

ArtistSPOTLIGHT

Derric Van Rensburg captures South Africa and Florida wildlife

By Kathy O'Flinn
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Artist Derric Van Rensburg lives in South Africa and fortunately for Southwest Floridians, his superior talent is exhibited in Call of Africa's Native Visions Gallery on Fifth Avenue South in Naples.

Van Rensburg is widely rated as one of South Africa's top artists and his work has been exhibited internationally.

"I love sweeps of color and some detail in it so it's anatomically correct."

— Derric Van Rensburg

"I knew when I started painting wildlife, that was my thing," said Van Rensburg. In the beginning he painted for quite a few years in watercolor then used acrylic but he stuck with wildlife. "To describe me as a realist is not true – an impressionist sort of – bordering somewhere between abstract and impressionism."

When he's painting wildlife in Africa he thinks of arid surroundings or bushy areas, heat and lots of red. Whereas for Florida paintings, the first thing that comes to his mind are greys, blues and complementary colors.

As a young man he went to an art college in Cape Town and received a commercial arts diploma. "They quite soon said to me you're going to end up being fine art not graphic arts and they were quite right, so fine art won out," he said. He did some work freelancing for ad agencies and taught art but delayed embarking on a full-time career as an artist.

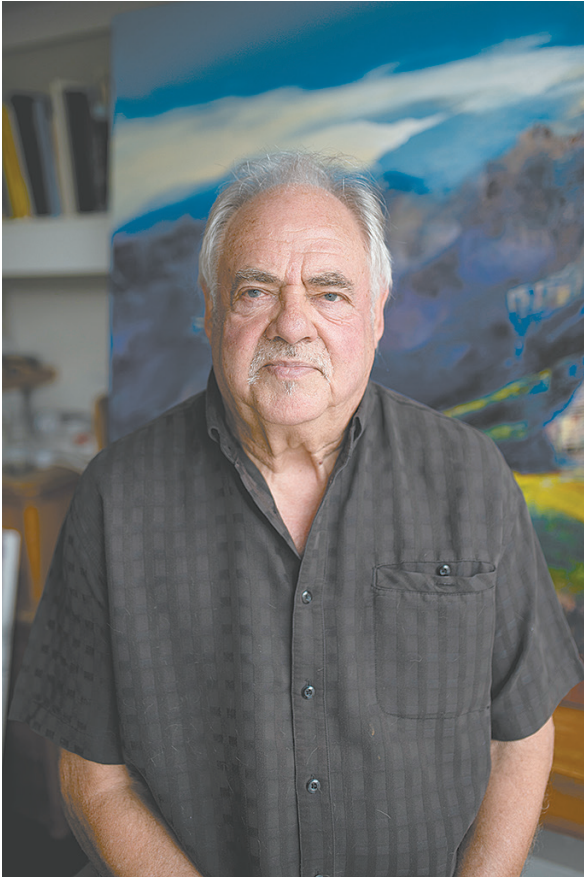
"I was convinced that I couldn't make a living out of it," but in 1979 he realized that he could be doing this full time and he excelled becoming one of the true heavyweights of the international art scene.



"Patterns" 21¼" x 29¼" acrylic on canvas



"Dragonfly Menagerie" 31¼" x 23¼" acrylic on canvas



Derric Van Rensburg

So many of the birds in Africa and Florida are similar, he said, so birds started to become the main event for him, certainly for the U.S. market but have always been there for his South African market. "I'm in seventh heaven when I have to do those," he said.

"From the very beginning ... I inserted the egret as a bird option into a wildlife painting because the stark white helps the colors that I use to bounce off one another and the egret I just happen to love," he said.

"I love sweeps of color and some

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detail in it so it's anatomically correct," he said. The wildlife is situated among all the movement and color.

His commissioned works are placed by multinational corporate clients and South Africa's finest hotels.

Van Rensburg's work has been in three Florida Native Visions galleries for three years. "It's becoming my mainstay and its where I'm concentrating my efforts," he said.

His artwork for Florida "kind of exploded for me so I'm quite a happy chap." He's hoping to visit Florida next year and capturing more of the local birds.



Derric Van Rensburg

"The Wanderers" 72" x 36" acrylic on canvas

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