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Dr. Adelheid Frackiewicz



Here to be Thought -provoking

Drawing the line: Art, identity and finding meaning in what remains.

For Dr. Adelheid Frackiewicz, art is as much about asking questions as it is about creating something new. Through her work, ideas around identity, memory, displacement and belonging are given physical form, inviting people to reconsider the experiences and histories that shape who they are.

Named an Absa L'Atelier Art Ambassador in 2021, Dr. Frackiewicz has developed an artistic practice spanning drawing, sculpture, installation and land art. Her work examines the relationship between people, place and memory, and how individual experiences connect to larger stories about home and belonging.

These themes took centre stage in her 2025 solo exhibition at Cape Town's AVA Gallery, presented as part of Absa L'Atelier's Pan-African Gallery Exhibition Series. The exhibition explored identity, displacement

and belonging, reflecting on both the personal and collective architectures of home.

Dr. Frackiewicz is particularly interested in how ordinary materials, objects and marks can hold extraordinary meaning. A line can become a boundary, a connection or a point of departure. An object can retain traces of a person, place or experience long after the moment has passed. Through these elements, she creates space for audiences to think differently about memory and the things they carry with them.

Her artistic voice also forms part of a wider conversation about women and their place in society. During Women's Month 2025, Absa highlighted Dr. Frackiewicz as one of two female artists featured in its Pan-African Exhibition Series, recognising how her work explores women's evolving roles in society and personal transformation through visual art.

Her journey reflects the enduring legacy of Absa L'Atelier, which celebrates 40 years of supporting emerging African artists in 2026. This milestone will be marked through the 40 Doors Absa L'Atelier Art Legacy event, opening at Nine Yards in Johannesburg.

The exhibition will then travel to Rosebank Mall, Menlyn Shopping Centre and Mall of Africa, culminating in the 2026 Absa L'Atelier Art & Lifestyle Fair on Saturday, 10 October.

Being part of an artistic community has helped position Dr. Frackiewicz's work within a broader Pan-African conversation in which different identities, experiences and creative perspectives can be seen and considered.

Her story is a reminder that art does not always need to provide an answer; sometimes its greatest value lies in giving people the space to question, remember

and see something familiar differently. Drawing a line is not necessarily about creating an ending; it can be an opportunity to consider what came before, decide what deserves to be carried forward and make space for the next part of the story.