

NIC DE JESUS

ARTIST STATEMENT

“It’s 5 am, lying in my bed, wiping my eyes as the salty breeze makes itself noticed, hearing waves break, you would think I’m on an island. I’m not, I’m in a seafront apartment in Cape Town, no 207, with my brother in the next room. I shout across our small studio: “Surf?”. We are pretty much out the door, in the car, phoning friends who have already set off in the same direction, because we all know the waves could be amazing! Before long, we are crossing into the private land of a farmer, permission given to surfers in order to gain access to a particular stretch of beach. There’s no telling what that “feeling” at 5 am was, it just is”.

Observing the seas and its environment, learning about the changes in the atmosphere, furthered my intuitive understanding of the ocean and how she might behave for the simple pleasure of riding one of her waves. Cultivated by a shared knowledge and experience, as a surfer the connection to the ocean and its coastlines are innate.

Exploring our land and sea, observational drawing combined with intuitive mark making perpetuated by a visceral response to data, questions, memories and my immediate environment, make up the foundations to each collection. Working on several pieces at the same time, outdoors and within the studio, allows me to propagate the techniques rendered in each environment. Charcoal, pastel and oil, a shifting monochromatic pallet influenced by my history with photography and, in particular, with 19th-century photography. The practices and philosophies of the French Barbizon painters from the same era, inspire my own working practices.

BIOGRAPHY

After honing his craft as a Staff Photographer and Art Director for an independent action sports magazine in his hometown of Cape Town, Nic emigrated to London in 2007. He spent the following years developing his techniques and researching Art History.

It was Nic’s first sold-out solo exhibition in December 2015 titled Mare Incognitum in Brighton, UK that propelled him into his current drawing and painting practice as Artist & Tutor. Nic’s work is concerned with a diminishing line between man & nature. He is currently at work on his collections, ‘Mare Incognitum’, ‘A Light In The Valley’ and ‘The Fire Next Time’. His work is in private collections around the world.

2017 - Artist In Residence, Saltmarsh House, East Sussex, UK

2017/2015/16 - Solo Exhibition - Brighton, UK

2017 - Nitram Charcoal Creative World, Germany, commission

2017 - Nitram Charcoal artist film