

# *'RUNNING OUT OF BLACK'*

*Auguste Renoir's casual remark about the birth of Impressionism.*



DANIEL NOVELA



MARLIEN VAN  
HEERDEN



TONY DE FREITAS



JOHANN VAN  
HEERDEN



JOHAN MARAIS



DANIE SMITH



**St. Lorient**  
PRÊT À PORTER  
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# Press Release

One day, one of us ran out of black-and so Impressionism was born." Auguste Renoir's casual remark about the birth of Impressionism certainly has a kernel of truth and yet this is not precisely how it came about. Renoir used bright blue instead of black to indicate shadow. His art was an expression of his pleasure in life. His subject matter, amongst others were lush landscapes, fruit and flowers, children playing and people enjoying themselves.

These subject matters are the common thread that binds the artist that are exhibiting in this exhibition. For **Daniel Novela** his "work has a special focus on South African rural scenes. Landscapes, people and animals that occupy it, According to him nature "taught to (him) use a very restricted palette-red, yellow and blue with compliment of white."

With **Danie Smith** it is "tonele van alledafse dinge wat om my gebeer,soos my dogtertjie wat klavier speel of kinders by die see". He records visual sensations that nature rather than imagination gives to things.

This delight in seizing movement and rendering it on canvas can be seen in **Johan Marais'** diffused depiction of nature on "the hop". His use of "bright, fresh colours in his works give an impressionist feel". He grabs the viewers 'attention with his expressive brushstrokes and thus begins a narrative that is played out in nature.

This narrative of nature can also be seen in **Marlien Van Heerden's** work. She has a love for rural scenes and a passion for people. Marlien van Heerden enjoys painting in the open air and is an enthusiastic adept of "Pleinairism" capturing "a handful of humanity trapped in a moment" on canvas.

It is precisely this fleeting, momentous impression that the old Impressionist masters depicted in their works; the light, air and most importantly the atmosphere. It is the flickering play of light and shadow that creates a joyful tone in **Tony de Freitas** works, scenes of rural peace and people enjoying the simple pleasures that nature has in abundance .His almost snapshot impression does indeed capture a moment in time that lacks artifice.

**Johann van Heerden** is inspired by "nature and the true miracle of life, he is always in awe of the beauty of the South African landscapes and our unique cloud formations". His works are more structured and his bold expressive brushwork is more disciplined and though his works at this exhibition lack that spontaneousness, they still capture that fleeting moments of movement.

All artists are singular and unique and should not be bound by rules and general characteristics. St Lorient invites you to explore the works of these artists that paint in this Impressionistic tradition and that deserve to be noticed.



**St. Lorient**  
fashion & art gallery  
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# TONY DE FREITAS



Drummond artist Tony de Freitas is painting his way to the top. He has two passions, art and music and chooses to invest in both. “Art satisfies me intellectually, music more emotionally. I wouldn't shed tears over a painting but over a piece of music, certainly. What I'm doing is playing jazz with paint. Just as a jazz artist may pull together a plethora of apparently random strokes, those random strokes contribute to what the artist sees as the bigger picture” said de Freitas.

He usually works quickly, making paint sketches on board and then gets going with his palette knives. De Freitas prefers acrylics because they dry rapidly, meaning he can apply layer on layer, as is often the case in jazz music. De Freitas process is impromptu and he ad-libs in a very impressionistic manner.

As he goes he changes and modifies, little bits creep through, the paintings evolves and the end result is never predictable. He can repeat an identical scene and it would never turn out the same. He said using a palette knife forces one to be precise yet loose and it also gives rise to the unexpected.

This is not to say that his works are not structured. He said he paints a lot out of his head. He paints predominantly landscapes, often incorporating architectural elements. He takes such traditional themes and presents them in a contemporary way by cropping or framing his subject matter in a non-traditional fashion.

“I don't like a photographic style. What I like is the eye finishing the picture.” he said.

He quoted another artist, Marilyn Simandle, who said “painting should be like a conversation and the artist shouldn't do all the talking”. De Freitas agreed that adding too much detail results in the artist boringly dominating the conversation.

Now at age 61, de Freitas enjoys painting full time with no backing or funds. He started in acrylics and oils using a brush and his work had no distinguishing characteristics until a gallery owner suggested that a palette knife would better suit his impressionistic approach.

He believes he has produced approximately 2500 paintings in the last seven years. His work hangs in many prestigious galleries around the country and is well represented especially in the Cape and Transvaal.

Tony de Freitas is keen to take his work in new directions, exploring new themes and subject matters. He loves to capture the effect of light on things and hopes to explore the KZN Midlands more.



*'Calm Waters', Oil on canvas, 40x60 cm*





***'Artist in the Garden', Oil on canvas, 30x80 cm***



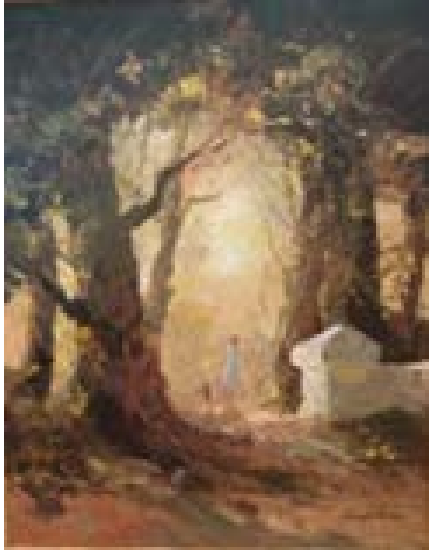
***'Patience Cows Passing', Oil on canvas, 30x80 cm***



***'Running the Dog', Oil on canvas, 30x 80 cm***



***'Gentle on my mind', Oil on canvas, 30x80 cm***



***'New discovery'***, Oil on canvas, 45x60 cm



***'What was that'***, Oil on canvas 30x80 cm



**'Panorama', Oil on canvas, 45x60 cm**



**'Seclusion', Oil on canvas, 45x60 cm**





**'Home boy', Oil on canvas, 45x60 cm**

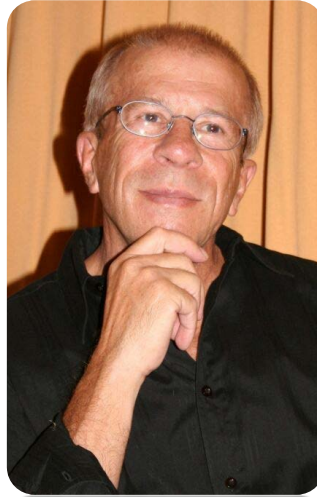
**'Brothers Bonding', Oil on canvas, 45x 60 cm**





**'Gentle Eyes', Oil on canvas, 30x40 cm**

# JOHAN MARAIS



**Johan presently focuses on still life studies and landscapes.**

**His preference is to use bright, fresh colours in his work which gives an Impressionistic feel. I have to create powerful and dramatic paintings that will grab a viewers attention long enough to let them explore it and have some kind of reaction to it, good or bad.**

**Johan constantly experimenting with different ideas and techniques and he feels that he still learning something every day. His latest works can be viewed on his webpage [www.johanmaraisart.co.za](http://www.johanmaraisart.co.za)**





***"Blue Bell Flowers"* 102x76cm Oil on Canvas (Unframed)**



***"Sunset Splendor"* , Oil on Canvas , 120x100 cm**



*"Late Afternoon"* Oil on Canvas , 36x21 cm

*"The Barn"*, Oil on Canvas ,36x21cm







***"Tsitsikamma"*** , Oil on Canvas, 50x36cm



***"Fishers Village"*** , Oil on Canvas, 50x36cm

# MARLIEN VAN HEERDEN



**MARLIEN VAN HEERDEN, South African artist, considers herself fortunate to live out her passion for people in her art.**

**Marlien was born 1969 youngest of five. She grew up on the High fields of Transvaal and studied Domestic marketing at University of Pretoria. She started painting fulltime in 1997. Marlien lives in Pretoria with her husband and four children.**

**She started with exhibitions in parks and shopping malls, where agents saw her work and she was moved into galleries. Today her work is exhibited by selected galleries and she does consignments for corporate and private clients.**

**She organizes a 'plein' air artist group, which gathers once a month to do outdoor painting or painting from a model. Marlien prefers oil paint, for its patience with her way of live, she can put large amount of paint on her pallet without concern of using it all in one day. There is always something new to discover on her work. Close-up a welter of brushstrokes - just to make sense when you move away.**

**You don't need a long description of her work to appreciate and enjoy it. Her work creates a corner where you can escape, a place to dream. A handful of humanity trapped in a moment and shared on canvas. A message whispered on canvas, left to carry its own message further.**



**'Red Dress', Oil on canvas, 140X100 cm**





*'Oompie by die Deur', Oil on canvas, 70X30 cm*



*'Oompie voor die Deur', Oil on canvas, 70X30 cm*



*'Oompie Voor die venster', Oil on canvas , 70X30 cm*



**'Venster', Oil on canvas, 90X60 cm**



**'Games', Oil on canvas, 90X60 cm**

# DANIEL NOVELA



**My work has a special focus on South African rural scenes.  
Landscapes, people and animals that occupy it.**

**Painting from life is my number one priority. It gives me an opportunity to learn to see  
and appreciate Light and Peace offered by rural areas that are found nowhere else.**

**Nature taught me to use a very restricted palette- red, yellow and blue with  
compliment of white!**





***"Homeward bound", oil on canvas board, 51x76cm***



***“Man riding a bicycle home”, oil on canvas board,51X76 cm***



***"Behind the mountain in the Western Cape", oil on canvas, 40,5x51cm,***

# JOHANN VAN HEERDEN



Johann van Heerden started painting under the pseudonym Hannpan in 2009. Painting was initially a recovery tool that soon became a way of expressing the celebration of a new freedom, freshness and the colours of a new life. He is inspired by people and the true miracle of life. He has a good sense of humour and this characteristic is evident in his work. He has a deep love for Africa and South Africa specifically. He is close to nature and is always in awe of the beauty of the South African landscapes and our unique cloud formations. He has never had any formal training in art, but takes every available opportunity to learn from fellow artists.

Johann's unique style of bold colours and brushstrokes has the ability to capture the eye and imagination. His style has been described as naïve, impressionistic, expressionistic – but he does not view his work as such. For Johann it's all about passion. "The work I do is never an accurate depiction of a specific place or time; it's rather an image in the mind inspired by events, words and emotions."

He is a very spiritual person, who respects all creativity because he feels that one cannot be creative if you don't experience some form of spiritual connection. "One faces the future with one's past," he believes.

Johann lives on the Eastern outskirts of Pretoria with his horses and Great Danes and garden that overlooks the Bromberg area. This is also where the studio is situated. He has two lovely young teenage sons that are both going to school in Pretoria and they take up most of his energy over the weekends when he sees them.

Over weekends and holidays he spends a lot of time on his farm in Dullstroom and also frequents the West Coast and Wild Coast quite frequently and paints from there as well. His current favourite sport is Endurance racing with horses, he also loves deep sea fishing and scuba diving





*'Mink'* , Oil on blocked canvas, 410x500 mm.



*'Plato'* Oil on blocked canvas, 840X600 mm



**'Swartland Night', Oil on blocked canvas, 840x600 mm**



**'Sun', Oil on blocked canvas, 600X600 mm**

# DANIE SMITH



Danie het na sy opleiding by Adriaan Boshoff voltyds as kunstenaar begin skilder. Op daardie stadium het kunshandelaars sy werk gekoop en verkoop. Na 'n paar jaar het die groep Greenfields Coffee shop van Danie se skilderye in hulle koffie winkels gehang en het baie mense veral in die Gauteng area hom gekontak vir skilderye. So het hy al hoe meer kliente self begin ontmoed en verkoop wat ook vir hom lekker was want hy kon sien waar sy skilderye hang en die plesier wat dit aan kliente gegee het. Hy het later jare by Decorex in Midrand uitgestal waar hy dan ook verder mense ontmoed het wat later sy werk gekoop het.

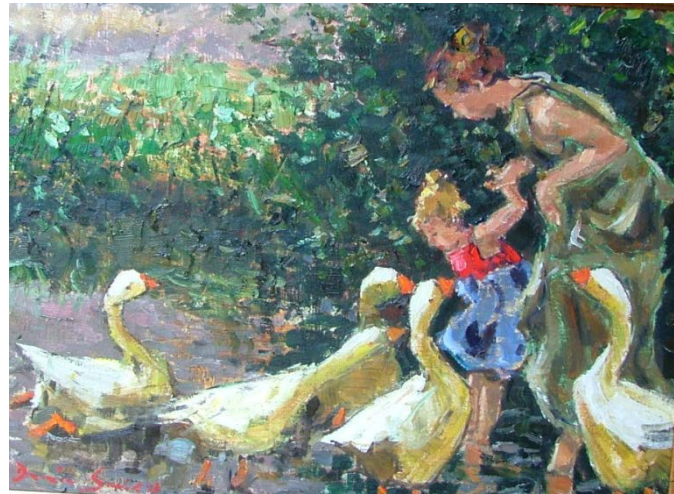
Baie van hierdie kliente sou dan ook vir hom privaat uistalling hou en dit is maar hoe hy tans sy werk verkoop.

Danie wil graag nou meer aandag aan die Kaapse mark gee en het eersdaags 'n uistalling in George by Fan Court. Daar is reeds gallerye in Plettenberg baai en Jeffrey's baai wat van sy skilderye aanhou en bemark.

Die Tuin Paleis tydskrif het ook al 'n artikel oor Danie gepubliseer en hy was ook op die TV program Curios Cultures so 2 jaar gelede.



**"Fig See ",Oil on Canvas**

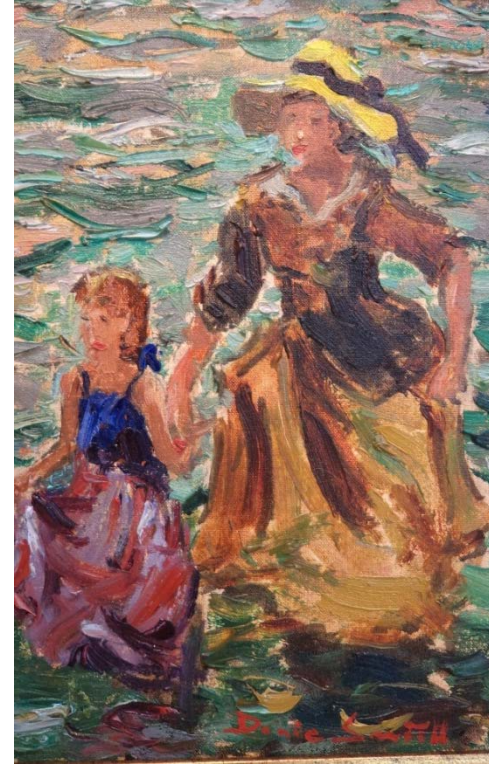


**"Fig Gaanse II" Oil on Canvas**





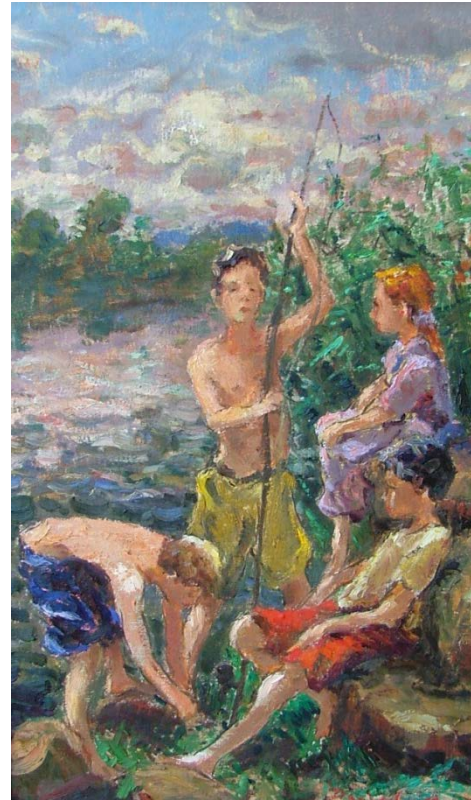
**"Ma Dogter lees" , Oil on Canvas**



**"Ma Dogter see" ,Oil on Canvas**



***"Viool"*, Oil on Canvas**



***"Seuns"* Oil on Canvas**



**“Gitaar”, Bronze**



**“Viool”, Bronze**



**"Dogter Lees", Bronze**



**"Loodglass", Bronze**