

Garth ERASMUS

curriculum vitae

Born 1956 in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape

Taught himself painting at the age of 21

1978-80: studied art at Rhodes University

Art teacher for 15 years at Zonnebloem Children's Art Centre, Cape Town

Throughout 80s belonged to Vakalisa artists group

Since 1985 been a participant and organiser of the Thupelo workshop for artists, first in Johannesburg and since 1992 in Cape Town

His work is in the collections of the Johannesburg Art Gallery, Smithsonian Museum of African Art as well as in many private collections

1998: helped establish Greatmore Street Studios, Cape Town

1999: formation of the group Khoi Khonnexion

2003: artist-in-residence in Solothurn, Switzerland

2003: started large-scale mural project at Artscape theatre





Images in the sand #9 (2001)
sand, resin, spray, acrylics,
paper collage



Emergency picture #37
(1985) spray paint on board



Mural 27 (2002)
computer-generated drawing
for proposed mural at Artscape



XNAU series
Fire & petroleum jelly 2005



for a more detailed artist biography go to:
www.asai.co.za

Garth the artist, musician and poet

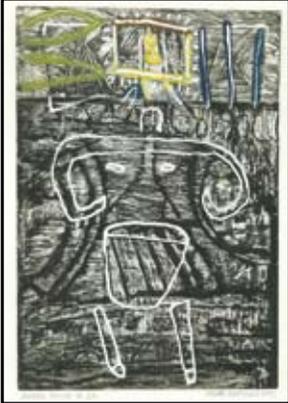
KHOI KHONNEXION
(2007)
Performing at the
Darling Festival.
Garth (left),
Jethro Louw (middle),
Glen Arendse (right)



Photograph of Garth
(1985)
Buzy constructing
musical bows
which he still plays
to this day



KHOI KHONNEXION. 1999
Left to right: Garth, Jethro Louw, Glen Arendse



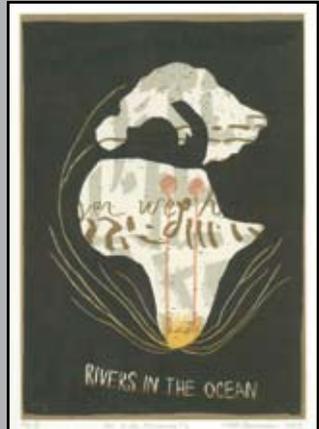
MANTIS PRAISE
wax, acrylic, ink on paper
2001



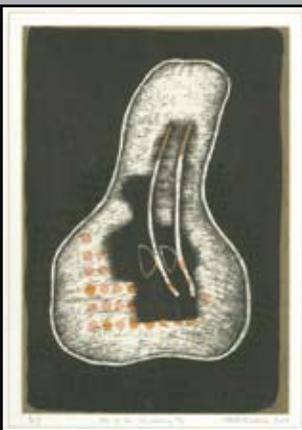
MANTIS PRAISE
wax, acrylic, ink on paper
2001



MANTIS PRAISE
wax, acrylic, ink on paper
2001



ARC OF THE TESTIMONY 3
silk-screen
2005



ARC OF THE TESTIMONY 5
silk-screen
2005



ARC OF THE TESTIMONY 8
silk-screen
2005



XNAU DRAWING 300 (2007)
Fire and petroleum jelly
on paper



XNAU DRAWING 301 (2007)
Fire and petroleum jelly
on paper



XNAU DRAWING 302 (2007)
Fire and petroleum jelly
on paper



XNAU DRAWING 303 (2007)
Fire and petroleum jelly
on paper

THE XNAU series

Garth Erasmus is passionate about his Khoi roots and the meaning of healing in a post-94 South Africa.

THE XNAU [a Khoi word meaning initiation] represents the latest body of work in this continuing personal self-exploration of issues of ancestry, identity and heritage and how they impact on a life lived as a 'Coloured' South African.

Although he is better known as a painter, his work is characterized by a restless quest for alternative forms of expression and materials [including sand, fire, and sound]. THE XNAU is no exception, consisting primarily of ethereal images created by means of fire and also sand. In this context the Xnau takes on a primal and metaphorical meaning. Rather than a formal, physical initiation, this process is more spiritually inclined, a self-initiation of sorts coming out of the process of self-discovery.