

About Nicola Brandt

Nicola Brandt (born April 5, 1983, in Windhoek, Namibia) is a Namibian-German artist whose work examines power, landscape, and the intersections of private and public memory, tracing where these forces converge and, at times, collide. She is among the first of her generation of Namibian artists to critically engage with the memory culture and entanglements of German colonialism, National Socialism, and Apartheid, and their spatial and embodied legacies. Through documentary, performative, and post-documentary approaches, Brandt invites viewers to consider not only what is visible, but also what remains absent or obscured.

Brandt is the author of the monograph *Landscapes between Then and Now: Recent Histories in Southern African Photography, Video and Performance Art* (Bloomsbury, 2020). She has also contributed to numerous publications, including *The Journey: New Positions in African Photography* (2020) and the reader accompanying the 13th Edition of the Bamako Biennale (2022), co-edited by Simon Njami and Sean O'Toole.

She is the founder and series editor of the artists' and writers' residency Con-versations Across Place (CaP). The first CaP volume (2021) was published with Greenbox Publishing in Berlin. The artist holds a doctorate in Fine Art from the University of Oxford and is currently based between Germany and Namibia.

Brandt's work has been presented at institutions including MAXXI Museum (Italy), Würth and MARKK Museums (Germany), the Rhodes Trust (UK), the Nirox Foundation (South Africa), and the National Art Gallery of Namibia. She holds a DPhil in Fine Art from the University of Oxford and is the author of *Landscapes between Then and Now* (Bloomsbury, 2020) and *The Distance Within* (Steidl, 2025). Her practice has contributed to diplomatic cultural dialogue, including intergovernmental talks between Namibia and Germany.

She recently participated in a group show titled *The File Cannot Be Restored* at the THK Gallery in Cape Town.



Nicola Brandt, *Guardian I*, 2017

CV

Education

2015

DPhil in Fine Art, University of Oxford, Ruskin School of Art and Christ Church

2008

MSt in the History of Art, History of Art Department and St Catherine's College, University of Oxford

Group Exhibitions

2026

The File Cannot Be Restored, THK Gallery, Cape Town

2024

In Situ, Goodman Gallery, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch

On the Backs of Camels, Welt Museum Wien, Vienna

Entangled, Rhodes House, Oxford

Into One's Own: Reckoning with Monuments and Memory, Guns & Rain

Decolonial Memorial Design Presentation (20 finalists), Gutshof Britz / Museum Neukölln, Berlin

2023

Indifference, Nirox Foundation and The National Art Gallery of Namibia

Gift Uzera, Nicola Brandt and Muningandu Hoveka, Man of War Leave My House,

Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town

2022

Good Neighbours, Nirox Foundation, South Africa

Freiburg und Kolonialismus: Gestern? Heute!, Städtische Museen Freiburg, Germany

2021

Territories Under My Skin, curated by Tatiana Echeverri Fernandez, Jaro Straub and Ella Ziegler, The Changing Room, Berlin, Germany

2020

Landscapes, The National Art Gallery of Namibia

From Where Do We Speak? Frans Nambinga Arts Training Centre, Havana, Windhoek

2019

The Burden of Memory: Considering German Colonial History in Africa, curated by Rose Jepkorir, Princess Marilyn Douala Manga-Bell and Nontobeko Ntombela, Yaounde, Cameroon, Goethe Institute

Hannah Ryggen Triennial: Faig Ahmed, Alighiero e Boetti, Nicola Brandt, Alexandra Kehayoglou, Lise Bjørne Linnert, Ahmed Umar + Hannah Ryggen, curated by Solveig Lønmo. Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum, Trondheim, Norway.

2018

Ovizire · Somgu: From Where Do We Speak?, curated by Johanna Wild and Bisrat Negassi, The MARRK Museum & M. Bassy, Hamburg, Germany

Tomorrow's Today, curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, South Africa

Namibia. The Art of a Young Generation, Museum Würth, Erstein, Alsace, France

2017

Another Antipodes: Urban Axis, PS Art Space, Fremantle, Australia

2016

Kunst Einer Jungen Generation, Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany

Mo(ve)ments: African Digital Subjectivities, Yale School of Art, Yale University, Yale, New Haven

2015

Land Matters in Art, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) & the Namibian Ministry of Land Reform, St. Johannes-Evangelist-Kirche, Berlin-Mitte
Christoph Schlingensief & Nicola Brandt, Unrecounted: Historical Amnesia in Germany and Namibia, Filmgalerie

451 and the National Art Gallery of Namibia, Conservatorio Benedetto Marcello, Palazzo Pisani, Venice

Re-presenting Photography in Namibia, Annual Visual Art Museum Programme (AVAMP), Windhoek

2014

The Earth Inside, curated by Vid Simoniti, National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek

2012

Namibia: Definitions of Space, London Festival of Architecture 2012, Ambika P3, University of Westminster, London

In Site: Art as a Mode of Enquiry, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

2011

Fuori Campo, Galleria Fuori Campo, Piazza del Campo, Siena, Italy

Wlotzkasbaken, International Photography Festival, Galleria Edieuropa, Rome

Selected awards & scholarships

2024

Berlin Global Village Decolonial Memorial: top five shortlist

2023

Doek! Literary Awards / Bank Windhoek: shortlist – visual art

2019

Best Exhibition 2019: The Artists Association, Oslo for Hannah Ryggen Triennial: New Land

2017–2018

Gerda Henkel Foundation Fellowship

2017

Leverhulme Trust (shortlisted), Oxford's Humanities Division & Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford Diversifying Portraiture, Vice-Chancellor's Diversity Fund, University of Oxford

2016

IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) Wellcome Trust: Participant in Seed Award in Humanities and Social Science

2014

Namibian Film and Theatre Awards: Indifference, Special Mention of the Jury

2010–2014

Christ Church, University of Oxford, Hugh Pilkington Scholarship

Collections

Würth Collection, Künzelsau, Germany
 Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, Windhoek,
 Namibia National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek
 Embassy of Namibia, Berlin, Germany
 Iwalewaha Collection, Bayreuth, Germany
 Rhodes Trust, Oxford, United Kingdom
 Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
 The Joseph Schepers–Germaine Lijnen Fund, Brussels, Belgium
 Amawal Collection, Spain
 Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), Hamburg, German

Selected Publications

2023

Fire and Physical Energy on the Slopes of Devil's Peak'. In Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives, edited by Julia Rensing and Sindi-Leigh McBride. Cape Town: Michaelis Galleries.

Brandt, Nicola. 'Practices of Self': Embodied MemoryWork, Performance Art and Intersectional Activism in Namibia. Memory Studies 16, no. 3 (2023): 533–45.

2022

Brandt, Nicola. 13th Edition of The Bamako Encounters African Biennial Of Photography Reader: Maa Ka Maaya Ka Ca A Yere Kono.

Edited by Chiara Figone. Dakar, Berlin and Milan: Archive Books, 2022.

2021

Brandt, Nicola and Frances Whorrall-Campbell, eds., Conversations across Place, The Green Box, 2021.

2020

Brandt, Nicola, 'Time, Performance and Landscape', in The Journey, edited by Simon Njami and Sean O'Toole. Kerber, 2020. Brandt, Nicola, Landscapes Between Then and Now: Recent Histories in Southern Africa Photography, Video and Performance Art, Bloomsbury Press, UK.

2019

Brandt, Nicola. 'Under Fire: The Concept of Landscape'. @GI weltweit, October 2019.

Brandt, Nicola, exh. cat., 'Margaret Courtney-Clarke: In the Harsh Light of the Present', Cry Sadness into the Coming Rain, solo exhibition, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Selected Public Talks and Screenings

2023

'Contestations of Memory: Publics & Spaces,' with Michael Rothberg, Robert Kriger, Steven Robins and Sylvie Njobati, Point Sud 2023, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, Stellenbosch

Man of War: Leave My House screening and discussion, The Goethe Institute, Windhoek

2022

Diasporic Entanglements (moderator) with Sumayya Vally, Denise L. Lim and Frances Whorrall-Campbell, Center for African Studies and the Humanities Center, Stanford University

2021

Keynote speaker, In/Visible Landscapes: Photography, Colonialism and the Environment, 6th International Conference of Photography and Theory

2020

Sites of Reckoning: Memorials, Museums & Fractured Truth(s) in the Aftermaths of Mass Violence, Georgia State University, Atlanta GA

2019

Black Portraitures, New York University, New York
Museum Conversations, Goethe Institute, Windhoek, Namibia

2018

Staatstheater Nürnberg, Germany.

The Goethe-Institute Namibia & Museums Association of Namibia Senator's
Reception on the occasion of the 2nd Herero and Nama Conference, City Hall,
Hamburg

The MAXXI, National Museum of the 21st Century Arts, Rome