of Biological Sciences (Botany).

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *New Voices II*. Lizamore and Associates (former Artspace), Johannesburg. Curated by Ronel de Jager.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *MUSE: Portrait. Landscape. Still Life*. An exhibition around the themes of landscape, portrait and still life. Casa Labia, Muizenberg. Curated by Margie Murgatroyd, Antonia Labia and Cate Wood Hunter.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *Entre-Vues*. An artist residency and exhibition. Camac Art Centre, Marnay-sur-Seine, France.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *Pentimenti and More*. Art.b Gallery, Bellville. Curated by Louie Jansen van Vuuren and Elizabeth Miller-Vermeulen.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *The Seven Deadly Virtues*. An exhibition of artworks of contemporary interpretations of the seven deadly sins. Klein Karoo Arts Festival and Fried Contemporary Gallery, Pretoria. Curated by Dr Paul Bayliss.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *ABSA L'Atelier Art Finalists Exhibition*. An exhibition that showcases the finalists of one of Africa's most prestigious art competitions. ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom. Curated by Dr Paul Bayliss and Stephan Erasmus.

Liebenberg, N. 2013. *New Beginnings*. Art.b Gallery, Bellville. Curated by Elizabeth Miller-Vermeulen.

Workshops and Symposiums Convened

Open book: Exploring the artist's book, its different forms, and publishing. Curated mini symposium with Henna-Rikka Halonen. University of the Arts, Helsinki. 16 April 2024.

Planthology (Workshop 3) Facilitated with Niko Johannsen. Postdoctoral research workshop with University of Helsinki (Viikki Plant Sciences researchers), Aalto University Design students, & Uniarts Masters students. Majakka, University of the Arts, Helsinki. 15 March 2024.

Wayfinding (Workshop). Workshop with Uniarts students and the public. KuvA Tila. *Claws and Connections: All the World's Senses*. University of the Arts, Helsinki. 1 February 2024.

Object Studies. Research Symposium. University of the Arts, Helsinki. 14 December 2023. Link: <https://www.uniarts.fi/en/events/kuva-research-days-day-3/>

Planthology (Workshop 2) Facilitated with Vincent Roumagnac. Postdoctoral research workshop with University of Helsinki (Viikki Plant Sciences researchers), Aalto University Design students, & Uniarts Masters students. Majakka, University of the Arts, Helsinki. 14 December 2023.

Planthology (Workshop 1). Postdoctoral research workshop with University of Helsinki (Viikki Plant Sciences) researchers, Aalto University Design students, & Uniarts Masters of Fine Art students. Majakka, University of the Arts, Helsinki. 17 November 2023.

Uncovering: Women's invisible labour at the Cape. A symposium tracing women's work across Cape histories and sites (as part of the Under Cover of Darkness exhibition). [Online]. Co-curated with Jade Nair, Dr Carine Zaayman & Josie Grindrod. 22 March 2021.

Digital matters: Objects, curation, and the virtual realm. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town: February 2021.

Object lessons. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. June 2020.

The biography of an object. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. February 2019.

Experibitions: Exercises in curation. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. February 2018.

Rules of engagement: Curating an audience. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. June 2017.

The object: A workshop on materiality. Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. June 2016.

Searching the ashes: considering Krotoa in reframing the colonial past. Workshop for Frank Joubert art school learners on memory (for Carine Zaayman's PhD Fieldworks Project). April 2016.

The visual university: An exploration into ways of seeing, Honours in Curatorship workshop, University of Cape Town. June 2015.

The order of things: a taxonomy workshop. UCT Honours in Curatorship programme, 14 – 18 July 2014.

Where the wild things are: A taxidermy workshop (UCT Honours in Curatorship programme) in collaboration with George Esau (Iziko Museums of South Africa). June 2014.

Suspicious Minds: Artists explore mind and matter, Michaelis Main Gallery. Curated by Fabian Saptouw and Nina Liebenberg. 2014.