



CURATORIAL+CO.



ANIMIST
KARLIEN VAN ROOYEN

7 - 17 AUGUST 2024

"To be able to sculpt something from such a basic raw material feels like I can bring another being into the world that comes alive inside the minds of others."

- Karlien van Rooyen



KARLIEN VAN ROOYEN

ANIMIST

Karlien van Rooyen grew up in the small town of Kommetjie at the foot of a mountain on South Africa's Cape Point. Affronted by unrelenting ocean storms, the town was also home to a wild and diverse ecosystem. The living space in her house was adorned by an archive of natural objects – whether inherited or collected on hunting and foraging adventures, this trove of objects formed visual imprints on her imagination.

Says Karlien of her upbringing: “As a creative woman, my mother entertained my sister and me with arts and crafts. My first taste of moulding material with my hands came from playing with the playdough she made. Her father was a philosophical but rustic man. He believed in living with nature and had an aversion to machine-made things, despite being a highly technical software engineer. He was stoic about respecting and not romanticising nature, reminding us of the harsh relationship between humans, animals and the environment, and I accompanied him on many wilderness adventures.

“Objects from these adventures ended up being components of our domestic landscape. Resourceful homesteading was a constant preoccupation; rugs made from speckled Nguni cattle pelts; we foraged for food; and naturally crusted objects that washed up after the storms found their decorative place in the home. I imbued objects with a heightened sense of importance, especially those which were patinaed in their own stories.”

Of her first encounter with clay Karlien says: “One of my earliest profound memories of childhood is when we went fishing by a dam with my dad and grandfather. My sister and I ran about playing in the shallows and discovered a section of the dam where our tiny feet sank into the silkiest smooth ground. This got my dad's attention too who also came to play and investigate. With his long arms, he reached into the water and dug out handfuls of clay. He carried it to the bank where we sat, transfixed, watching him sculpt the most lifelike models of the indigenous Nguni cattle.

“I was mesmerised by his ability to create something from this seemingly formless slippery mass. When he handed me the miniature beast my imagination took hold and since then I've always wanted to create that kind of magic for others. It might be a bit animist, but to be able to sculpt something from such a basic raw material feels like I can bring another being into the world that comes alive inside the minds of others.”



Porosity & Social Strategy, 2024

Nude Manganese Stoneware and volcanic glaze

66 x 40 x 23 cm

\$ 3,400



Lichtenberg Figure 2, 2023

High fired stoneware

83 x 40 x 35 cm

\$ 3,400



Lichtenberg Figure 1, 2023

High fired stoneware

83 x 40 x 35 cm

\$ 3,400



The Loveliness Of Senescent Mineral Hoarders, 2023

High fired stoneware

65 x 30 x 20 cm

\$ 3,400



Animist in Australia, 2024
High fired stoneware
73 x 35 x 30 cm
\$ 2,900



The Volcanic Lapidary of Beach Pumice, 2023

High fired stoneware

72 x 35 x 30 cm

\$ 3,200



Hopeful Lament, 2024
High fired stoneware
65 x 28 x 25 cm
\$ 2,900



Anarcho Lichen, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware
63 x 36 x 25 cm
\$ 2,900



Hippocratic Oath, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware
60 x 35 x 25 cm
\$ 2,900



On My Skin, 2023
High fired stoneware
60 x 27 x 26 cm
\$ 2,400



Porosity, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware and volcanic glaze
58 x 27 x 27 cm
\$ 2,400



Flame of Stone 3, 2024
Terracotta stoneware
75 x 22 x 22 cm
\$ 2,000



Flame of Stone 1, 2024
Terracotta stoneware
73 x 27 x 25 cm
\$ 2,000



Flame of Stone 2, 2024
Terracotta stoneware
74 x 21 x 21 cm
\$ 2,000



Foraging Pirates, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware
65 x 26 x 21 cm
\$ 1,800



Chalice For A Centipede, 2023

High fired stoneware

63 x 20 x 15 cm

\$ 1,800



Cocodrillo Urn, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware
48 x 23 x 23 cm
\$ 1,800



Cocodrillo, 2023
High fired stoneware
47 x 20 x 20 cm
\$ 1,500



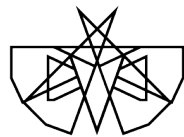
Coastal Merlady, 2024
Nude Manganese Stoneware
55 x 20 x 20 cm
\$ 1,800



Cocodrillo II, 2023
High fired stoneware
34 x 26 x 23 cm
\$ 1,500



Photography: Charlie Shoemaker



CURATORIAL+CO.

ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

ENQUIRIES TO SOPHIE VANDER, DIRECTOR
curatorialandco.com | hello@curatorialandco.com
80 William St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
+61 2 9318 1728 | [@curatorialandco](https://www.instagram.com/curatorialandco)

Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.