



*spirit on the water*

HERMANN NEIHBUR

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

---

## *spirit on the water*

---

The paintings in his series Spirit on the Water were born of separation and longing when the artist, Hermann Neihbur, was living in Johannesburg and his partner was on the Cape Coast. Most mornings she would send him a photograph taken on her walks by the lagoon or the ocean.

Neihbur would take these photographs with him to his studio. He began to paint them, simplifying the geographies into purely abstract forms, clearing the images of unnecessary details, until he had a painting that "felt" like he was standing before the water - soothed by looking.

Of the artworks, Neihbur says: "They are not technically abstract paintings (in the Rothko sense) but rather translations of images of bodies of water being acted upon by light."

The finished paintings are made for experiencing in person. Standing before them is to allow the action of light on water to become spirit, engaging the viewer with the charge held within them.

The complete series of eight paintings will be shown together in public for the first time at the Koop Projects in Brighton, a city on the south coast of England that is also engaged in a continual conversation with light and water.

The works are on view at Koop Projects between the 17th August and the 16th September 2023.



## *Hermann Niebuhr*

---

Hermann Niebuhr was born in Johannesburg in 1972. He studied at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with distinction in History of Art) in 1993. He was awarded bursaries in 1990 and 1994 (Rhodes Masters Degree Scholarship), and 1996 (Raymond Pullen Scholarship for painting).

He spent most of his professional career in Johannesburg, co founding the Lilian Road Studios in Fordsburg, where he worked and taught art.

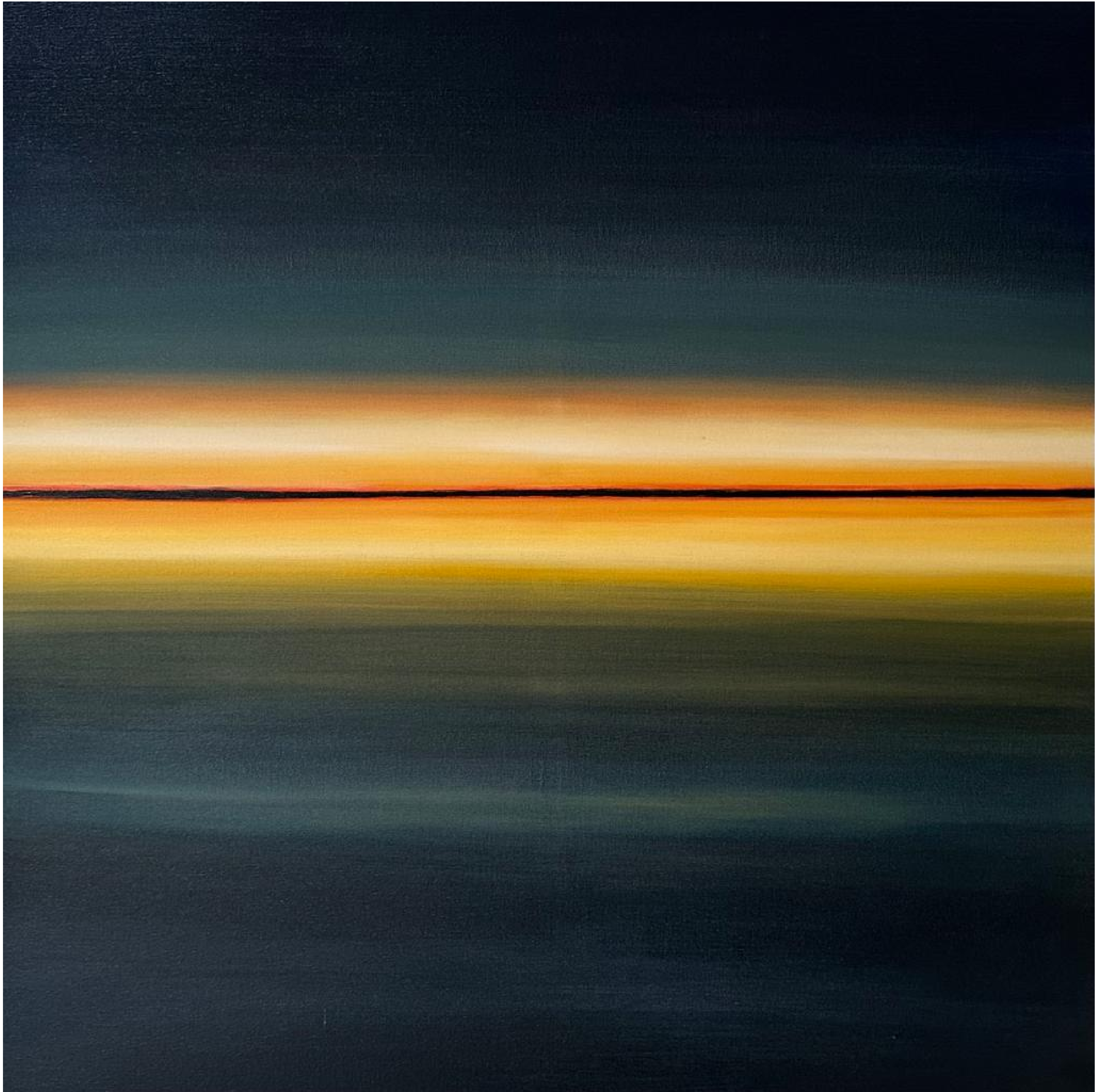
In 2020 he moved to the village of De Rust, in the Klein Karoo where he lives and works as a full time artist.

Niebuhr's work is held in public collections around the globe and private collections in South Africa.



**spirit on the water I**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



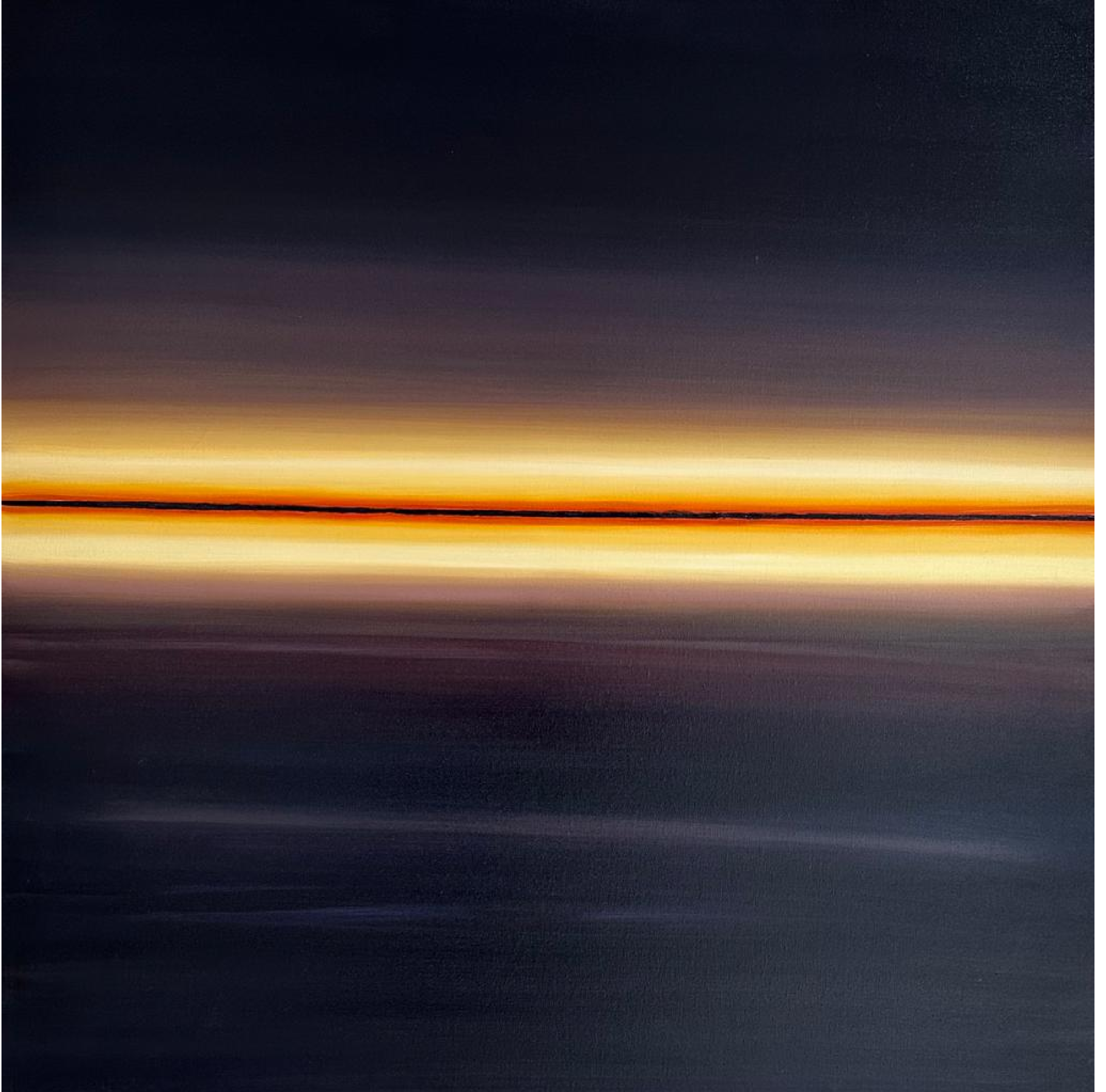
**spirit on the water II**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



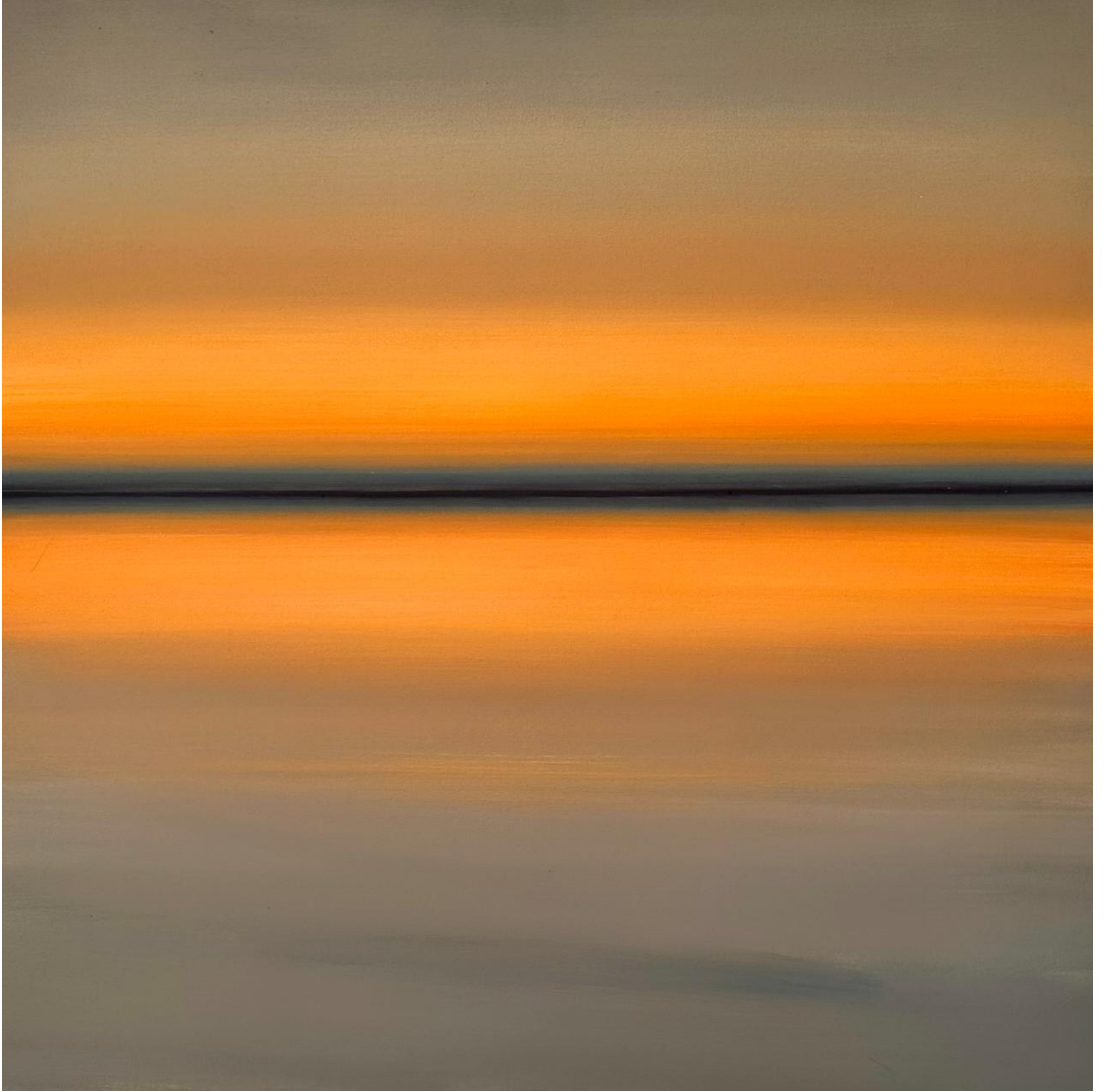
**Spirit on the water III**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



**spirit on the water IV**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



**spirit on the water V**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*





**spirit on the water VI**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



**spirit on the water VII**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*



**spirit on the water VIII**

*oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm*

## EXHIBITIONS

2023

If You look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future, African American Museum , Dallas  
Wagkammer/ Waiting room, NEL GALLERY, Cape Town  
Coast and country, GEORGE MUSEUM, George

2022

Jericho, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY GALLERY, Stellenbosch  
Music sounds better with you, KLEIN KAROO KLASSIQUE, Oudtshoorn

2021 - London drawings, COLESHILL ROAD, London

2020

A part, ART B GALLERY, Cape Town and Homecoming, HOPESTREET STUDIOS, De Rust

2018 - everything, HODGINS HOUSE, Johannesburg

2017 - love song for the end of the world, MOOR GALLERY, Franschhoek

2016 - BOXO projects, PALM SPRINGS FINE ART FAIR, Palm Springs, USA

2015 - Winter is coming, CAVALLI ESTATE, Stellenbosch and Dawid Ras gallery presents three artists (vd Westhuizen, Erasmus, Niebuhr), DIRT GALLERY, Cape Town

2014 - Residency exhibition, Joshua Tree, California USA; Highveld, THE BAILEY GALLERY, Johannesburg; Seeing Eden, CASIA LABIA GALLERY, Cape Town

2013 - Stillness, THE CANOPY, Johannesburg; Everard Read Centenary Exhibition, EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg; Weather report, ARTKLOP FESTIVAL, Potchefstroom

2012 - City Chromatic, EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg

2011- Horse, EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg

2010 - Decade, CAROL LEE FINE ART, Johannesburg; White Painting, CASA LABIA MUSEUM, Cape Town; Due South , EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg

2009 - mine, ASHANTI GOLD OF AFRICA MUSEUM, Johannesburg; The Great South African Nude, EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg; Champagne for my facebook friends, CANOPY GALLERY, Johannesburg

2008 - Night Shift, CANOPY GALLERY, Johannesburg South and Africans Abroad, HODNETT FINE ART, Vancouver

2007 - Antarctica - on thin ice, UNITED NATIONS GALLERY , New York

2006 - A month of Sundays, GALLERY ON THE SQUARE, Johannesburg

2005 - Night ride home, ABSA GALLERY, Johannesburg

2004 - City Berlin, JABLONSKI STRASSE STUDIO, Berlin; An African in Ireland, ENNISKERRY GALLERY, Dublin; Celebrating 10 Years of Democracy, EVERARD READ GALLERY, Johannesburg; Town/Country, CAROL LEE FINE ART, Johannesburg

2003 Joburg Notes, CAROL LEE FINE ART, Johannesburg; Sedibeng sa Limpho, SOAN STUDIO, London

2002 Inside-Out, CAROL LEE FINE ART, Cape Town; Groundings, THIRD EYE GALLERY, Cape Town

2001 Up and Coming, SOAN STUDIO, London Karoo; BRONZE AGE FOUNDRY, Cape Town South African Landscape, UNISA ART GALLERY , Pretoria

2000 Turning Heads, SOAN STUDIO, London; KarooScapes, OPEN WINDOW ART ACADEMY, Pretoria South African Landscapes, CAROL LEE FINE ART, Johannesburg

1999 Contemporary South African Landscapes, KLEIN KAROO KUNSTEFEEES, Oudtshoorn

All paintings in the series

Oil on canvas, 100cm x 100cm

£3,000

## **Enquiries**

info@koopprojects.com

++44 7483 163396

93 St George's Road, Brighton, BN2 1EE

---

**•KOOP•**  
P R O J E C T S