

## About Klaré van Heerden

Based in Cape Town, South Africa, Klaré van Heerden (KMH) (b. 1999) is an artist who explores emotion in the form of landscape. Each work is a meditation on stillness, grief, and transformation, which translates inner psychological states into the visual language of the ocean. Working with charcoal and acrylic on canvas and wood, van Heerden captures the movement and moments between the empty calmness and the thunderous turbulence, which offers a contemplative encounter with the emotional depth of nature and the psyche.

The Ocean Series forms the foundation of KMH's practice, and is deeply informed by her ongoing research in philosophy, psychoanalysis, and religion. This research examines the relationship between self, violence, trauma, and healing, which lends to the psychoanalytic concept of the oceanic feeling. The oceanic feeling refers to a dissolution of the boundaries of the self and a return to an original sense of unity with a non-instrumentalised, 'pure' mystical self/world/divine/mother. It suggests a moment where individuality is suspended and the human psyche becomes absorbed in something vast and uncontainable. Within this idea, the ocean becomes a site of both dissolution and renewal, a place where memory, emotion, and being converge.

Each work begins through direct, emotionally loaded encounters with the sea. The process is both meditative and physical, tracing the movement of water through layers of charcoal, erasure, and depth. Through the merging of artistic practice and philosophical reflection, KMH offers more than representation. The works invite immersion, asking the viewer to enter a quiet dialogue with the self and the natural world, to feel deeply, and to find stillness within transformation.

Van Heerden has exhibited in Misfits (2025), curated by Kamyar Bineshtarigh and Alka Dass, the Association for Visual Arts Gallery, Cape Town (2024), and forms part of a number of private collections.



Kate Schärf



Klaré van Heerden. *drown to remember*, 2025