

About Selwyn Steyn

Selwyn Steyn (b. 1997, South Africa) is an artist and architect based in Paris, whose practice is grounded in an ongoing engagement with spatiality, perception, and the shifting meanings embedded within the built environment. Drawing from his architectural training, he constructs a visual language that moves between observation and abstraction, producing works that function as both document and reflection. His paintings often emerge from intuitive encounters with buildings, infrastructures, and landscapes- captured as fleeting, documentarian snapshots of place and time.

Working primarily in painting, while also experimenting across materials, Steyn approaches his practice as a site of continual testing and learning. His engagement with matter is physical and process-driven, embracing paint, dust, and residue as integral to meaning-making. This material sensitivity parallels his conceptual concerns: how environments hold memory, how space and light evoke emotion, and how built forms act as latent registers of history long after more impermanent traces have disappeared. His compositions often take the form of restrained vignettes in which meaning emerges through atmosphere, fragmentation, and spatial tension.

Steyn understands art as an open-ended and reflective process. As he notes, “art is deployed best as a series of uncertain ruminations rather than directly stated propositions,” foregrounding ambiguity, intuition, and the slow unfolding of perception within his work.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture from the University of Pretoria, where he graduated as the top design student and received the Pretoria Institute of Architecture Design Award, and a Master’s degree in Architecture from the University of Cape Town (2022). He also completed an Executive Master’s degree in computational design at École des Ponts ParisTech.

Steyn has participated in numerous exhibitions locally and internationally, including with ABSA Gallery, BKHZ, UJ Art Museum, the National Arts Festival, SixtySix London, and Reservoir Projects. In 2023, he presented a solo booth at FNB Art Joburg titled Studies from the In-between. In 2026, he presented a solo booth in the curated Tomorrows/Today section at Investec Cape Town Art Fair.



Selwyn Steyn, Balconies, Cape Town, 2026.

CV

Education

2022
Executive Master's in Computational Design, École des Ponts ParisTech

2022
Master of Architecture (MArch Prof), University of Cape Town

2020
Bachelor of Architecture Honours (BArch Hons), University of Pretoria

2019
Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BSc Arch), University of Pretoria

Public Collections

Residencies

Awards & Achievements

2020
Winner: Emerging Artist's Development Programme

2019
Pretoria Institute of Architecture Design Award (Top Design Student, University of Pretoria)
Finalist: Sasol New Signatures, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa

2018
Finalist: UJ Continuing Conversations, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2019
Finalist: PPC Imaginarium, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Finalist: Thami Mnyele Fine Art Awards, South Africa

Solo Exhibitions

2026
Static Land Stills (Solo), Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa

2024
Space Register (Artist & Curator), Reservoir Projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2023
Studies from the In-Between (Solo), Art Joburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2026

Investec Cape Town Art Fair (Tomorrows/Today), Cape Town, South Africa

2025

Proximate Worlds, HEAT Festival, Cape Town, South Africa

Strauss & Co Auction Presentation, Woordfees, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2024

Space Register, Reservoir Projects, Cape Town, South Africa

2023

Naming a River Mud (Trio), Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town, South Africa

Manifest, SixtySix, London, United Kingdom

2021

Sasol New Signatures, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa

2020

National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa

Digital National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa

Conversing the Land, UJ Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa

2019

A Letter to My 22-Year-Old Self (with BKHZ), Absa Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Sasol New Signatures, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa

PPC Imaginarium, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2018

Continuing Conversations, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

RMB Talent Unlocked, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa