

D E L A I R E
G R A F F
E S T A T E

PRIVATE ART COLLECTION

An extraordinary colour palette

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Delaire Graff Estate is a world-class art destination in the Stellenbosch Valley. As a prominent collector of South African art, each piece that adorns the walls and gardens has been personally handpicked by Laurence Graff from a much-treasured personal portfolio.

The collection features works by artists such as Anton Smit, Deborah Bell, Dylan Lewis, Lionel Smit, Cecil Skotnes, Kendell Geers, Ndikhumbule Ngqinambi and William Kentridge.

Frequently named as one of the world's top art collectors, Laurence Graff began his impressive collection by acquiring classic Impressionist paintings - one of the first works purchased was a small Renoir in the late 1970s, which he kept in a safe among his diamonds.





NICOLAS MORETON

Nicolas Moreton is a modern master of the medium of stone carving. Within the quarried block, he sees the imaginings of his mind's eye when, to the rest of us, the inert stone may as well be a mere doorstop. His work suggests the primordial power of the material with which he so deftly wrestles.



MAURICE VAN ESSCHE

Filtering African subject matter through his modernist prism, Maurice van Essche's work differed greatly from earlier South African portrayals of 'native' subjects. Despite its elements of radical stylisation and simplification, his work essentially remains an essay in the eroticisation of 'the Other'.



DEBORAH BELL

Deborah Bell is one of South Africa's most acclaimed artists; a transcendent sculptor, painter, printmaker and collaborator. Her experience of mark making is a highly spiritual and deeply personal one. Memory and its private and public role is the prevailing theme of her body of work.



ANTON SMIT

Anton Smit's sculptures epitomise his exceptional skill at imbuing his pieces, motionless though they are, with an undeniable feeling of movement. They seem as if they were about to reach out and touch or speak to the viewer. Even the most abstract pieces express the instincts and feeling of humanity.



CECIL SKOTNES

After many years of painting, it was as a printmaker and producer of carved panels that Cecil Skotnes made his greatest impact. Working with the quasi-African and totemic forms that are the staple of his art, his pieces exhibit an awareness of his chosen format that dictates his compositional possibilities.



NDIKHUMBULE NGQINAMBI

Ndikhumbule Ngqinambi's primary medium is oil on canvas with his inspirations rooted in film, theatre and real life. He describes his work as figurative expression. Ngqinambi deals with the motion of figures and how they react to certain situations through composition, colour and contrast.



DYLAN LEWIS

Working intensively from life, Dylan Lewis's primary inspiration is nature. On one level, his bronze sculptures celebrate the power and movement of Africa's fauna; on another, the textures he creates capture the ancient rhythms and primeval ruggedness of the African continent's landscapes.



KENDELL GEERS

By weaving together the socio-political, the activist, the mystical and the animistic traditions while drawing on sign, sigil and symbol, Kendell Geer's work asserts a talismanic and totemic identity which radiates strong transformative energies. Each work is distilled from the process of the 'word' being made manifest.



HANK WILLIS THOMAS

Hank Willis Thomas is a photographic conceptual artist primarily working with themes related to identity, history and popular culture. His interest in representing photographic ideas through unconventional materials results in a fascinating combination of works that exploit the visual complexities of the not so distant past.



LIONEL SMIT

The sheer physicality of Lionel Smit's process becomes apparent in the constant push and pull effect that recurs throughout his pieces. His combination of portraiture and abstraction never obscure the subject. Smit moves between media with fluidity and ease in order to explore cultural identity.



FRANK BENSON

Frank Benson, a Brooklyn-based artist, is best known for photographs and sculptures that push the boundaries of precision and attention to detail resulting in remarkably lifelike pieces. In his own words, his goal is "to create works that are unquestionably intentional in their realisation and open ended in their logic."



SYDNEY KUMALO

It was Sydney Kumalo's choice of subjects, his conscious decision to use universal frames of reference and combine a wide range of sources, that made him tower above his peers and contemporaries. He draws strongly on African sculptural tradition, while articulately reflecting international modernism.



FRED SCHIMMEL

Fred Schimmel's work epitomises twentieth-century abstract art within the South African context. Schimmel is not bound by the dictates of style, genre or medium. His strength as an artist resides in the versatility of styles, techniques and mediums that reflect his freedom of expression.



STEPHANE GRAFF

Mr Graff's son is an artist working principally in photography, painting, sculpture and video employing each of them skilfully in order to express his current ideas and concepts. Having spent five years in Morocco, the influence of ancient Egyptian and African art often lend his work a primitive, tribal flavour.



DURANT SIHLALI

Durant Sihlali worked in many media and was one of the few contemporary artists who lived through the early years of the evolution of contemporary South African art. His work in the 1970s was pejoratively branded "township art" while, in truth, it documented historical realities.



ANDRÉ STEAD

Working in collaboration with Lionel Smit, André Stead produced 'Swallows in Flight' featuring over 1,300 swirling Perspex swallows suspended over Indochine restaurant. Stead says the installation is "a symbol of freedom and endurance that describes the innate liberty and graceful beauty of the human spirit".



WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

William Kentridge is undoubtedly the best-known South African artist. Working conceptually from a fixed point and with what is in essence a very restricted technique - charcoal drawings with limited touches of pastel colour - Kentridge has developed these drawings into an oeuvre of astounding depth.



JOHANNES VON STUMM

Johannes von Stumm's choice of mixed media incorporating metal, glass and stone combined with his instinct for experimentation is deeply rooted in his upbringing. He has expanded the symbolic boundaries of expression by fusing the strong and the fragile, the solid and the liquid, the dark and the transparent.