

## **SIEMON ALLEN**

[www.simonallen.org](http://www.simonallen.org)

[flatinternational@hotmail.com](mailto:flatinternational@hotmail.com)

### **Education**

- 1999 Masters Degree in Technology: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa
- 1995/6 Artist in Residence: Sculpture Department, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- 1992 National Higher Diploma: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa
- 1991 National Diploma: Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa

### **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2011 *Records*, Goodman Cape, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Makeba!*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL
- 2010 *Imaging South Africa: Collection Projects by Siemon Allen*, Anderson Gallery, VCU, Richmond, VA
- 2009 *Imaging South Africa: Records*, BANK Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
*Imaging South Africa: Newspapers | Stamps*, Durban Art Gallery, South Africa
- 2005 *Cards III*, KZNSA, Durban, South Africa  
*Cards II*, FUSEBOX, Washington, DC
- 2004 *Newspapers (Register)*, Drake University - Anderson Gallery, Des Moines, IA
- 2002 *Newspapers (Post/Times)*, FUSEBOX, Washington, DC
- 2001 *STAMP COLLECTION – Imaging South Africa*, Hemicycle/Corcoran Museum, Washington, DC
- 1999 *House*, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
- 1994 *Songs for Nella*, FLAT Gallery, Durban, South Africa

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2012 *Found in Translation*, curated by Nat Trotman, Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin
- 2011 *Desire, Ideal Narrative in Contemporary South African Art*, curated by Thembinkosi Goniwe, Pavilion of South Africa, 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2010 *Records*, The Gordon Schachat Collection — Featured Artist, Johannesburg Art Fair, South Africa
- 2009 *t.error - your fear is an external object*, curated by Attila Hetesi, Anikó Erdősi, Hungarian Cultural Center, New York, NY
- 2008 *Disturbance – Contemporary Art from Scandinavia and South Africa*, curated by Maria Fidel Regueros and Clive Kellner, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
*T.ERROR*, curated by Attila Hetesi, Anikó Erdősi, Kunsthalle, Budapest, Hungary  
*Monomania*, curated by Storm Janse van Rensburg, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town  
*Hopeless and Otherwise*, curated by Valerie Imus, Southern Exposure, San Francisco  
*Light Show*, curated by Henrietta Hamilton, Robert Fraser & Vaughn Sadie, BANK Gallery, Durban, SA
- 2006 *A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Blaffer Gallery, Houston, TX

- Chronicle* (three-person with Richard Roth & Royce Howes), curated by Richard Roth, The Lab, New York, NY
- 2005 *Other Than Art*, curated by Milena Kalinovska, G Fine Art, Washington, DC
- 2005 *Enemy Image*, curated by Elena Sorkina, Momenta, Brooklyn, NY
- Patriot*, curated by Cira Pascual Marquina, Contemporary Museum, Baltimore, MD
- 2004 *Freedom Salon*, curated by Christina Kukielski & Apsara Diquinzio, Deitch Projects, New York, NY
- Notes on Renewed Appropriationisms*, curated by Lauri Firstenberg, The Project, Los Angeles, CA
- Rear View Mirror*, curated by Elizabeth Fisher, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK
- Pop-Agenda*, FUSEBOX, Washington, DC (Two-person exhibition with Dominic McGill)
- A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2003 *The American Effect*, curated by Larry Rinder, Whitney Museum, New York, NY
- A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka & Shannon Fitzgerald, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, St. Louis, MI
- Art Positions*, Miami/Basel, Miami, FL
- ARCO*, Madrid, Spain
- 2002 *Context & Conceptualism*, Artists Space. New York, NY (3 person with Coco Fusco & Melissa Gould)
- Intersections*, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2001 *Detourism*, Renaissance Society, Chicago, Ill, curated by Hamza Walker
- FUSEBOX, Washington, DC
- After the Diagram*, White Box, New York, NY, curated by Lauri Firstenberg & Douglas Cooper
- 2000 *Open Circuit*, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- Translation/Seduction/Displacement*, curated by Lauri Firstenberg & John Pepper, Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art, Portland, ME
- Translation/Seduction/Displacement*, White Box, New York, NY, curated by Lauri Firstenberg & John Pepper
- 1999 *Import*, Goethe Institute (two-person with Markus Wirthmann), Washington, DC
- 1998 *Drömmar och Moln*, Kulturhuset, Stockholm, Sweden
- Vita 98*, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997 *Taking Stock*, Johannesburg Stock Exchange, South Africa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Johannesburg Biennale, *Graft*, curated by Colin Richards, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Unplugged II*, Rembrandt Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996 *Hitch-Hiker*, Generator Art Space, Johannesburg, S. Africa, curated by Clive Kellner
- Goethe Institute (two-person with Kendall Buster), Washington, DC
- 1995 Rembrandt Gallery (three-person with Thomas Barry and Jeremy Wafer), Johannesburg
- 1994 *Vita Art Now 93*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
- First International Theatre of Communication*, FLAT Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- Quasi-Stella Objects*, Jam n' Co, Durban, South Africa
- Swans*, FLAT Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 1993 Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) (two person with Greg Streak), Johannesburg

## **Bibliography**

- Allen, Siemon: "Destruction/Construction", Julie Mehretu in *ArtSouthAfrica*, Vol. 6, Issue 3, Autumn, 2010
- Allen, Siemon: "Records", catalogue essay, flatinternational, Richmond, VA, 2010
- Allen, Siemon: "Destruction/Construction, Unquiet Community, Sublime Landscape", *Julie Mehretu—City Sitings*, catalogue essay, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI, 2007
- Allen, Siemon: "Retrospectives", *One Million and Forty-Four Years (and Sixty Three Days)*, catalogue essay, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2007
- Allen, Siemon: "Time", *The Daily Constitutional*, Issue 4, Summer 2007
- Allen, Siemon: "Culture is a Weapon of the Struggle", *MFA Thesis Exhibition 2005*, catalogue essay, Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, 2005
- Allen, Siemon: "Pictures & Words", *TRIPWIRE – A Journal of Popular Poetry*, #6, San Francisco, Fall 2002
- Allen, Siemon: "The FLAT Gallery – Conceptual Practices in Durban, South Africa", essay in *AUTHENTIC / EX-CENTRIC – Conceptualism in Contemporary African Art*, Salah Hassan & Olu Oguibe (eds), Aperto Exhibition Catalogue, 49<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, 2001
- Allen, Siemon: "A Black Voice", essay in *Grey Areas*, Brenda Atkinson & Candice Breitz (eds), Johannesburg, South Africa, 1999
- Allen, Siemon: *The FLAT Gallery (1993 – 1995)*, FLAT International, Washington, USA, 1999
- Amory, Claudia: "Artsites 96", *The Washington Review*, June 1996
- Bonetti, David: "Comments on Culture", *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, September 14, 2003
- Bowers, J: "Without Borders", *City Paper*, Baltimore, April 2005
- Buster, Kendall: "Records", catalogue essay, flatinternational, Richmond, VA, 2010
- Buster, Kendall; Allen, Siemon (eds): *A General Guide to South African Stamps & History*, FLAT International, Washington, USA, 2002
- Cahan, Susan: "A Fiction of Authenticity", *ArtSouthAfrica*, vol. 2 issue 2, Summer 2003
- Carrier, David: "A Fiction of Authenticity", *ARTFORUM*, March 2004
- Cassel, Valerie: "Beyond Boundaries: Rethinking Contemporary Art Exhibitions", *Art Journal*, Spring 2000
- Cattelan, Maurizio; Gioni, Massimiliano; Subotnick, Ali (eds): *CHARLEY 01*: New York, 2002
- Cotter, Holland: "Translation/Seduction/Displacement", *The New York Times*, March 24, 2000
- Cotter, Holland: "Enemy Image", *The New York Times*, October 7, 2005
- Dawson, Jessica: "Where Visa are not Needed", *The Washington Post*, April 11, 2002
- Dixon, Glen, "When History Throws Us an Endless Curve," *The Washington Post*, Apr. 17, 2004
- Dlamini, Bhekani: "DUT Artists Take Part in International Art Exhibition", *Mercury*, Durban, June 28, 2011
- Enwezor, Okwui (ed): *Trade Routes History and Geography*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johannesburg Biennale, exhibition catalogue, 1997
- Erdosi, Aniko: *t.error—your fear is an external object*, exhibition catalogue, Mucsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest, 2008
- Firstenberg, Lauri: "Notes on Renewed Appropriationisms", *PARKETT*, # 67, 2003
- Firstenberg, Lauri: "Siemon Allen's Stamp Collection", *NKA Journal of Contemporary African Art*, #16/17, Fall/Winter 2002
- Firstenberg, Lauri: "Siemon Allen", *Atlantica*, Spring 2002
- Firstenberg, Lauri: "Making Headlines", *Art/South Africa*, Vol. 1 Issue 2, Johannesburg, Summer 2002
- Firstenberg, Lauri; Peffer, John (eds): "Translation/Seduction/Displacement" (catalogue), New York, 2000
- Fisher, Elizabeth: *Rear View Mirror*, exhibition catalogue, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK, 2004
- Fitzgerald, Shannon; Mosaka, Tumelo (eds): "A Fiction of Authenticity – Contemporary Africa Abroad", exhibition catalogue, Contemporary Art Museum St.Louis, 2003
- Garcia, Mariano: "La Zaragozana Cira Pascual Cuestiona el Patriotismo en el Corazón de EE UU", *Heraldo de Aragón*, Zaragoza, June 9, 2005

Geers, Kendall: "Social Critique from Young Talent", *Business Day*, Johannesburg, Nov. 1993

Geers, Kendall, Sophie Perryer, and Nikos Papaastergiadis. *Intersections—South African Art from the BHP Billiton Collection*, exhibition catalogue, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Australia, BHP Billiton Collection SA, 2002.

Gilbert, Chris: "Exile Painters", *64 Magazine*, May 2000

Gilbert, Chris: "Siemon Allen: Internal Affairs", *Sculpture*, Vol. 18 No.10, Dec. 1999

Goniwe, Thembinkosi: "Curators Note", catalog essay in *Desire: Ideal Narratives in Contemporary South African Art*, South African Pavilion, 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, June 2011

Gopnick, Blake: "The View From Afar", *The Washington Post*, August 24, 2003

Gopnick, Blake: "Delving into the Notion of Patriotism", *The Washington Post*, May 31, 2005

Heartney, Eleanor: "America, Real and Imagined", *Art in America*, September 2003

Hoffberg, Judith (ed): "Newspapers", book review in *Umbrella*, Vol. 27 #4, Southern California, Dec. 2004

Israel, Nico: "Translation/Seduction/Displacement", *ARTFORUM*, May 2000

Jacobson, Louis: "Cards", *Washington City Paper*, June 17, 2005

Kellner, Clive: "Imaging South Africa — The Archival Turn in Siemon Allen's Production", in *Imaging South Africa*, VCUarts, Richmond, VA, 2010

Keylock, Miles: "The Art of Obsession", *Mail & Guardian*, Cape Town, August 22, 2008

Kistler, Ashley (ed): *Imaging South Africa — Collection Projects by Siemon Allen*, VCUarts, Richmond, VA, 2010

Knode, Marilu: "Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis", *Tema Celeste*, 2003

Kotretsos, Georgia: "[Inside the Artist's Studio: Siemon Allen](#)", *art 21: blog*, USA, July 29 2011

Kronje, Kristine: "[... the room-within-a-room](#)", *LitNet*, South Africa, October 21, 2011

Levin, Kim: "A Foreign Affair", *The Village Voice*, July 30-August 5, 2003

Maart, Brenton: "[In Conversation with Artist Siemon Allen](#)", *The Archival Platform*, South Africa, Nov. 15, 2011

Machen, Peter: "Conversation of Objects", *Weekend Witness*, South Africa, August 13, 2005

Machen, Peter: "Bathed in Light", *South African Art Times*, Cape Town, Issue 1, Vol. 3, February 2008

Machen, Peter: "The Collector", *Weekend Witness*, South Africa, March 21, 2009

McCarthy, Jena, Reviews, *ArtSouthAfrica*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, Summer 2005

McNatt, Glenn: "Politics, Art Make Strange Bedfellows", *The Baltimore Sun*, April 26, 2005

Nakamura, Marie-Pierre: "C'est Leur Amérique", *Art Actuel*, #28, Paris, France, September-October, 2003

O'Toole, Sean: "The Record Collector", *Business Day – Wanted*, Johannesburg, March 2010

O'Toole, Sean: "[The Record Collector](#)", *Mahala*, South Africa, June 1, 2011

Pascual Marquina, Cira: "Newspapers," exhibition brochure, Anderson Gallery, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, Jan. 2003.

Peffer, John: "[Mistaken Media](#)", *Minette Vari - Media Work*, Smith College, February 2003

Pierre, Amanda: "'Newspapers' Looks at How People Are Informed," *The Des Moines Register*, Jan. 18, 2004.

Richards, Colin: "The Thought Is the Thing." *Art/South Africa* [Johannesburg, SA] 1, issue 2 (Summer 2002)

Richards, Colin: "Curating Contradiction: Graft in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Johannesburg Biennale", in *THE GLOBAL ART WORLD: Audiences, Markets, and Museums*, Hans Belting & Andrea Buddensieg (eds), Hantje Cantz, Germany, 2009

Rinder, Larry (ed): *The American Effect: Global Perspectives on the United States, 1990–2003*, exhibition catalogue, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2003

Risatti, Howard, "Siemon Allen/Dominic McGill," *Artforum*, Summer 2004

Schaffner, Ingrid: "Seen and Not Heard", catalog essay in *Desire: Ideal Narratives in Contemporary South African Art*, South African Pavilion, 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, June 2011

Schwendener, Martha: "Critics Picks", *Artforum* (online), February 10, 2002

Smith, Roberta: "Context & Conceptualism", *The New York Times*, February 22, 2002

Smith, Roberta: "Caution: Angry Artists at Work", *The New York Times*, August 27, 2004

Stupart, Linda: "Monomania", *ArtSouthAfrica*, Vol. 7, Issue 2, Summer 2008  
Sudheim, Alex: "Squirrel Artist", *Mail & Guardian*, Durban, August 5, 2005  
Sudheim, Alex: "The Outsider Insider", *Mail & Guardian*, Durban, February 27, 2009  
Sudheim, Alex: "The Activist Artist: Dislocation and Relocation in the Work of Siemon Allen", *ArtSouthAfrica*, Vol. 7, Issue 3, Summer 2009  
Thorson, Alice: "A Fiction of Authenticity: Contemporary Africa Abroad", *ArtNews*, April 2004  
Van Gelder, Lawrence: "National Image", *The New York Times*, June 26, 2001  
Vascellaro, Jessica: "America's Image as Seen by Artists Here and Abroad", *The Associated Press*, August 4, 2003  
Voelzke, Daniel: "Biennale Venedig Pavillons" + postcard insert, Monopol, Berlin, June 2011  
Weil, Benjamin: "Out of Time-South African Art", *Flash Art*, Jan-Feb. 1995  
Weil, Rex: "Siemon Allen", *ArtNews*, October 2005  
Walker, Hamza: "Detourism", *The Renaissance Society*, November 2001  
Williamson, Sue: *South African Art Now*, Collins Design, Harper Collins, New York, 2009  
Williamson, Sue: *Artthrob*, artthrob.co.za (online), July 2001  
Younge, Gavin: "A Pavilion too Far?", *ArtSouthAfrica*, Vol. 10, Issue. 1, Cape Town, Spring 2011  
Zervigon, Andres: "The Weave of Memory: Siemon Allen's Screen in Postapartheid South Africa", *Art Journal*, Spring 2002

### **Collections**

BHP Billiton, South Africa  
Durban Art Gallery, South Africa  
Gordon Schachat Collection, South Africa  
Guggenheim Museum, New York  
Standard Bank Collection, South Africa