PALIMPSEST: A RETROSPECTIVE IMMERSION

Solo exhibition by Kristen McClarty



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The W17 Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Kristen McClarty entitled **Palimpsest: A Retrospective Immersion** at Workshop17 Kloof, Cape Town, opening on 22 June 2023 and running until mid September 2023.

The exhibition represents McClarty's works, and her practice, as it has expanded over a number of years. From her earlier expressions of familial experiences to her deep-rooted connection to the tactility of wood and her expressions of space, place and land, McClarty's works reflect a variety of emotive responses through form, print medium, colour and scale. The process of making is integral to her practice as an artist, and as such, **Palimpsest: A Retrospective Immersion** displays the development of a concept from the matrix to the final work on paper.

In this exhibition, McClarty explores time and space through encounters of place, as nature and the materiality of it become foregrounded. This manifests through multiple elements; from the choice of wood for the woodblock surface, to the direction and manner in which she carves, to the element of subject matter she chooses to depict, and the colours she layers. It is through this process that the artworks traverse her interactions from the actual into the metaphorical; from the intimate into the societal; from the multidimensional into the two dimensional. The result is a palimpsest of experience materialising as line and colour delicately carved from wood and transcribed to paper.

Palimpsest: A Retrospective Immersion takes the viewer on this journey from concept, through experiential expression, to form; simultaneously across time, from past, to present.

For all enquiries, contact Claudia Bentel claudia@workshop17.com www.workshop17.co.za/palimpsest www.kristenmcclartyart.com





About the artist

Kristen McClarty is a specialist printmaker who works from her studio in Kommetjie, outside Cape Town. Her focus is on relief and monotype printmaking techniques. Since early 2020, she has been working with woodblocks, experimenting with the natural surface and its translation onto paper and other surfaces.

McClarty's recent woodblocks draw on the idea that lived experience lingers in a place, recorded on the surfaces of rock, droplets of water and suspended particles in air and liquid. A residual energy, reluctant to leave, pooling in the space or mounting up as a palimpsest on the very structure of the environment.



Authentic connection with materials is integral to McClarty's work and plays an important role in her storytelling.

When making art I am acutely aware of expressing the provenance of the piece, as I pull together elements of materiality; the natural lie of the wood, the paper or textile often handmade, using skills passed from one generation to the next, the hard and sharp edge of the tools I use to carve away the surface, carrying their own artisanal history. The layering of tone and colour; what is seen and what is unseen, but is nevertheless present, all contribute to the finished artwork.

McClarty's theme of layered energy in a space is carried into McClarty's new body of work which she is currently working on to be exhibited in 2024. McClarty has exhibited in the United Kingdom at the Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair and is represented by Circle Contemporary in Cornwall. She has exhibited widely in South Africa at galleries such as W17 Gallery, David Krut Projects, Gallery 2, StateoftheART, Daor Contemporary, Kalk Bay Modern, Artvark, and White River Gallery among others, and her work is held in public collections such as The Art Bank of South Africa Acquisitions 2022 and private collections in South Africa and worldwide.



The Residuals

McClarty works on the idea that thought, energy and experience linger in a place, recorded on the surfaces of rock, droplets of water and the suspended particles in air and liquid. A residual energy, reluctant to leave, pooling in the space or mounting up as a palimpsest on soil, rock, flora and the very structure of a natural or man-made environment.

In her art practice and in studio, McClarty's focus has shifted to the value of the things that are left behind. Her attention is drawn to the unintentional mark recording the handmade edge of the paper, evidence of a colour that only peaks through the final artwork, a carve mark that disappears as the layers evolve, a moment in time that may otherwise be lost.

To salvage these moments and states, McClarty has taken to preserving the process. This includes stage proofs taken on an imperfect surface; or perhaps on a sheet of acetate that is later used to make a positive for a screen print. In addition to this, built up edges of woodblock print allowed to interact with the final residual block; or supplementary carving on an already spent woodblock to reveal something else entirely. Even the inking and polishing of a block to preserve it as it is, cut away, and depleted.



Palimpsest I

Print



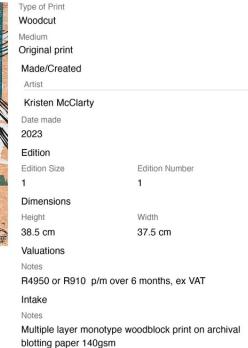
All and a second	Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print Made/Created Artist		
	Kristen McClarty		
No. The	2023		
	Edition Edition Size 1	Edition Number	
	Dimensions	A.FJul-	
栗	Height 38.5 cm	Width 37.5 cm	
K	Valuations Notes R4950 or R910 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT		
	Intake Notes Multiple layer mono blotting paper 140g	type woodblock print on archival sm	



Palimpsest II

Print





3317



Palimpsest III

Print



Type of Print		
Woodcut		
Medium		
Original print		
Made/Created		
Artist		
Kristen McClarty		
Date made		
2023		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
1	1	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
38.5 cm	37.5 cm	
Valuations		
Notes		
R4950 or R910 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT		
Intake		
Notes		
Multiple layer monotype woodblock print on archival blotting paper 140gsm		

Palimpsest IV

Print



Description The Residuals Type of Print Woodcut Made/Created Artist Kristen McClarty Edition Edition Size Edition Number 1 1 Dimensions Height Width 57 cm 45 cm Valuations Valuation Type Value Pricing ZAR 3,200.00 Date 1 Aug 2023 Notes R3200 or R600 p/m over 6 months. ex VAT Intake Notes Multiple layer monotype woodblock print on archival blotting paper 140gsm

Palimpsest V

Print

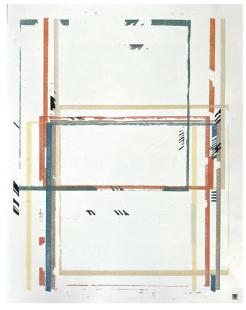


Description The Residuals Type of Print Woodcut Made/Created Artist Kristen McClarty Edition Edition Size Edition Number 1 1 Dimensions Height Width 57 cm 45 cm Valuations Valuation Type Value Pricing ZAR 3,200.00 Date 1 Aug 2023 Notes R3200 or R600 p/m over 6 months. ex VAT Intake Notes

Multiple layer monotype woodblock print on archival blotting paper 140gsm

Palimpsest VI

Print



Description The Residuals Type of Print Woodcut		
Made/Created		
Kristen McClarty		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
1	1	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
57 cm	45 cm	
Valuations		
Valuation Type	Value	
Pricing	ZAR 3,200.00	
Date		
1 Aug 2023		
Notes		
R3200 or R600 p/m ove	R3200 or R600 p/m over 6 months. ex VAT	
Intake		
Notes		
Multiple layer monotype	woodblock print on archival	

blotting paper 140gsm

I am still here Print



Type of Print	
Woodcut	
Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2023	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
6	5
Dimensions	
Height	Width
66.5 cm	53.5 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R11250 or R2070 p/m	n over 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	

7 layer reduction woodblock print on Echizen Hanga Japanese handmade paper 48gsm

You will find me

Print



Type of Print Woodcut	
Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2023	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
6	5
Dimensions	
Height	Width
66.5 cm	53.5 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R11250 or R2070 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake	
Notes	

8 layer reduction woodblock print on Echizen Hanga Japanese handmade paper 48gsm

I am still here stage proof 1 Print



Description		
The Residuals		
Type of Print Woodcut		
Made/Created		
Artist		
Kristen McClarty		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
1	1	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
66.5 cm	53.5 cm	
Valuations		
Valuation Type	Value	
Pricing	ZAR 5,550.00	
Date		
1 Aug 2023		
Notes		
R5550 or R1020 p/m over 6 months. ex VAT		
Intake		
Notes		
Single layer woodblock stage print on Asarakusi hemp		

lace 27 gsm

You will find me stage proof 1 Print



Description The Residuals			
Type of Print Woodcut			
Made/Created			
Artist			
Kristen McClarty			
Edition			
Edition Size	Edition Number		
1	1		
Dimensions			
Height	Width		
66.5 cm	53.5 cm		
Valuations			
Valuation Type	Value		
Pricing	ZAR 5,550.00		
Date			
1 Aug 2023			
Notes			
R5550 or R1020 p/m over 6 months. ex VAT			
Intake			
Notes			
Single layer woodblock sta	ge print on Asarakusi hemp		

lace 27 gsm

I am still here stage proof Print





Please enquire about similar woodblock prints

	Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print	
	Made/Created	
	Kristen McClarty Date made 2023	
	Edition Edition Size 1	Edition Number 1
	Dimensions Height 66.5 cm	Width 53.5 cm
	Valuations Notes R5550 or R1020 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
	Intake Notes Single layer woodblock sta lace 27 gsm	ge print on Asarakusi hemp

You will find me stage proof Print





Please enquire about similar woodblock prints

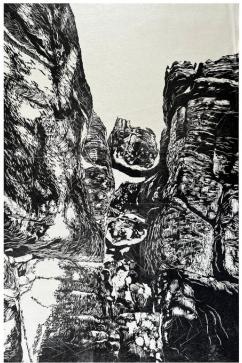
Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made 2023	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
66.5 cm	53.5 cm
Valuations Notes R5550 or R1020 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake	
Notes	
Single layer woodblock st lace 27 gsm	age print on Asarakusi hemp

Essence



	Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print	
	Made/Created	
	Artist Kristen McClarty Date made 2023	
	Edition Edition Size 1	Edition Number 1
	Dimensions Height 58 cm	Width 80 cm
	Valuations Notes R8050 or R1480 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake Notes Single layer woodblock stage print on Asaraku lace 27 gsm		ge print on Asarakusi hemp

Essence of a thought



Type of Print	
Woodcut	
Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2022	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
106 cm	72 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R14450 or R2650 p/r	n over 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Stage proof woodbloc evident fold lines in pr	k on Japanese paper with rint

Head Under Water

A series of semi abstract reduction woodblock prints inspired by photographs taken of McClarty, submerged under water. The edges of the body-form are broken with no clear start and end suggesting the body becoming a part of the environment.

This series represents the self-portrait as liquid fragmentations. It is an examination of the disparate parts of self that make the whole, and how these parts interact with each other and the environment. It is a series which references a space that makes the artist feel that she is safe and can breathe. Under water, the edges of the artist's body is blurred, her body and the liquid are at tension.

In addition, these works reveal a retreat into the mind, where the body floats under the tannin rich dark umber waters of the Cape: naked and without encumbrance. If the artist were to exhale, she would slip a little further below the surface, and quite soon be invisible, hidden by the dissolved minerals and botanicals coexisting with her in the precarious liquid. She is holding her breath. She is searching for self. She is searching for the essence that makes the person.



I can breathe under water

Print



Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print		
Made/Created		
Artist Kristen McClarty Date made		
2022 Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
8	2	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
108 cm	79 cm	
Valuations		
Notes		
R18650 or R3420 p/m ov	R18650 or R3420 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake		
Notes		
11 layer reduction woodb 290 gsm	lock print on Fabriano Tiepolo	

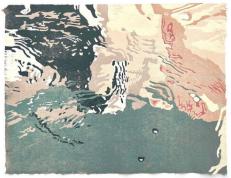
Holding my breath

Print



Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2022	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
3	3
Dimensions	
Height	Width
100 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R18650 or R3420 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake	
Notes	
12 layer reduction woodblock print on black Fabriano Elle Erre 220 gsm	

In pursuit of essence Print



Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2022	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
6	2
Dimensions	
Height	Width
54 cm	67 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R9250 or R1700 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake	
Notes	
8 layer reduction woodblock print on Echizen Hanga Japanese handmade paper 48gsm	

Abstracted distractions

Print



Type of Print Woodcut		
Medium Original print		
Made/Created		
Artist		
Kristen McClarty		
Date made		
2022		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
6	4	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
39.5 cm	38.5 cm	
Valuations		
Notes		
R4650 or R860 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT		
Intake		
Notes		
6 layer reduction woodblock print on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm		

3322

Searching for self Print



Vedium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2022	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
6	2
Dimensions	
Height	Width
39.5 cm	38.5 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R4650 or R860 p/m	over 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
5 layer reduction wo	odblock print on Fabriano Tiepolo

Elements of self

Print





Type of Print		
Woodcut		
Medium		
Original print		
Made/Created		
Artist		
Kristen McClarty		
Date made		
2022		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
6	AP	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
39.5 cm	38.5 cm	
Valuations		
Notes		
R4650 or R860 p/m over 6 months, ex VAT		
Intake		
Notes		
6 laver reduction woodbloo	k print on Fabriano Tiepolo	
290 gsm		

A Hard Place

A Hard Place is an accumulation of a year's work of exploring and documenting the scratchings, words and dirty graffiti left by individuals in local places. The words are written by people who society marginalises, people who tell the world they are there, and they are here, and they exist, and they have thoughts, and they want to tell you or anyone, something.

McClarty is interested in how those things stack up over time and become a palimpsest of mark and colour. Moreso, she is interested in how these things interact with the environment and her own lived experience.



The Watchers Print



í.	Type of Print	
	Woodcut	
	Medium	
111	woodcut	
	Made/Created	
	Artist	
	Kristen McClarty	
	Date made	
	2023	
	Edition	
	Edition Size	
	6	
100	Dimensions	
	Height	Width
1 A M	100 cm	70 cm
1000	Valuations	
AL AL	Valuation Type	Value
	Pricing	ZAR 21,200.00
	Date	
	27 Jun 2023	
	Notes	
	21200 or 3890 p/m ove	r 6 months, ex VAT
	Intake	

Notes

11 layer multiple block and reduction woodblock print 100% cotton Fabriano Tiepolo

Suspended thoughts



Type of Print		
Woodcut		
Medium		
Original print		
Made/Created		
Artist		
Kristen McClarty		
Date made		
2022		
Edition		
Edition Size	Edition Number	
4	1	
Dimensions		
Height	Width	
109 cm	79 cm	
Valuations		
Notes		
R21200 or R3890 p	/m over 6 months, ex VAT	
Intake		
Notes		
, ,	9 layer multiple block and reduction woodblock print on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm	

Marginalised narratives



	Type of Print Woodcut and screen print Medium Original print Made/Created Artist	
	Kristen McClarty	
	Date made 2022	
	Edition	
	Edition Size	Edition Number
	4	1
	Dimensions	
	Height	Width
	109 cm	79 cm
	Valuations	
	Notes	
	R21200 or R3890 p/m ove	er 6 months, ex VAT
Intake		
	Notes	
	15 layer multiple block and screen print on Fabriano Ti	

Suspended Thoughts in the Dark

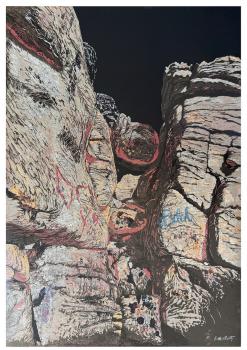


Description	
A hard Place	
Type of Print Woodcut	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
109 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Valuation Type	Value
Pricing	ZAR 21,200.00
Date	
1 Aug 2023	
Notes	
R21200 or R3600 p/m ove	r 6 months. ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	

Reduction woodblock print on Fabriano Elle Erre Black 160 gsm

Layered Annotations in the Dark

Print



Description	
A hard Place	
Type of Print Woodcut and screen print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
109 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Valuation Type	Value
Pricing	ZAR 21,200.00
Date	
1 Aug 2023	
Notes	
R21200 or R3600 p/m ove	r 6 months. ex VAT
Intake	

Notes

Reduction woodblock and screen print on Fabriano Elle Erre Black 160 gsm

Marginalised Narratives in the Dark

Print



Description	
A hard Place	
Type of Print Woodcut and screen print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
109 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Valuation Type	Value
Pricing	ZAR 21,200.00
Date	
1 Aug 2023	
Notes	
R21200 or R3600 p/m ove	r 6 months. ex VAT
Intake	
Nataa	

Notes

Reduction woodblock and screen print on Fabriano Elle Erre Black 160 gsm

A Sense of Place

In recent years, McClarty has taken to spending time in remote places, allowing the fleeting light and shadows to slowly seep into her. Allowing the wind to whip through her thoughts and drown out her voice; days bookended with coastal walks and ruffled hair. A slow quietening until, somehow, the artist becomes a part of the place.

McClarty's repetitive visiting of her familiar places has developed into a body of work based on the premise that the more a person knows of a place, the more the place gives. Slowly, McClarty has learnt the sense of the place, and has started to see things that others may not notice. The spaces are recorded with photographs, videos, plein air sketches and paintings, water colour monotypes and eventually, complex multi layered woodblock prints. Each translation building on the last, allowing McClarty to focus on elements of what she sees.

Such elements include a coastal lichen-covered rock, plucked from its salty, wind-swept environment, floating in a grainy space; or an over-sized suiseki, reminiscent of a dromedary camel, settled forever to hold space and absorb the residual energy and experience of what happens in its presence. Even behind a village, a collapse in the granite koppie becomes a subject for her work. It is a boulder that has rolled down the mountain centuries passed and has become wedged in a cleft, suspended in place and thus prevented from rolling down into the village below, oblivious to the chance halting of its destiny.



Scribbles in the sand





Type of Print Woodcut	
Medium Original print	
Made/Created	
Kristen McClarty Date made 2022	
Edition Edition Size 12	Edition Number 9
Dimensions Height 67.5 cm	Width 108 cm
Valuations Notes R12050 or R2210 p/m over	er 6 months, ex VAT
Intake Notes 8 layer reduction woodbloo 290 gsm	k print on Fabriano Tiepolo

The Dromedary



Type of Print Woodcut Medium Original print Made/Created Artist	
Kristen McClarty Date made 2023	
Edition Edition Size 8	Edition Number 5
Dimensions Height 108 cm	Width 79 cm
Valuations Notes R17650 or R3240 p/m ov	er 6 months, ex VAT
Intake Notes 7 layer multiple block and on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 g	

The Dromedary and Friends Print



Type of Print Woodcut and screen print Medium Original print Made/Created Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made 2023	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
12	5
Dimensions	
Height	Width
108 cm	79 cm
Valuations Notes R15150 or R2780 p/m ove	er 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Reduction screen print and Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm	I woodblock print on

A suspended sentence



Type of Print Water colour monotype Medium Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist Kristen McClarty	
Date made 2021	
Edition	
Edition Size 1	Edition Number 1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
108 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Notes R15350 or R2820 p/m ov	ver 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Water colour monotype - on Fabriano Tiepolo 290g	hand pulled original artwork - sm

From the court of forgotten transgressions Print



Type of Print Water colour monotype Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made 2021	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
1	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
108 cm	79 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R15350 or R2820 p/m ove	er 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Water colour monotype - h on Fabriano Tiepolo 290gs	and pulled original artwork - m



Inevitable Life

This body of work was created out of a series of thoughts that started with an emergency visit to her parents in Dullstroom in early 2020.

These are an expression of McClarty's thoughts about space, lived experiences, choice, interactions and connections in response to how one deals with events that one cannot control.

Single block linocut prints in pared-down black and white, using careful mark-making to produce detail and depth inform the stylistic traces in this series. McClarty presents these poignant reminders of the inevitable progression of life, without the frill or distraction of colour.

The wake Print



Type of Print	
Relief print	
Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made	
2020	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
30	4
Dimensions	
Height	Width
57.5 cm	43.5 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R4500 or R830 p/m o	ver 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Single layer relief print	on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm

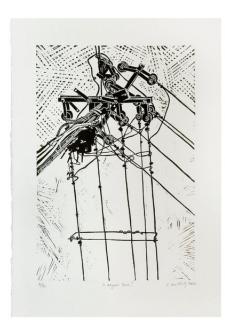
Junction Print



Edition Number 1
1
Width
43.5 cm
er 6 months, ex VAT

Single layer relief print on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm

Is anyone there Print



Type of Print	
Relief print Medium	
Original print	
Made/Created	
Artist	
Kristen McClarty	
Date made 2020	
Edition	
Edition Size	Edition Number
30	1
Dimensions	
Height	Width
57.5 cm	43.5 cm
Valuations	
Notes	
R4500 or R830 p/	m over 6 months, ex VAT
Intake	
Notes	
Olasia lavas saliaf	vint on Fabriana Tionala 000 com

Single layer relief print on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm

Light and shade Print



Edition Number
1
Width
43.5 cm
over 6 months, ex VAT

Single layer relief print on Fabriano Tiepolo 290 gsm



GALLERY

