

Robert Hamblin (1969) is a multidisciplinary artist, parent and queer activist born in Johannesburg South Africa. He lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Hamblin's art has been exhibited in South Africa and internationally. Issues of queer masculinity is visited in his paintings, photography and collaborative performances. Robert - A Queer and Crooked, his recently published memoir speaks to his coming of age as a queer woman in Apartheid era South Africa and follows him to his transition from female to male in his thirties.

Photojournalism in his twenties, theatre photographer in his thirties, and organisational work in his forties was Robert's learning school. Throughout these three decades he built a fine art career under the guidance of his mentor, abstract painter Nel Erasmus. Erasmus, now 94 years old is an alumni of 1952 Académie Ranson in Paris. She continually encouraged him



to abandon photography in favour of the freedom of paint. This persuasion took two decades only materialising in 2020.

In the mean time he produced several bodies of fine art photography. The seven year project, interseXion, a collaboration with black transgender sex workers culminated in a large solo exhibition at The Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town.

Since then he has been painting and exhibiting regularly, including a recent two-person exhibition in Italy with artist Zanele Muholi which closed in October 2022.

“The characters in my paintings are self-portraits, alter egos and celebrations of queer people. I depict them and myself as super heroes or mythological creatures who embody their bruising as their power and ironic beauty.”

1. Author 2021 - Publication of Robert. Queer & Crooked Memoir

2. Represented Fine Artist 1998 - 2022

3. Current Representation

Francesca de Medici - Rome

Various associations - South Africa

4. Transgender Advocacy 2016 - 2020

Iranti Org 2016 - 2021

Chairperson

Deputy Chairperson

Board of Directors 2

Gender Dynamix Org 2007-2010

Deputy Director

Advocacy Manager

Media Liaison

Co - Founder

5. Commercial photographer 1991 - 2010

Various magazine and television clientele

6. Newspaper editorial photographer

Beeld Newspaper 1987 -1988

Transvaler Newspaper 1988 -1989

Rapport Newspaper 1989 -1991

7. Matriculated

Hoërskool Alberton 1986

8. Freelance darkroom assistant and photographer  
Alberton Record, South Africa 1984 -1986

2022 Paintings and Photographs

Time will Tell - Two person show with Zanele Muholi July - October 2022

Ill Frantoio Gallery, Capalbio, Tuscany

Curator: Francesca de' Medici

2021 Ink Paintings

Solo Legacy of Men - 99 Loop Gallery, Cape Town, October 2021

Group Three Individuals - Dawid Ras Gallery, Johannesburg, August 2021

Group Winter Exhibition - 99 Loop Gallery, Cape Town, July 2021

Solo Queer Cartographies - Nel Gallery, Johannesburg, June 2021

2017 Photography, installation & performance

Solo interseXion - Lizamore & Associates Johannesburg

Solo interseXion - University of Free State Bloemfontein

Solo interseXion - Iziko South African National Art Gallery Cape Town

Solo The Colony - Art Museum of University of Stellenbosch

2011 – 2016 Photography, installation & performance

Group interseXion - The District Six Museum Homecoming Centre

Group Break the Spell - Gallery University of Stellenbosch Cape Town

Group Break the Spell - Oude Libertas Gallery Stellenbosch

Group Daughter Language - Investec Cape Town Art Fair Erdmann Contemporary

Solo Daughter Language - Lizamore & Associates Johannesburg

Solo Threshold - International Young Photographers Festival South Korea

Solo The Colony - University of Johannesburg Gallery

Group Do It! International Michaelis Galleries Cape Town

Group Dreams to Reality - Erdmann Contemporary Cape Town

Group Performing Wo/Man - University of Johannesburg Art Gallery

Group Beyond the Beach - Casa Labia Gallery Cape Town

Group Nomad Bodies - Belgium, Antwerp University College of Artesis, Royal Academy of Fine Arts

Solo “..When You’re Feeling Like a Lady..” - National arts festival Klein Karoo, South Africa

Solo “..When You’re Feeling Like a Lady..” - Centre African Studies Gallery, African Gender Institute University of Cape Town

Launch “..When You’re Feeling Like a Lady..” SWEAT\* Org (\*sex worker education advocacy task force)

Group Threshold - FNB Johannesburg Art Fair Lizamore & Associates

Solo The Colony - Aardklop National arts festival, South Africa

1991 – 2010 Photography

Group Swallow Your Pride - Blank Projects Gallery Cape Town

Group Legacy of Men - National Art Gallery Johannesburg

Film Festival Father - Out in Africa Film Festival

Film Festival Father - Hamburg LGBT Film Festival

Solo The Binary Farm - National arts festival Klein Karoo, South Africa

Solo The Binary Farm - Aardklop National arts festival, South Africa

Group Face to Face, The Binary Farm - University of Johannesburg Art Gallery

Solo Fellowship The Inner Room - Houston Centre Photography, Texas USA

Solo The Inner Room - University of Johannesburg Art Gallery

Group Time Shift - Lizamore & Associates Johannesburg

Solo The Post Xtian - Open Window Art Academy Pretoria, South Africa

Solo The Post Xtian - National arts festival Klein Karoo South Africa

Solo Millennium Man - Aardklop National arts festival, South Africa

Solo Millennium Man - Klein Karoo National Arts Festival

In a Different Light - Sandra Prinsloo Studios

#### Awards

Houston Centre for Photography Fellowship - The Inner Room

Kanna Award nomination SA Klein Karoo National Arts Festival - "when you feeling like a lady"

#### Collections

Private Collections Rome

Private Collection Turin

Private Collection Brussels

University of Johannesburg

Rand Merchant Bank,

Sasol Corporate Collection

Private Collectors Cape Town

## Private Collectors Paris