

En tog ... / And yet ...

An Exhibition by Andries Gouws

19 Jan - 29 March 2020



ANDRIES GOUWS

BIOGRAPHY

Andries Gouws studied art in Cape Town (Michaelis), Venice (Emilio Vedova), Düsseldorf (Staatliche Kunstakademie) and Amsterdam (Rijksakademie), and also holds an MA and PhD in Philosophy. He spent 16 years in Europe prior to returning to South Africa. Before becoming a full time artist, he taught philosophy, and at times art theory and history of art, at levels ranging from first year to PhD.

Gouws had previous one man shows in Chicago, Durban, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein, Grahamstown, Kimberley, Potchefstroom, Stellenbosch and Oudtshoorn, including the travelling exhibitions "Meditations on the Everyday" (2006), "Pedestrian Paintings (2011-2012)" and "Vertoef/Linger" (2018).

Public collections in which his work is represented include the Iziko National Gallery, Cape Town, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Durban Art Gallery, Pretoria Art Museum and the Oliewenhuis Museum in Bloemfontein.

Gouws is married to the novelist and artist Ingrid Winterbach; they have two daughters and one grandson.

For images of his work, reviews, some of his own writing on art, etc. visit www.andriesgouws.com.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Why do I paint the way I do? Why do I paint all these rooms without people, these mirrors, these feet? I don't know. What do my paintings mean? I don't know.

As an artist and as a philosopher I have learnt that there is no verbal equivalent for what happens visually in a painting. Moreover, the artist's words carry no special authority. I tread gingerly when making an artist's statement. Whatever I say is speculative and tentative. The silence or muteness I strive for in my paintings would be lost if they suggested a meaning which can be captured directly in words.

Meditation – lingering in an awareness of the here and now – plays a large role in my life. To me the mood of my paintings suggests something between the meditative and a sense of failure, perhaps abjection. Had they been only meditative I don't think viewers would have found them awkward, uncanny or even desolate, in the way they do.

Art works don't simply arise from the artist's personal experience, but always also from a dialogue with other artists. My paintings are a modest salute to painters like Vermeer, Piero, Morandi, Arikha, and how they capture light, space and stillness. Much as I admire artists like Goya, Guston and Kentridge, who engage with the problems and terrors of the social and political world, I can't emulate them – the place my work arises from is too different.

The varied appearance of my paintings is linked to whether, either through choice or by necessity, I worked from life or from photographs, more quickly or more slowly.



Study of two quinces against
blue background
Oil on canvas
30 X 30 cm
not for sale



Mantegna book on easel
and painting thereof
Oil on canvas
31 X 41,8 cm
R 25 000



Grahamstown residence room, open curtains, 2nd version
Oil on canvas
28 X 40,8 cm
not for sale



Umbilo pool changing room 1
Oil on canvas
31,6 X 23,7 cm
R 22 500



Umbilo pool changing room 2
Oil on canvas
35,6 X 27,3 cm
R 22 500



Quinces in Susan's bowl
Oil on canvas
22,5 X 30 cm
R29 500



Brown paper bag, fruit and veg
in metal cabinet
Oil on canvas
33,2 X 40 cm
R 25 000



Detail of Rusts' kitchen, Stilbaai
Oil on board
32 X 28 cm
R25 000



Ingrid's Studio: Rhino skull & Leonardo
(3rd version)
Oil on canvas
50 X 30 cm
R 32 500



Ingrid's studio: paper cabinet
in morning sun
Oil on board
31,2 X 45 cm
R32 500



Three peppers in shopping bag
Oil on canvas
30,5 X 35 cm
R 22 500



Study of two peppers on table
Oil on board
20 X 25 cm
R 12 500



Stanford landscape
Oil on canvas
40 X 60 cm
R 32 500



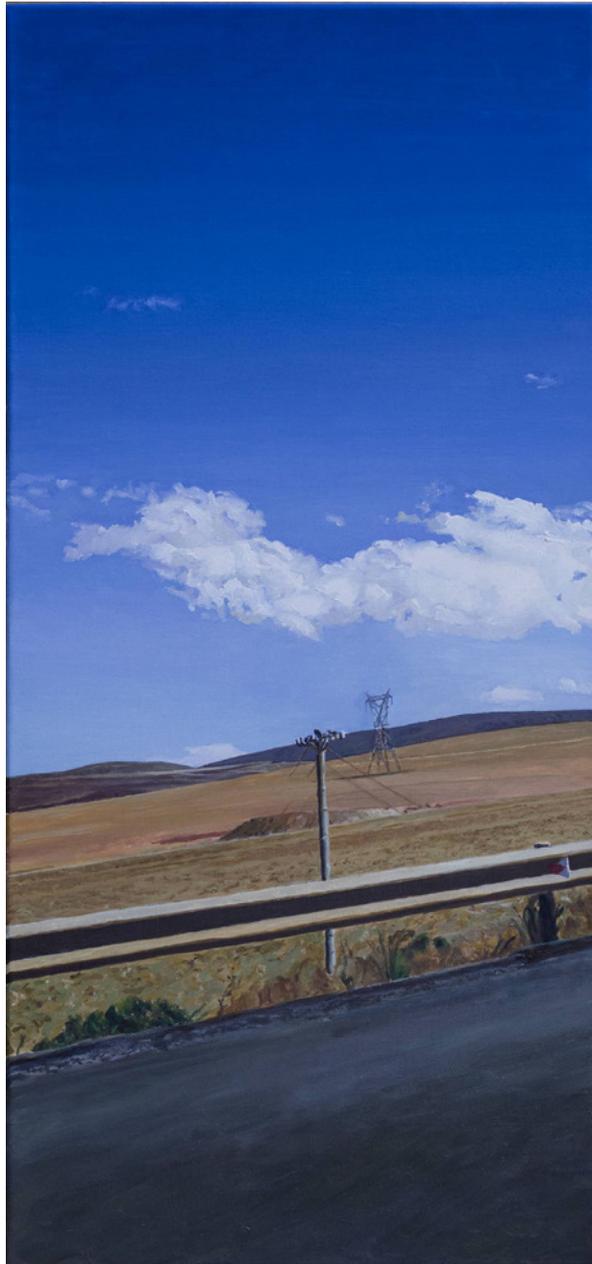
Red and yellow peppers in plastic tray
Oil on canvas on board
20,3 X 25 cm
R19 500



View through Jamestown studio window,
with empty easel
Oil on board
40 X 45 cm
R29 500



Female nude in front of chest of drawers and Piero's Flagellation
Oil on canvas
32 X 43 cm
R27 500



Landscape from road, Overberg
Oil on canvas
57 X 24 cm
R 29 500



Dressing cubicle, Eftalou beach, Lesbos, Greece
Oil on canvas
28 X 39 cm
R22 500



Two beds, Bloemfontein
Oil on canvas
28 X 41 cm
R 25 000