

BIOGRAPHY

- 1949 Born in Namibia of Anglo-Irish descent
- 1954 - 1968 Formal education in Namibia and South Africa
- 1969 - 1978 College education in Art and Photography in South Africa, Italy and USA
- 1970 Begins career in Photography in South Africa
- 1972 - 1990 Based in Rome and New York
Travelled as freelance photographer on magazine assignments in Europe & Africa
Involved with 20thC photography collections and exhibitions for the Obelisco Gallery, Rome
Worked under Pasquale De Antonis photographing art, architecture & antiquities
- 1974 - 1994 Documented the simple and humble country life in *La Ciociaria*, a remote mountainous region south of Rome. Donated her collection to the Municipal Region in 2009
- 1978 / 1979 Journeys to South West Africa (now Namibia) and South Africa
Becomes a persona non grata under the Apartheid laws. Photographs are seized by authorities. Renounces SA citizenship
Meets David Goldblatt. In 1980 they co-author the book *Cape Dutch Homesteads*
- 1979 - 1996 Pursued personal projects in Africa documenting the physical manifestations of shelter, mural painting and personal identity associated with the feminine domain
Photographs and writing published as books and widely exhibited, including trilogy on the Art of African Women (see book publications below) that has been translated into five languages/multiple editions and numerous reprints over 20 years
Ndebele brings about collaboration with the late poet laureate Maya Angelou to whom she remained close
- 1988 - 2008 Photographs distributed by Hoa-Qui (Paris), Speranza (Italy), Anzenburger (Austria), Mega Press (Tokyo), Photo Researchers (NYC)
- 1989/1995 Returns to South West Africa under UN protection and claims birthright to newly independent state of Namibia
Photographs evocative slivers of desert landscape which leads to the publication of a book on childhood memories *Places in The Sand*
- 1990 to 2000 Represented by the Witkin Gallery, New York (they closed in 2000)
- 1990 to 2016 Photographs distributed worldwide by Corbis (USA)
- 1994 to 1999 Collaborated on two award winning children's books with Maya Angelou
Photographed Maya Angelou and interviewed contributors for an inspirational book on her philosophy, *The Poetry of Living*
- 1999 to 2010 Established the Ndebele Foundation, a non-profit cultural organization for the Ndebele women and youth of Mabokho, Mpumalanga province in the new South Africa. Built a training centre and accommodation for facilitators and tourists. Drove fundraising for training and workshops, as well as for running the centre
Enabled Ndebele women to travel to Europe and the USA to promote their culture and learn marketing skills through museum exhibitions, college scholarships and live installations. Photographs the Foundation advancement over the years
- 2013-2018 Returned to Namibia to work on *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* that marks a new phase in her photographic work, documenting her engagement with its people and a landscape in crisis
- 2015 Nominated for the Henri Cartier-Bresson Award for her series *On Borrowed Time*
- 2019 & 2020 *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* series is short listed for the Contemporary African Photography (CAP) Award
Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain is shortlisted for the eighth PRIX PICTET cycle, Hope

2019 Begins a new series of work *Kalahari* documenting the human endurance of the Bushmen 'micro-nations' in Namibia

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

2021 (JUNE) *When Tears Don't Matter*. Foreword/Virginia MacKenny; Essays/Rob J. Gordon, Kileni Fernando (Steidl, Germany)

2018 *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*. Foreword/David Goldblatt; Essay/Sean O'Toole (Steidl, Germany)

1999 *Maya Angelou: The Poetry of Living*. Foreword/Oprah Winfrey (Clarkson Potter, NY, Virago, UK)

1997 *Places in the Sand* (Monacelli Press, NY)

1997 *Kofi and His Magic*. Story by Maya Angelou (Clarkson Potter; 2002 Crown/Random House, NY)

1996 *Imazighen: The Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women* (Clarkson Potter, USA)
Imazighen: The Vanishing Traditions of Berber Women (Thames & Hudson, UK)

1996 *Die Berber Frauen: Kunst und Kultur in Nord Afrika* Frederking & Thaler, (Germany)

1996 *My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken and Me*. Story by Maya Angelou, Clarkson Potter; 2002 Crown/Random House); Soft cover editions for Scholastic (USA)

1990 *African Canvas: The Art of West African Women*. Foreword/Maya Angelou. (Rizzoli, NY)
Die Farben Afrikas. (Frederking & Thaler) 10 reprints+20th Anniversary edition 2010
Tableaux D'Afrique: L'Art mural des femmes de L'Ouest. (Arthaud, France)
Affreschi Africani: l'Arte delle Donne Del Africa Occidentale. (Rizzoli, Italy)

1986 *Ndebele: The Art of an African Tribe*. Foreword/David Goldblatt (Rizzoli, NY -- 15 reprints);
Ndebele (Frederking & Thaler, Germany)
Ndebele: L' Art d'une Tribu D'Afrique du Sud. (Arthaud 1991, 2002)
Südafrika: Die Kunst der Ndebele Frauen (Villa Arceno, Germany)
Ndebele: Die Kunst van Een Afrikaanse Stam. (Librero, Netherlands, 2002)
Ndebele: soft cover reprint with augmented text by David Goldblatt on The Ndebele Foundation and post apartheid SA (Thames & Hudson UK 2002)

1981 *Cape Dutch Homesteads* co-authored with David Goldblatt (Struik, S.A.) Reprinted 1982

SOLO EXIBITIONS

2021 (JULY
AUGUST) *Maya Angelou: The Poetry of Living*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town
When Tears Don't Matter, !Kwa ttu San Heritage Centre, Yzerfontein, South Africa

2018 *In the Harsh Light of the Present* Exhibition presentation of a fifty year career: curated by Nicola Brandt, SMAC Gallery, South Africa
The Fragility of Existence, P46 Gallery, Comogli GE (Italy)

2017 *Margaret Courtney-Clarke* Booth M02, SMAC Gallery, Joburg Art Fair (S.A.)

2009 *La Ciociaria*, Palazzo Comunale, Amaseno (Italy)

2008 *Forty Years*. Studio 77, Windhoek (Namibia)
Forty Years. Woermann Haus, Swakopmund (Namibia)

2007 The African American Museum, Philadelphia (USA)

2006 Museo Della Terra, Latera (Italy)

2004 - 2005 New York State Museum, Albany (USA)

2004 National Library of Medicine, Bethesda (USA)

2002 to 2003 New York Public Libraries' Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (USA)

2001 Palazzo Comunale, Vitorchiano (Italy)

2000 Omba Gallery, Windhoek (Namibia)

1997 Gallery Teatro General San Martin, Buenos Aires (Argentina)

- 1997 The Witkin Gallery, NYC
- 1996 - 1997 Port Washington Public Library N.Y (USA)
- 1996 The Witkin Gallery, NYC (fall)
The Witkin Gallery, NYC (spring)
Africa House, Munich (Germany)
- 1996 - 1998 Itinerant exhibition in 12 museums; Curated by the Institut für Kulturaustausch, Germany
- 1995 Helferei Grossmünster, Zurich (Switzerland)
- 1992 Rocca Paolina, Perugia (Italy)
Seidlvilla, Munich (Germany)
Saibu Gallery, Tokorozawa (Japan)
Sala degli Archi, Ceccano (Italy)
Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (Italy)
- 1991 In the Room Gallery, Tokyo (Japan)
Festa Nazionale de L'Unità, Bologna (Italy)
Festa delle Donne, Rimini (Italy)
Arhus, Odense and Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 1990 Galleria Il Filo di Arianna, Bergamo (Italy)
Libreria Agora Torino (Italy)
IL Diaframma, Milan (Italy)
The Witkin Gallery, New York (USA)
- 1986 Overseas Press Club, New York (USA)
International Centre for Photography Book Store, New York (USA)
Carpenter Centre for Visual Arts, Harvard University, Boston (USA)
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS
(Selected)
- 2020-2021 PRIX PICTET cycle, *Hope*. HOPE will continue its world tour in 2021/22 to venues in Verona (current), Milan, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Shanghai, Singapore and Beijing.
- 2020 *Face to Face*, curated by Ekow Eshun, on public display from October 2020 onwards in King's Cross Tunnel in London, UK
- 2019-2020 An exhibition featuring work from the portfolios of the artists shortlisted for the eighth PRIX PICTET cycle, *Hope*. Victoria & Albert Museum London and Hillside Forum in Tokyo, Japan; Luma Westbau, Zurich; Mouravieff-Apostol House & Museum in Moscow, Russia. The 2nd iteration of *Crossing Night* curated by Josh Ginsburg, Larry Ossei-Mensah and Jova Lynne, Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCAD), Detroit, USA
8th CAP Contemporary African Photography, Photo Basel Art Fair, Basel (Switzerland)
SMAC Gallery artists, Investec Cape Town Art Fair (S.A.)
African Canvas, Gallery 116; *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, Omuntu Gardens, Omaruru (Namibia)
- 2018 *Wish You Were Here*, *SMAC Gallery artists*, Investec Cape Town Art Fair (S.A.)
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg (S.A.)
- 2017 *Peer: Five Photographers*, *SMAC Gallery*, Stellenbosch (S.A.)
- 2016 NAMIBIA: Art of a Young Generation, Museum Würth, Künzelsau (Germany) National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 2013 *Land Matters in Art*, National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 2011 *Walter Van Beirendonck: Dream the World Awake*, MoMu Fashion Museum of Antwerp (Belgium)
- 2010 *Esther Mahlangu*, BMW Museum (Germany)
- 2004 *Beads for life*, Museum of Civilization, Gatineau, Québec (Canada)
- 2003 *Earth*, Festival Couleur Café, Brussels (Belgium)
- 1998 *African Canvas*, Lexington Children's Museum, Lexington (USA)

- 1997 *Sur La Tête*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
 1997 *African Canvas*, Dimock Community Center, Boston (USA)
 1996 *Under 8 x 9 inches*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana, Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg (Germany)
 1995 *Ndebele: Volkskunst aus Südafrika*. The Huberte Goote Gallery, Zug (Switzerland)
Staffs and Wands from Africa. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, (USA)
Amandebele: Signals of Color from South Africa, Museum Het Kruithuis (Holland)
Colour in Town-planning. De Kunstpaviljoens (Holland)
Ndebele, National Gallery, Cape Town (S.A.)
Der fliegende Koffer-eine Reise nach Ghana, Museums padagogischer Dienst, Berlin (Germany)
 1993/1995 *Pottery and Architecture in West Africa*, Pynkilinna Museum of Architecture, Helsinki (Finland)
 1993 *Biennale Donna Arte*, Sala Amministrazione Provinciale, Frosinone (Italy)
Mostra dell'artigianato tradizionale delle Donne Ndebele, Embassy of South Africa, Rome (ITALY)
 1991 *Encountering the Others*, University of Kassel (Germany)
ORISIRISI, All Different Kinds, The Children's Museum, Seattle (USA)
Tableau d'Afrique, Le Centre Culturel Français de Dakar (Sénégal)
Artistes Africaine, Atelier Les Almadies, Dakar (Sénégal)
amaNDEBELE, Farbsignale Aus Sudafrika, Berlin (Germany)
 1990 *Beads*, Dept of Arts of Africa, the Americas and Oceania, Baltimore Museum of Art (USA)
Apropos Aprons, The Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of the Art, NYC (USA)
Artists Against Apartheid, Taos, New Mexico
 1988 *Le Città del Mondo ed il futuro delle metropoli*, XVII Triennale di Milano (Italy)
 1987 *Chairs*, Witkin Gallery, NYC (USA)
 1978 *Fotoreporter Donna*, Il Laboratorio d'If, Palermo (Italy)
 1977 *Fotografi e fotografie*, Galleria d'Arte Lastasia, Rome (Italy)

FILM, TV and RADIO

- 2002 to 2007 Numerous Radio/TV interviews in NYC, Philadelphia, Albany (USA)
 1993 RAI TV live discussion on Women & Africa (Rome, Italy)
 CANAL PLUS (Spain) documentary on MCC filmed on location in Italy
 1992 CBC Arts TV focuses on MCC and *Ndebele* and *African Canvas* (Canada)
 1991 NHT TV documentary featuring the Ndebele exhibition in Tokyo (Japan)
 1990 BBC Open University Women's Program: Feature documentary filmed on location in S.A.
Black Penelope by Philippe Dorison with photographs from Ndebele, (France)

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- 2020 9th Contemporary African Photography CAP, shortlist for Kalahari series, Basel (Switzerland)
 2019 PRIX PICTET: Global Award in Photography & Sustainability, cycle, Hope, shortlist for *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, London (UK);
 8th Contemporary African Photography CAP, shortlist for *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, Basel (Switzerland)

- 2018 Deutscher Fotobuchpreis 18/19, *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain*, Stuttgart (Germany)
Kraszna-Krausz Book Award, Best Photography Book longlist,
Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain, London (UK)
Photo District News (PDN) Award, *A Lifelong Obsession with Finding Shelter*
New York City (USA)
- 2002 Kodak Bronze award, *Colours of Africa*, Calendar (Germany)
- 1997 Children's Book of Distinction, Hungry Mind Review (USA)
- 1994 Entertainment weekly's award for "10 best of the year" (USA)
New York Public Library, Children's book award (USA)
The Year's 10 Best Books for distinguished achievement in Children's Literature (USA)
Best Book, Oppenheim Toy Portfolio (USA)
- 1993 Nomination for César best short film *Black Penelope*, (France)
- 1987 Silver Award, Art Directors Club (USA)
- 1986 Gold Award, Photo Design (USA)

WORKSHOPS, TALKS and guest LECTURES

- 2019 *Finding Hope in the Darkness*, a panel discussion at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- 2018 Documentary Photography, Master Workshop, Raffles Institute of Design, Milan (Italy)
- 2008 *Out of Africa*, Gallery 77, Windhoek (Namibia)
- 2007 *The Art of African Women*, African American Museum, Philadelphia (USA)
- 2006 *The Art of an African Tribe*, Springhead, Dorset (UK)
- 2004 *The Art of African Women* New York State Museum, Albany (USA)
- 2002 *The Art of African Women*, New York Public Library (USA)
- 1990 *Ndebele Mural Painting*, Dallas Museum of the Art, Dallas (USA)
Affreschi Africani, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (Italy)
- 1986 *A Thousand Words*, Neuberger Museum, Purchase, New York (USA)
Ndebele, International Center for Photography (ICP), New York (USA)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS including ONLINE

(from over 2000 articles, reviews and interviews)

- 2021 [Prix Pictet Hope Exhibition Tour](https://tinyurl.com/19ag0gpg), Palazzo della Gran Guardia, Verona, Italy.
<https://tinyurl.com/19ag0gpg> [Accessed March 2021] + TG Sera feature, Mp4
- 2020 The Guardian: D.Barrett & K.Riley, 100+ Heroines; *Seven groundbreaking female photographers*; <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/dec/14/hundred-heroines-outstanding-female-photographers-around-world-in-pictures>
- 2019 Lens Culture: Interview with N.Kallianiotis on *Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain* [online]
The Guardian: Prix Pictet shortlist [online]
The Prisms: S.Sheehan. *The Other Namibia* [online]
- 2018 Smyth,D. The British Journal of Photography. Photo London: *the 2018 Kraszna-Krausz shortlist*. [online] 1854 Media. Available at:
<https://www.1854.photography/2018/05/stephen-gill-chrystel-lebas-and-dayanita-singh-shortlisted-for-the-2018-kraszna-krausz/>. [Accessed 17 Dec. 2020]
Levanta News. 2018. *Camogli: P46 Gallery, inaugurata la mostra di Margaret Courtney-Clarke*. [online] Levanta News. Available at:
The Namibian. 2018. *'Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain' launched at Swakop*. [online] The

- Namibian. Available at: <https://www.namibian.com.na/177194/archive-read/Cry-Sadness-into-the-Coming-Rain-launched-at-Swakop>. [Accessed 17 Dec. 2020].
- <http://www.levantenews.it/index.php/2018/05/05/camogli-p46-gallery-inaugurata-la-mostra-di-margaret-courtney-clarke/>. [Accessed 17 Dec. 2020].
- In the Harsh Light of the Present* by Nicola Brandt, Exhibition catalogue, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town (S.A.)
- The Women who Dream of Hope and Elephants* by Sean O'Toole, (S.A.)
- Fragility of Existence* by Goldblatt <https://aperture.org/blog/fragility-existence-courtney-clarke/>
- 2016 *On Borrowed Time* by Francesca Marani, Il Fotografa #281 (Italy)
- 2008 *Margaret Courtney-Clarke, The Namibian*, by Prof. André du Pisani (University of Namibia)
- 2002 *In The Silence of the Desert/le Case Dipinte* by G. Fontana Antonelli, Lotus 114 (Italy)
- 1997 *An African Year* by Jean-Louis Dumas-Hermès, Editorial for Hermès No.30 (France)
- 1996 *Heart of Boldness* by Joelle Bentley Burrows, Print Magazine (USA)
- Weben heist Leben* by Hans Oberlander, Gala (Germany)
- 1995 *Afrique du Sud; Un bout du monde de légende*, MuséArt (France)
- 1993 *Afrikas Farben* von Anja Lösel, Stern (voted story of the Month) Germany
- 1991 Foreword to *amaNdebele* by Wolfger Pöhlmann, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin
- 1990 *Their Workaday Art*; Catherine Stimpson, New York Times (USA)
- Fine artists who paint their lives on Canvas*; M. Liddell, Smithsonian (USA)
- Women Artists*; Mary Warner Marien, The Christian Science Monitor (USA)
- La Càmara de Courtney-Clarke* por Giovanna Calvenzi, Vogue (Spain/Italy)
- 1986 *An African Tribe's Art is Endangered* by Rita Reif, New York Times (USA)
- A colorful gift from Africa* by Sarah Wright, The Boston Herald (USA)
- 1985 *An Art, A Photographer and Apartheid* by David Goldblatt, (USA UK DE France)