

ARTISTIC CURRICULUM VITAE

Nicola van Straaten

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I am a 31-year-old artist, performer, researcher and co-founder of [Any Body Zine](#). I work across multiple mediums, with a focus on the body and spirituality as sites of political and social transformation. I grew up in the city of Durban, South Africa. I have lived and worked in France, Namibia, South Africa and Germany. In 2019, I graduated from a Masters in Solo / Dance / Authorship and I am currently working as a freelance performance artist and writer in Berlin.

Qualifications: *University of the Arts Berlin - Hochschulübergreifendes Zentrum Tanz (2017-2019)*
Masters in Solo / Dance / Authorship.

University of Cape Town (2008-2012)
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Dance (Contemporary Dance and Choreographic Studies)
Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Dance Studies (First Class)

Awards:
Dean's Merit List (2008)
AW Mellon Scholarship (2012)
University Research Scholarship (2012)
DAAD Scholarship for Foreigners in the field of Performing Arts (2018)

Semester Abroad:
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, USA – 2012.

Danville Park Girls High School (2002-2007)
Senior Certificate with Endorsement (Distinction)

Creative Arts Experience & Employment:

December 2020 - August 2021: Supported by Dachverband Tanz in the framework of Dis-Tanz-Solo programme to pursue the research project, *how to be haunted*.

February 2021: Facilitated Altar Building Workshop for Work It Out Platform.

March 2020: Singer and performer at "Boris Vian x 100" at Institut français, Berlin.

March - April 2020: English editor at [hinterlands](#) magazine.

March 2020 - May 2020: Editorial internship at [Contemporary And.](#)

October 2020: Co-author and performer in "casting circles" with Daniella Mooney for the Peep Show Online Exhibition

September 2019 - February 2020: Writer at the dance review portal, [Tanzchreiber.de](#)

August - September 2019: Performed in "[Retrospective](#)" by Xavier Le Roy at the Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, Berlin.

November 2019: Co-author and performer in "courtyard dances", a film and sound installation and performance with Coila-Leah Enderstein at Zwitschermachine Gallery, Potsdamerstr. 161, Berlin.

June 2019: Authored and performed "i'm haunting you now" commissioned for the Antidote Movement Festival in Soest, The Netherlands.

October 2019: Short performance-lecture-film "i'm haunting you now" screened at 34th Annual South African Visual Arts Historian Association (SAVAH) Conference, 'Speaking with ghosts: Hauntology, memory, nostalgia and other ways of engaging with past/present/future'.

January 2018: Co-authored and performed "[Closet](#)" with Kopano Maroga at On the Roof Dansfestival in Brussels, Belgium.

November 2018: Performed "Short Stories for Dance & Music" with Evgenia Chertvertkova, Vincent Audusseau and Robin Brink at ACUD Theatre in Berlin.

March 2018: Facilitated writing and movement workshops in the context of Any Body Dance Lab performance residency in Cape Town.

5, 6 & 10 September 2017: Performed in "Fou de Danse der Volksbühne" by Boris Charmatz.

January 2017 – October 2017: Organizer & participant in "Live Arkive", a performance exchange between artists from Windhoek, Namibia and Cape Town, South Africa investigating creative archival practices.

September 2016: Performed "Closet" with Kopano Maroga at MoMo Gallery, Cape Town.

September 2016: Short dance film "[Rhythm Study](#)" exhibited at the Joburg Fringe Festival.

August 2016: Performed "Closet" with Kopano Maroga at 'Embrace Tiger Return to Mountain' exhibition curated by Alma Martha Project in Cape Town.

July 2016: Short dance film "Rhythm Study" exhibited at the Collaborations Exhibitions at the National Art Gallery of Namibia in Windhoek.

January 2016: Short dance film "[Genesis 2.7](#)" selected to play at The Tanzrauschen International Dance on Screen Festival in Wuppertal, Teatro Martins Gonçavez, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil and AiM - Africa in Motion at the Dance Base, Edinburgh Scotland.

February 2016 – Current: Co-founding editor of [ANY BODY ZINE](#), a non-profit cultural organization and publication for independent artists in southern Africa.

May 2015 – July 2015: Performed "Cipher" at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival season for Underground Dance Theatre in Cape Town.

August 2015 – October 2015: Performed "Cipher" at the Baxter Dance Festival Season for Underground Dance Theatre in Cape Town.

October 2015: Performed "[TOME](#)" with Coila-Leah Enderstein and the solo "Shirtology – With Apologies to Jérôme Bel" at the Baxter Dance Festival Off Main Program, Cape Town.

November 2015: Performed "TOME" with Coila-Leah Enderstein at Purpur Festival of Transgressive Arts, Cape Town at Youngblood Gallery.

November 2014 – February 2015: Co-founded and worked on editorial team for *Artwolfe Zine*, a DIY Namibian community publication about art and performance.

August 2014 - October 2014: Choreographer and Director's Assistant for 'The Complete Works of Shakespeare' by the Namibian Theatre Initiative in Windhoek, Namibia.

Additional
Information:

Languages:

English – Mother Tongue

French – Fluent / Conversational (Level B2)

German - Beginner (Level B1)

References:

Jenna Bass: Director of *Love The One You Love*, filmmaker and founder of *Jungle Jim*, Cape Town, South Africa. Email: jseebass@gmail.com

Kristina Johnstone: Founder of New Dance Lab and Underground Dance Theatre in Cape Town and PhD student at the Witwatersrand University Johannesburg. Email: kristina.helenajohnstone@gmail.com

Xavier Le Roy: Choreographer and artist. Email: xavier.le.roy.11@gmail.com