



# Light - A group Exhibition with

Alice Toich, Floris van Zyl, Oliver Scarlin, Rentia Retief, Stephen Rosin & Susan Grundlingh

6 AUG - 5 SEPT 2021

## Light - A Brief Overview

*"The substance of painting is light." – Andre Derain*

For hundreds of years, artists as dynamic and varied as Johannes Vermeer and James Turrell, Da Vinci and Olafur Eliasson have been investigating how light affects not only their work but also the perception and experience of their work.

Rembrandt and Caravaggio used Chiaroscuro as a manipulation of light and shadow to successfully create the illusion of a three-dimensional volume on a flat surface, further adding to the depth and dramatic effect in their works. The Impressionists such as Monet and Renoir perfected techniques of En plein air painting to capture the essence of the changing light in their landscapes.

*Light* also presents an intriguing if not alluring subject matter for creative exploration. Offering a range for probing ideas surrounding anything from the divine, heaven and hell, to the morally complex, attitudes of race and prejudice, renewal and upliftment, illumination, science and matter, the environment, gender, memory, and the list goes on...

The works on this exhibition explore the characteristics and concepts of light in art through subject matter such as dreamlike worlds, scenes of animals, still life paintings, botanical studies, figure studies, and outdoor scenes.

Gallery at  
GLEN CARLOU



## Alice Toich

### Artist Statement

As greater painters before me, I am marvelled by the variety and inexhaustible iterations of light in Nature. John Ruskin's description of weather, aptly describes my feeling towards light:

*"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather"*

Gloomy, overcast days bring a glowing coolness to interior spaces, my kitchen counters, and the studio. I do not think there is a light circumstance that is not worthy of painting, as all moments carry with them a mood, a sentiment, and a moment of poetry. Poetry is not afraid of exploring the height of awe as well as the depths of loneliness, and I feel painting serves me to this end.

I find great inspiration in daily rituals, simple happenings and chance encounters with nature, people, animals, and the place I call home.

Working in the traditional genres of landscape, still

life, figurative and portrait painting, I explore the contemporary world around me through personal enquiry and a curious brush.

I work exclusively from life, meaning there is no barrier (photograph) between Nature (Reality) and my interpretation of it with my brush. This practice has allowed for greater freedom, connection, and expressiveness in my work -allowing me to layer many observed moments upon one surface instead of trying to mimic a single static image.

For interpreting light as the wave, atom, and frequency *matter* we observe it to be as well as its effects, I find working from life to be of paramount importance.

### Biography

Alice Angela Toich (b. 1991) was born in Pretoria, South Africa. After a sold-out student show titled *The Present* at Michaelis School of Fine Art, she started to work from a studio in Woodstock, Cape Town.

From 2015-2016 Toich took on private commissioned work, participated in group shows, partook in art fairs around South Africa as well as helped curate shows with other artists in non-gallery spaces.

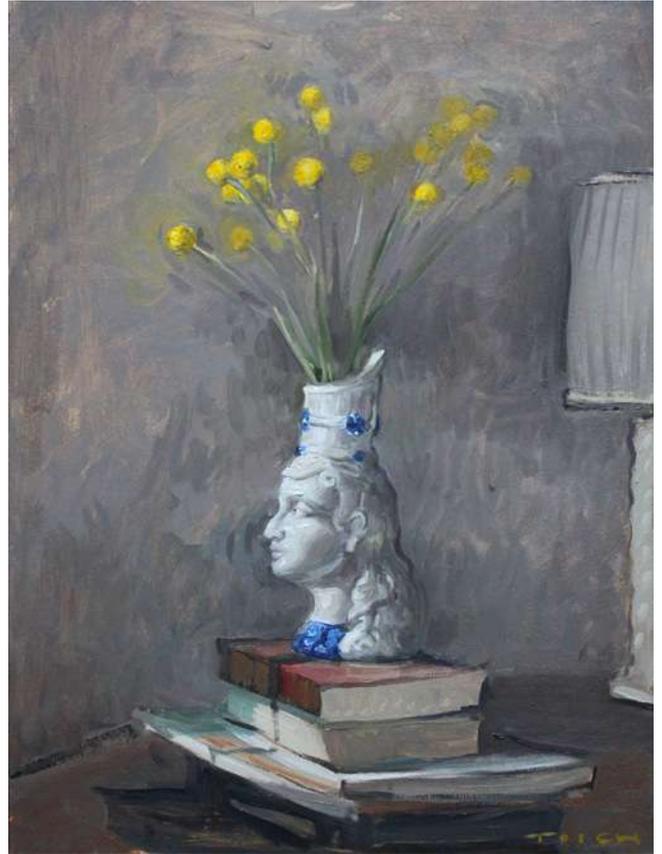
During this time, she was awarded a scholarship to attend a two-month Summer Intensive Drawing Program at the Grand Central Atelier in New York City - for the first time learning to draw and paint exclusively from life (drawing live model and classical casts loaned from the Met). This changed the trajectory of her practice drastically.

Two years in her Cape Town studio culminated in her solo show entitled *The Icing Pink Ether* - a multimedia show exploring traditional painting and baking techniques as well as quantum physics and

current politics.

From 2017 - 2019, Toich was enrolled for a three-year training program at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy, where she graduated with a special graduate-in-residence award.

She is currently working from her home studio in Mowbray, Cape Town.



Alice Toich  
KNOWLEDGE VS WISDOM

oil on wood panel  
32,5 by 42,5 cm, framed in Kiaat  
R 13 800



Alice Toich  
GEESE POND AT COMPANY'S GARDENS

oil on Italian canvas  
45,5 by 65 cm, framed in Kiaat  
R 34 500



Alice Toich  
UNDERWATER FYNBOS REEF

oil on panel  
32 by 42 cm, framed in Kiaat  
R 13 800



## Floris van Zyl

### Artist statement

To paint, you need 3 things: the eye, the hand, and the heart.

Making art has taught me to not be afraid of making mistakes. The journey is constant, between listening to the inner voice and making the choice to take an action. Sooner or later, each of us begins to realise that it's not having flawless things that fulfils our soul, but rather the act of creating that brings satisfaction.

### Biography

Floris van Zyl is a South African Expressionist painter who has studied graphic design in the early 90's, built his own design agency over seventeen years and returned to painting full-time in 2010.

In just over eleven years he created more than six

hundred artworks, including around four hundred oil paintings. They have sold locally and internationally and include landscapes, still life images, portraits, and self-portraits.

His work is characterised by bold, symbolic colours, and dramatic, impulsive, and expressive brushwork. One of the themes in Van Zyl's work is to take things apart: to take realism and make it abstract by using a palette knife, to extend the paint beyond the boundaries of the form we know.



Floris van Zyl  
WONDER

oil on board | 121 by 121 by 4cm, unframed | R 35 000



Floris van Zyl  
HAND SHOWER

oil on board  
60 by 44 by 4cm, unframed  
R 15 000



Floris van Zyl  
PURPLE LIGHT

oil on board  
60 by 44 by 4cm, unframed  
R 15 000



Floris van Zyl  
EVERGLO

oil on board  
70 by 63 by 4cm, unframed  
R 23 000



Floris van Zyl  
RED ROOM

oil on canvas  
65 by 100 by 2cm, unframed  
R 25 000



## Oliver Scarlin

### Artist Statement

I approach still life painting as an exercise in translating form through colour and light. I'm particularly fond of work that breathes with light but has an almost tangible sensation of varying form and texture. Each element or form in the work must still belong to the whole, nothing must be too detailed as to distract from the overall sensation of light and space.

### Biography

Oliver Scarlin was born in Cape Town in 1987. He received a BA in visual art at the Stellenbosch Academy of Design & Photography and later completed the 3-year painting program at the Florence Academy of Art, where he won two scholarships and taught as an assistant instructor.

Since his return to Cape Town in 2015 he has had

three solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group exhibitions in South Africa and the UK.

Oliver paints primarily from observation and is interested in exploring perception through form and colour. He makes functional ceramic objects that feature in his still-life work. Beyond the formal elements of painting, the work is designed to feel intimate, and is informed by themes of memory, longing, and queer domesticity.



Oliver Scarlin  
QUINCES AND CUPS

Oil on panel  
40x40cm  
R 14 500



Oliver Scarlin  
PEAR IN PAPER

oil on panel  
30 by 35cm, framed  
SOLD



## Rentia Retief

### Artist Statement

Rentia Retief's drawings often focus on the theme of tactile memory. She bases this reference to her experience of working with animals (mostly horses and agricultural animals) where a language is formed based on touch. In her more recent works the main inspiration is the solitude and serene silence she experiences when alone in nature. Her paintings act as a reflection of these moments.

### Biography

Rentia graduated with a BA in Fine Arts in 2014 and an Honours in Illustration in 2016, both at the University of Stellenbosch. She is currently working as a fine art professional where she specialises in drawing on charcoal on paper.

Since 2014 she has participated in numerous group exhibitions locally, and has produced three solo exhibitions at MOK Gallery Stellenbosch, Mullers Gallery CT and Ebony/Curated CT respectively.

Rentia Retief  
MEMORY OF MALAWI

charcoal on paper  
151 by 105cm, framed  
R 25 000





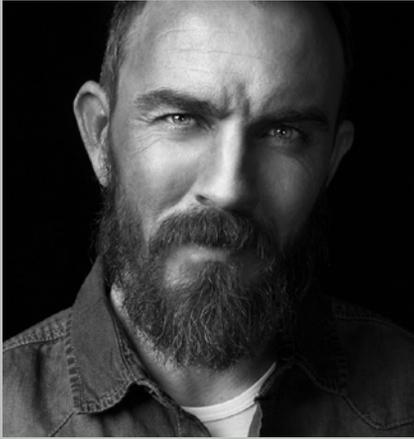
Rentia Retief  
LANDSKAP GEBUIG

charcoal on paper  
70 by 100cm, framed  
R 21 000



Rentia Retief  
GESPREKKE

charcoal on paper  
65 by 50cm, framed  
R 10 500



## Stephen Rosin

### Artist Statement

*Looking for the Odd One Out* is a quirky mixed-media piece that serves as a continuation of Rosin's exploration of illustration as a conceptual vehicle for artistic practice. By using what is often viewed as a 'low brow' art form he hopes to present the viewer with unsettling or difficult subject matter cloaked in the otherwise simplistic.

*Fly Me to the Moon* is an installation piece composed of a pair of bee wings suspended by four delicately thin ribbons. Each wing is made of 254 melted lead bullets. The intention for the piece is to convey the lightness and delicacy of bee wings contrastingly made from the heaviest of materials. A visual contradiction of sorts.

*What's in Darkness Will Come to Light*, is a large ballpoint pen drawing. This work is a wry comment on the Biblical passage from which it takes its name. The composition is filled with various characters who find themselves exposed to an unknown light source, yet seem as if they are viewing a spectacle rather than being laid bare for all to see.

### Biography

Stephen Rosin b. 1975, is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist who works with ink, beeswax, gunpowder, bullet lead, digital photography, and a variety of other unusual mediums. A prolific artist, he has completed seven solo exhibitions and participated in several group exhibitions to date.

In 2009 he was awarded as the winner of the prestigious Barclays L'Atelier award. Rosin's artistic practice is characterised by a conceptual approach to socio-political commentary and subtle satire, which he achieves through intricate and detailed imagery.

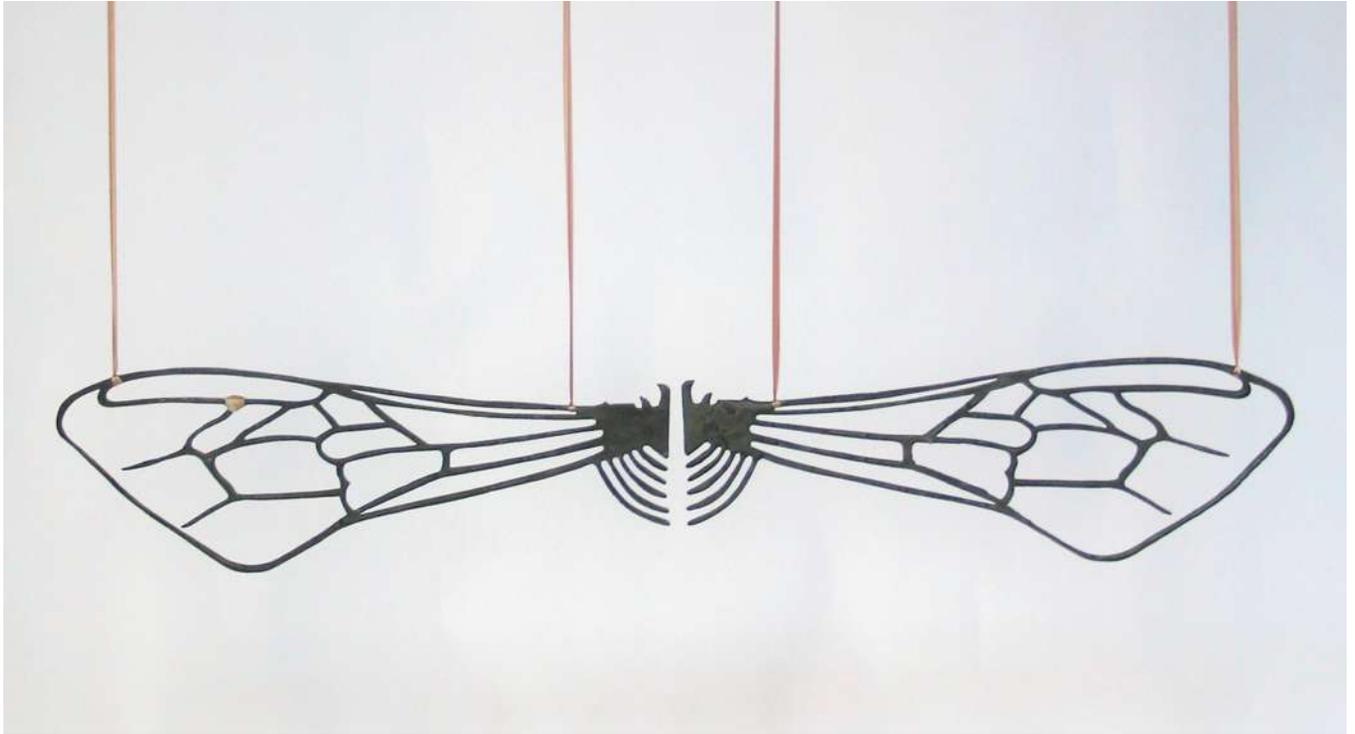
His work is held in the Sasol, Telkom, ABSA and First National Bank corporate art collections, as well as in the permanent collections of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.

Rosin lives and works near Plettenberg Bay.



Stephen Rosin  
LOOKING FOR THE ODD ONE OUT, 2021

bullet lead, ink, coloured pencil &  
watercolour on 300 gsm Fabriano paper  
37.5 by 71 cm, unframed  
R 12 300



Stephen Rosin  
FLY ME TO THE MOON, 2018-2021

melted bullet lead cast into Honey Bee wings  
dimensions variable, unframed  
R 11 000



Stephen Rosin  
WHAT'S IN DARKNESS WILL COME TO LIGHT, 2019

ballpoint pen on 300gsm Fabriano paper  
41 by 70 cm, unframed  
R 17 200



## Susan Grundlingh

### Artist Statement

My work shifted in recent years from an ongoing theme surrounding displacement, to a more rooted theme of place. I have become more aware of the fact that my love for plants, foliage and flowers gives me a sense of place and being rooted.

### Biography

B. 1952 in Cape Town, Grundlingh has studied Art at several institutions across South Africa, namely at the Michaelis Art School, Bloemfontein Technikon and UNISA. She also worked as a ceramic artist and lecturer for 25 years before finally embarking on a full-time career as a painter.

She has participated in several prominent art competitions - Absa L'Atelier, Vuleka Art Awards and the Corobrick National Ceramic Biennale. She has also completed two three month artist residencies at the Cité des Arts in Paris, France.

To date, Grundlingh has produced nine solo exhibitions, and participated in several group

exhibitions locally and abroad. Her work was also selected among the top 40 finalists in the 2013 Sanlam Portrait Awards.

Currently she lives and works between Gordon's Bay and a farm in the Klein Karoo.



Susan Grundling  
SEE THE LIGHT

oil on canvas  
60 by 75cm, unframed  
R 14 400



left  
Susan Grundlingh  
WHEN LIGHT ENTERS

oil on canvas  
100 by 100cm, unframed  
R 19 500



right  
Susan Grundlingh  
THE LIGHT REMAINS

oil on canvas  
60 by 75cm, unframed  
R 14 400



Susan Grundling  
LIGHT THE WAY

oil on canvas  
100 by 120cm, unframed  
R 24 200

# Viewing and Buying Art on this Exhibition

## Viewing

As per the current guidelines on the gathering of crowds in public spaces, visitors are welcome to attend the exhibition during gallery hours permitting that a mask is worn at all times and that social distancing is observed.

This catalogue is downloadable for offline reading. All artworks are fully illustrated and catalogued.

## Shipping

All sold items may be collected or shipped as from 7 Sept 2021.

Kindly email your shipping requirements to Christa Swart at [gallery@glencarlou.co.za](mailto:gallery@glencarlou.co.za). We will arrange competitive quotations for your perusal and approval.

Buyers preferring to make use of their own shipping arrangements should advise accordingly.

Packing and courier fees are for the buyer's account.

## Contact

Gallery at Glen Carlou

Christa Swart  
Gallery Manager

E: [gallery@glencarlou.co.za](mailto:gallery@glencarlou.co.za)

W: [www.glencarlou.com](http://www.glencarlou.com)

FB: [@GalleryGlenCarlou](https://www.facebook.com/GalleryGlenCarlou)

Insta: [@gallery\\_glencarlou](https://www.instagram.com/gallery_glencarlou)

For more information, sales and enquiries, contact our gallery manager Christa Swart at [gallery@glencarlou.co.za](mailto:gallery@glencarlou.co.za).

Payments may be made via electronic fund transfer. All prices as listed on the website and catalogue are in ZAR including VAT. All artworks purchased are to remain on exhibition until the end date of 5 September 2021.

# Gallery at GLEN CARLOU

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Glen Carlou Vineyards  
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www.glencarlou.com

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## CREDITS

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Johan Erasmus

**Catalogue Editing & Design**  
Christa Swart

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6 August - 5 September 2021

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