



L99P

Manuela Karin Knaut
Longing for the south



Manuela Karin Knaut

Visual artist, Germany

Manuela Karin Knaut's painterly work reflects the enthusiasm of the artist for travel, the discovery of new terrain and the inevitable leaving of her own comfort zone. The often harsh reality on the streets of Johannesburg, the to German eyes unexpectedly chaotic and disorderly-seeming life in the townships, the colourful variety in the narrow alleys of Accra, the unvarnished, broken walls, the graffiti of the street artists of Brooklyn, the uninhibited, real life and action in the most diverse corners of the world: it is the brokenness, the charmingly imperfect, the frequently temporary-seeming that fascinates Manuela Karin Knaut, and which she imbues into her pictorial language and the primary idea of her location-specific and large format installations. It is the rough edges and ends of life far away from the centre, far from the average safety and comfort. The artist consciously seeks out these confrontations with barriers and the edges of society.

Knaut expresses this restlessness, this almost childish, unprepossessing curiosity and adventurousness in her works. Her paintings are balancing acts of colour, form and line, surface and space, abstraction and figurativeness, image and text. Individual areas of colour are put down with strong paint marks and then worked over and over. A variety of more or less defined objects keep being woven into the painterly process. Everyday objects straight from life are contoured with line, or painted over, or revealed again.



Manuela Karin Knaut

Stories can be rewritten. Memory can't.

Concrete, enamel, acrylic and cement on board

30 x 21 x 2 cm

ZAR 10000



Manuela Karin Knaut
Double Story Cake
 Ink and oil on cardboard
 50 x 50 cm
 ZAR 8500



Manuela Karin Knaut

Belonging

Ink, acrylic and spraypaint on canvas

30 x 30 cm

ZAR 7500

Manuela Karin Knaut

Painterly work

The artist combines a great variety of materials in her paintings, true to the work style inspired by elements of street art scenes. She glues paper waste, images, photos, fabric pieces or bits of text onto her paintings, ties, rips, glues, sews or nails found objects onto or into her image worlds. She adds, reduces, scrapes, rips, rubs – no painting is treated like a raw egg. Life is frequently chaotic in Manuela Knaut's generous studio and integrated print workshop. The artist works in four rooms on a variety of works concurrently, some hang on the walls, some wait in the drying rack for the next phase of work, others lean up somewhere or just lie on the floor. Here a layer of concrete is drying, there preparations for screen printing take form. In another place a base coat, a varnish, a glue or spray is applied. Still in all the chaos there is never any doubt about the moment when a painting is 'finished', when the story of that painting has been told. In the same clear and seemingly spontaneous way in which the first layers of paint have found their way onto the canvas, she is just as definitive about the point at which the work is finished. Sometimes after 15 minutes, sometimes after days or even weeks. Next the works are hung on a plain white presentation wall, checked again and again and finally signed. At this moment a strange peace captures the usually pulsating studio space. Time, peace and space for observers, for their own stories and an invitation to let the thoughts wander and find one's own place in the colourful world of Manuela Karin Knaut.



Manuela Karin Knaut

Ways to reconstruct a plot from obscure visual evidence
Mixed media on canvas

50 x 40 cm

ZAR 13500



Manuela Karin Knaut

Run from the law

Ink, acrylic, spray paint and pencil
on natural canvas

25 x 25 cm

ZAR 6000



Manuela Karin Knaut
A real something
Mixed media on canvas panel
40 x 40 cm
ZAR 10500



Manuela Karin Knaut

Ardent notes (12 original paintings)

Ink, marker and oil pastels on paper - sold as a set in a box (incl. washi tape)

32 x 22 cm

ZAR 16000

Manuela Karin Knaut

Personal statement

I am a searcher of things, a playful collector. Unfortunately quite disorderly, I am constantly searching, in the middle of the action – I can always be found where things are happening, preferably in the place furthest removed from my comfort zone. Always travelling. If not in person then in thoughts and with my eyes. Constantly curious, sometimes brave, generally careful and always willing to look below the surface. Stopping when others keep walking. Questioning, touching, feeling, looking, smelling, capturing situations. Hesitating, gawping, marvelling. I am interested in people and their stories: the security guard, the fruit seller, the photographer I recently met. The old neighbour who now lives in an old people's home. The woman I met on the plane recently travelling to Accra on her own, the Israeli painter on her way to New York. The grandfather holding his grandson's hand, that group of seemingly boisterous youths, the small girl with a sad look at the street corner. I collect their stories. The newspaper seller at the traffic lights, I speak to him every day. What moves you? What makes you happy? What is the meaning of home for you, for me, at this or the opposite end of the world? What unites us, what separates us? Is there such a thing as real, true happiness? What is the meaning of loss, and – close to real life – what if death suddenly becomes a subject of discussion? I collect. Every day I collect new stories, memories, I collect pictures – in my head, with my camera. In many boxes, on many seemingly chaotic piles of paper I sort, connect, join new stories and faces with that which life has already presented to me. I walk through this one life of mine with open eyes – knowing that no-one else can see it, love it, live it like me.



Manuela Karin Knaut

Even if it doesn't look like it I

Acrylic, oil and spray paint on canvas

150 x 120 x 4 cm

ZAR 83000



Manuela Karin Knaut

Even if it doesn't look like it II

Acrylic, oil, pastels and spray
paint on unprimed canvas

150 x 120 x 4 cm

ZAR 83000



Manuela Karin Knaut

Even if it doesn't look like it II

Acrylic, oil, pastels and spray
paint on unprimed canvas

150 x 120 x 4 cm

ZAR 83000



Manuela Karin Knaut
Swipe up
Ink and oil on cardboard
50 x 40 cm
ZAR 8500



Manuela Karin Knaut
Fight I, II, & III (Left to right)
 Ink and oil on cardboard
 70 x 50 cm
 ZAR 10500 each



Manuela Karin Knaut
Checkmate
Mixed media on paper
100 x 70 cm
ZAR 20000



Manuela Karin Knaut

Longing for the South

Ink, acrylic, wax crayon, spray
paint on screen printing board

43 x 32 cm

ZAR 10500



Manuela Karin Knaut

Biography

Manuela Karin Knaut, born 1970, is an independent artist currently living in Braunschweig, Germany. She acquired a Master of Arts in Fine Art at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Apart from her centrally located studio and print workshop in Braunschweig she also keeps a studio in Johannesburg.

She has been a member of the Bund Bildender Künstler (German Association of Visual Artists) and the Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques, as well as The Visual Arts Network of South Africa (VANSA). Member of the International Womens Association, Photomuseum Braunschweig and GEDOK Niedersachsen.

Since 1990 various exhibitions nationally and internationally, amongst them in South Africa, Ghana, Switzerland, Danmark, UK, Austria, USA, Israel, Kirghistan. Her works are represented worldwide in public and private collections.

Main Focus

Location specific installations and sculptural interventions, painting, photography.

Education

Master of Arts (Fine Arts, Major installation art) University of the Witwatersrand, School of Arts, Johannesburg
BA Art Education, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, (including teacher training qualifications) Braunschweig School of Fine Arts (fine art/painting)

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