

NICOLA BRANDT

Born 1983, Windhoek, Namibia
Lives and works in Namibia, South Africa, and Germany.

EDUCATION

- 2015 DPhil in Fine Art, Ruskin School of Art & Christ Church,
University of Oxford
2009 MSt in History of Art, University of Oxford

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Würth Collection, Künzelsau, Germany
Ministry of Lands and Resettlement, Windhoek, Namibia
National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek
Embassy of Namibia, Berlin, Germany
Iwalewaha Collection, Bayreuth, Germany
Rhodes Trust, Oxford, United Kingdom
Scheryn Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
The Joseph Schepers–Germaine Lijnen Fund, Brussels, Belgium
Amawal Collection, Spain
Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), Hamburg, Germany

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Colonialism and Resistance* (digital exhibition),
Museum Fünf Kontinente, Munich
2025 *Unresolved: Memory, Protest and Waiting*,
Guns & Rain Gallery, Johannesburg
2024–25 *Entanglements*, Rhodes Trust, University of Oxford
2024–25 *In Situ*, Goodman Gallery, Oude Leeskamer, Stellenbosch
2024 *Into One's Own: Reckoning with Monuments and Memory*,
Guns & Rain Gallery, Johannesburg
2024 *Decolonial Memorial Design Presentation* (20 finalists),
Gutshof Britz / Museum Neukölln, Berlin
2023 *Man of War: Leave My House* (with Gift Uzera and
Muningandu Hoveka), Goethe-Institut Namibia, Windhoek
2023 *Freiburg und Kolonialismus: Gestern? Heute!*,
Städtische Museen Freiburg, Freiburg im Breisgau
2022 *Good Neighbours*, NIROX Foundation, Cradle of Humankind
World Heritage Site
2021 *Territories Under My Skin*, curated by Tatiana Echeverri Fernandez,
Jaro Straub and Ella Ziegler, The Changing Room, Berlin
2019 *The Burden of Memory: Considering German Colonial History
in Africa*, Goethe-Institut Yaoundé, Yaoundé
2019 *Hannah Ryggen Triennial*, Nordenfjeldske
Kunstindustrimuseum, Trondheim (Award: Best Exhibition 2019,
Norwegian Artists' Association, Oslo)
2018–19 *Ovizire · Somgu: From Where Do We Speak?*, MARKK Museum
& M. Bassy, Hamburg, Germany
2018 *Tomorrow's Today*, curated by Tumelo Mosaka,
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Cape Town
2018 *Namibia: The Art of a Young Generation*, Museum Würth, Erstein, Alsace
2017 *Another Antipodes*, PS Art Space, Fremantle, Australia
2016 *Mo(ve)ments: African Digital Subjectivities*, Yale School of Art,
Yale University, New Haven
2015 *Land Matters in Art*, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) & Namibian Ministry of Land Reform, Berlin
2015 *Unrecounted: Historical Amnesia in Germany and Namibia*
(with Christoph Schlingensiefel), 56th International Art Exhibition
of La Biennale di Venezia (parallel exhibition), Venice

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SELECTED EXHIBITIONS (CONT.)

2014 *The Earth Inside* (solo exhibition), National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (SELECTED)

Hugh Pilkington Scholarship, Christ Church, University of Oxford, 2010–14

Gerda Henkel Foundation Fellowship, 2017–18

Kowitz Foundation Grant (for *Conversations Across Place*), 2020–21

IFA Grant, 2016

Wellcome Trust Seed Award in Humanities and Social Science, 2016

Berlin Global Village Decolonial Memorial Competition,
Top Five Shortlist, 2024

Doek! Literary Awards / Bank Windhoek, Visual Art Shortlist, 2023

Namibian Film and Theatre Awards, Special Mention (*Indifference*), 2014

BOOKS

Brandt, Nicola. 2025. *The Distance Within*. Edited by Alexandra Dodd. Göttingen, Steidl.

Brandt, Nicola, and Frances Whorrall-Campbell, eds. 2021. *Conversations Across Place*. Berlin: The Green Box.

Brandt, Nicola. 2020. *Landscapes Between Then and Now: Recent Histories in Southern African Photography, Video and Performance Art*. London and New York: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

SELECTED WRITINGS

Brandt, Nicola. 2023. "Fire and Physical Energy on the Slopes of Devil's Peak." In *Lost Libraries, Burnt Archives*, edited by Julia Rensing and Sindi-Leigh McBride. Cape Town: Michaelis Galleries.

———. 2023. "Practices of Self': Embodied Memory Work, Performance Art and Intersectional Activism in Namibia." *Memory Studies* 16, no. 3: 533–45.

———. *Maa K a Maaya Ka Ca A Yere Kono*. 2022. 13th edition of the Rencontres de Bamako – African Biennale of Photography. Dakar, Berlin, and Milan: Archive Books.

———. 2022. "When the Land Speaks." *Doek!* Literary Magazine, no. 8.

———. 2020. "Time, Performance and Landscape." In *The Journey*, edited by Simon Njami and Sean O'Toole. Bielefeld and Berlin: Kerber.

———. 2019. "Under Fire: The Concept of Landscape." @GI weltweit.

SELECTED TALKS & LECTURES

“The Art of History: Colonialism, Memory & Gender in Contemporary Namibian Art,” symposium with Fabian Krautwald, Tamar Garb and Wayne Dooling, Department of History, University College London, 2026

Nicola Brandt, interview by Jo-Ann Strauss, “ARTdacity S3 E4: Nicola Brandt,” ARTdacity, February 26, 2026, Podcast audio, <https://iono.fm/e/1650388>

Nicola Brandt, interview by Kay Dethlefs, “Podcast: Artist Nicola Brandt: Namibia & the Colonial Era,” Hamburg Arts, November 19, 2025, podcast audio, <https://hamburgarts.de/en/podcast-artist-nicola-brandt-namibia-the-colonial-era/>

“31st International Conference of Europeanists,” Council for European Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2025

“Contestations of Memory: Publics & Spaces,” Nicola Brandt with Michael Rothberg, Robert Kriger, Steven Robins and Sylvie Njobati, Point Sud 2023, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, Stellenbosch, 2023

“Decolonising the Public Space in Germany and its Former African Colonies”, ECAS, Cologne, Germany, 2023

“The Day Curt Fell: Embodied Memory Work, Performance Art and Intersectional Activism in Namibia,” Basler Afrika Bibliographien, Zurich, 2023

“Hamburg’s (post)colonial Legacy,” The WONAGO (World Order Narratives of the Global South) Project, The University of Hamburg, 2023

Freiburg und Kolonialismus Gestern? Heute! Exhibition talk with Nicola Brandt, curator Aino Moongo and Dr Beatrix Hoffmann-Ihde, Städtische Museen Freiburg, 2023

“Diasporic Entanglements,” Brandt with Sumayya Vally, Denise Lim, and Frances Whorrall-Campbell, Center for African Studies and the Humanities Center, Stanford University, 2022

“In/Visible Landscapes: Photography, Colonialism, and the Environment” (Brandt as keynote speaker), 6th International Conference of Photography and Theory, 2021

“The Politics of Photography and Unequal Landscapes, The African Archive Beyond Colonization.” Brandt invited by course convenor: Denise Lim. Stanford University, California, 2021

“Territories Under My Skin (Revisited),” The Changing Room (Berlin). Hosted at The Goethe Institute (Windhoek). Screening and discussion. Moderators: Caspar Stracke, Hildegard Titus and Nicola Brandt, 2021

“Sites of Reckoning: Memorials, Museums & Fractured Truth(s) in the Aftermaths of Mass Violence,” Georgia State University, Atlanta, 2020

Black Portraits, New York University, New York, 2019

Museum Conversations, Goethe Institute, Windhoek, Namibia, 2019

SELECTED TALKS & LECTURES (CONT.)

Senator's Reception at the 2nd Herero and Nama Conference, City Hall, Hamburg, 2018

"The Earth Inside & Indifference," The MAXXI, National Museum of the 21st Century Arts, screening and talk, Rome, 2018

Bergen International Film Festival (BIFF), screening, Bergen, Norway, 2016

Land/Water Symposium, Plymouth University, UK (keynote speaker), 2016

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESS

Scholarly Articles, Books & Academic Engagement

Rensing, Julia. 2025. *Troubling Archives: History and Memory in Namibian Literature and Art*. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag.

Rensing, Julia. 2024. "Histories and Landscapes Embodied: Counter-Memorial and Embodied Strategies in Namibia and Beyond, a Case Study."

In Curating Transcultural Spaces, edited by Sarah Hegenbart. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.

Fumanti, Mattia. 2023. "The 'Haunting' and the 'Haunted': Whiteness, Orthography, and the (Post)-Apartheid Condition in Namibia." *History and Anthropology* 34 (3): 497–520.

Wilson, Paul. 2023. "Remembering the Herero-Nama Genocide in Namibia." *African Arts* 56 (1): 62–81.

Lehmann, Fabian. 2021. *Postkoloniale Gegenbilder: Künstlerische Reflexionen des Erinnerns an den deutschen Kolonialismus in Namibia*. Basel: Basler Afrika Bibliographien.

Lehmann, Fabian. 2019. "A Place of Eclectic Remembrance: The Former German Concentration Camp on Namibia's Shark Island." *Journal of Namibian Studies: History Politics Culture* 26: 29–50.

Lehmann, Fabian. 2019. "A Place of Eclectic Remembrance: Visiting Lüderitz's Shark Island Today." Paper presented at ECAS 7, Basel.

Kößler, Reinhart. 2015. *Namibia and Germany: Negotiating the Past*. Windhoek: UNAM Press.

Reviews and Critical Writing on Nicola Brandt's Work

Augart, Julia. 2025. "Unsichtbare Geschichten sichtbar machen – Nicola Brandt's The Distance Within als Spiegel kolonialer Vergangenheit und postkolonialer Gegenwart in Namibia." *Literaturwelt.net*, 17 December 2025. <https://literaturwelt.net/2025/12/17/das-unsichtbare-sichtbar-machen/>

Becker, Heike. 2025. The Distance Within (review). *Acta Germanica: German Studies in Africa* 53 (December).

Kößler, Reinhart. 2025. Review of The Distance Within, by Nicola Brandt. *Peripherie* 45 (2): 347–349. <https://doi.org/10.3224/peripherie.v45i2.12>

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESS (CONT.)

Earlier works (films, exhibitions, publications)

Baas, Renzo. 2022. "Review: Nicola Brandt, Landscapes between Then and Now. Recent Histories in Southern African Photography, Performance and Video Art." *Journal of Namibian Studies: History Politics Culture* 31 (May): 141–143.

Fumanti, Mattia. 2015. "Review of Indifference, directed by Nicola Brandt (2014)." *African Studies Review* 58: 289–291.

Schaar, Elisa. 2015. "Unrecounted: Historical Amnesia in Germany and Namibia: Exhibition Review." *Art Margins Online*, November 6, 2015.

Media Coverage & Press

RECENT

Mukaiwa, Martha. 2026. "Photography Finds a Voice in Cape Town." *The Namibian Weekender*, February 27, 2026.

Daily Maverick Review. 2025. "Unearthing the Ghosts of the Past Through the Lens: The Distance Within by Nicola Brandt." *Daily Maverick*, April 27, 2025.

Steinhofer, Frank. 2024. "Traces of Violence in Windhoek." *The Architectural Review*, no. 1511 (May 2024).

Mukaiwa, Martha. 2023. "Brandt on Fire at ICTAF." *The Namibian*, February 24, 2023.

Mukaiwa, Martha. 2022. "Artists Consider New Memorials and Inclusive Futures." *The Namibian*, November 29, 2022.

Henrichson, Dag. 2021. "Out of History: Artists, Landscapes and New 'Practices of Self' in Southern Africa." *Art Africa*, January–March 2021.

Henrichson, Dag. 2020. "Whose Land Is This?" *The Namibian*, May 18, 2020.

EARLIER

Mukaiwa, Martha. 2020. "Namibian Landscapes." *The Namibian*, June 12, 2020.

March, Leonie. 2021. "Wir wollen nur Gerechtigkeit: Völkermord – Die deutsche Kolonialvergangenheit prägt Namibia bis heute." *Spiegel Geschichte*, special issue on German colonialism.

March, Leonie. n.d. "Kunstprojekt zur Aufarbeitung deutscher Kolonialgeschichte – Bruch eines Tabus." *Deutschlandfunk Kultur*.

Rosen, Sara. 2018. "An Unsettling Visual Trip through Namibia's Past: Living Memorials." *Huck Magazine Online*, March 14, 2018.

Lim, Denise. 2018. "What the Landscape Recalls." *Art Africa Online*, February 8, 2018.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESS (CONT.)

Middleton, Susan. 2016. "Beelde wat in lae spreek." *Rapport*, November 11, 2016.

Le Monde (Afrique). 2016. "Nos quatre coups de cœur de la foire d'art contemporain africain AKAA, à Paris." November 11, 2016.

Viscardy, Pascale. 2015. "Théâtre Postcolonial: Biennale Internationale d'Art de Venise, 56e édition." *L'Art Même* 66: 16–17.

Ehlers, Hendrik. 2014. "Analogie der Amnesie funktioniert." *Allgemeine Zeitung*, August 2014.

Hofmann, Eberhard. 2014. "Herbe Schönheiten zwischen Lagen gruseliger Erinnerung." *Allgemeine Zeitung*, August 2014.

Additional Critical and Contextual References

Van Wyk, Bayron. n.d. "Contested Statues: A Review of 'Man of War: Leave My House' at the Goethe-Institut, Windhoek." *Stimulus Respond, Space: Colony*. <https://www.stimulusrespond.com>

Wienand, Kea. n.d. "Deutsche Kolonialgeschichte als Thema postkolonialer Kunst." Iwalewahaus, University of Bayreuth.

Exhibition Catalogues

Hannah Ryggen: New Land. 2019. Exhibition catalogue. Trondheim: Nordenfjeldske Kunstindustrimuseum.

Kunst einer jungen Generation. 2016. Exhibition catalogue. Künzelsau: Museum Würth; Swiridoff.

Land Matters in Art. 2013. Exhibition catalogue. Windhoek: National Art Gallery of Namibia and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Personal Geography. 2011. Exhibition catalogue. Rome: Punctum Editions.