



Come Here my Baby, 2016
 Ceramic, Earthenware

“I was at high school in the eighties during Botha’s many States of Emergency [the National Party’s attempts to maintain power during the dying days of apartheid]. South Africa has always been a highly charged and volatile environment to grow up and live in and I think that makes for interesting art.”

Ruan Hoffmann

South Africa b. 1971

South African born, Ruan Hoffmann originally studied art at the University of Pretoria before embarking on his artistic career. Using ceramic earthenware as his preferred medium, he chooses familiar objects such as plates, containers and tiles as his canvases, however the resulting works are not presented as homely pieces emanating from the domestic sphere but as willful, irregular and misshapen forms on which the artist’s unedited observations on life’s experiences flow in constant, noisy glimpses of thought.

Ruan Hoffmann’s imagery ranges from classical engineering and Roman lettering, nature and self-portraiture to abstraction and phallic forms. The mood can shift dramatically from anger, rage and provocation to humour, introspection and even vulnerability. The intent is to comment, confront and provoke. Hoffmann adorns the surfaces of his plates with a vast array of images and text that can be unapologetic, politically confrontational, improper and even sometimes rude. It is work that fuses the contemporary criticality of art with the wantonly sensual aesthetics of making. It is unashamedly loud, uncompromising and exhilarating.

Education

University of Pretoria, South Africa

Selected Collections

South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Apple, Johannesburg, South Africa

Woolworths Holdings Limited, South Africa

The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, USA
 Spier Corporate Art Collection, Stellenbosch, South Africa
 The Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee, Belgium
 South African National Association for the Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
 Monarch Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa
 UWC Mayibuye Archives, Robben Island, South Africa
 The Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 ZAM Zuid Afrika Magazine, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Ellerman House Contemporary Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
 Exxaro, South Africa
 Museo De Arte Moderno, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Selected Exhibitions | Solo

2015 *Ruan Hoffmann - Historical Irreverence*, The Clay Studio, Harrison Gallery, Philadelphia, USA
 2013 *Ruan Hoffmann*, Galerie a Rebours, Paris, France
 2012 *Much Love Me*, The Gallery@139, London, England
 2011 *New Ceramics*, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Ruan Hoffmann / Anthropologie, Gallery 50, New York, USA
Ruan Hoffmann - New Ceramics, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
 2008 *Ruan Hoffmann*, US Gallery, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
 2005 Franchise Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Selected Exhibitions | Group

2017 Artgenève 2017 [represented by Taste], Geneva, Switzerland
Vase - Function Reviewed, Farmleigh Gallery, Farmleigh, Dublin, Ireland
Clay/Ground, Cavalli Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
 2016 *Crafted*, Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, USA
Vase - Function Reviewed, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny, Ireland
 South African Art Exhibition, Galerie Patries van Dorst, Wassenaar, The Netherlands
Re- animate, Repair, Mend and Meld, Ferrin Contemporary, MA, USA
Mended Ways: The Art of Inventive Repair, New York Ceramics & Glass Fair, New York, USA
 2015 - 2016 XII Bienal Internacional de Cerámica de Manises, València, Spain
 2015 *Crafted: Ceramic Tableware*, Society for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, USA,
Eight, Warren Editions, Cape Town, South Africa
 2014 Project Gallery, Arundel, South Africa
 2013 *Afrovibes*, MC Theater-Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 Warren Editions: 5 Years in Print 2008-2012, Casa Labia Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

- Conversations; Contemporary South African Art*, Queen Street Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2012 Tee Party Berlin, Sequoia Tees, Pop-Up Exhibition, WYE Arts Centre, Berlin, Germany
Outsider 2012, The Media Mill, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Southern Guild Design Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
Next Generation, Stichting Thami Mnyele, Hedendaagse kunstenaarsuit Afrika
Pulchri Den Haag, Southern Guild ReCollect, Cape Town, South Africa
In Bloom 2, Casa Labia Cultural Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011 De Stichting, Thami Mnyele 20, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Amsterdam
- 2010 *Con Artists* [joint exhibition with Corne Joubert], Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2009 *Registration*, Joao Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009 Warren Editions, Rust-en Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 Alumni Potters of the University of Pretoria, Van Tilburg Museum, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
Visuality/Commentary, Centenary Exhibition of the University of Pretoria, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
China Crisis/Rabbit Animal Monster Beast, [joint exhibition with Corne Joubert], Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2007 *Inventory*, Long Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
 16th Rose Korber Art Salon, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 15th Art Salon at the Bay, [in association with Rose Korber Art] The Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 ABSA L'Atelier Awards - Regional and National Exhibition, ArtB Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Selected Residencies

- 2014 Artist in Residence, The Clay Studio, Philadelphia USA
- 2010 The Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2006 Frans Masereel Centrum, Kasterlee, Belgium