

# Albert Adams

09 June - 29 July 2017



Albert Adams | *Kirstenbosch II* | 1990 | Oil on Canvas | 153 x 153 cm

ALBERT ADAMS (1929 – 2006)



Albert Adams at work in Mark Attwood's Artists' Press studio on Waterfield Farm near White River.

Photo credit: Tamar Mason

Albert Adams spent most of his adult life in England, having grown up under South African Apartheid rule, which was the initial inspiration for his paintings and prints reflecting themes of suffering and injustice.

He was born in Johannesburg in 1929. His father was Indian and his mother classified as 'Cape-coloured'.

Albert was refused entrance to the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art because of his skin colour, so Albert worked as a window dresser while saving up to enroll for a teaching degree.

He was actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement, but after being arrested twice, applied to study art in England, where he won a scholarship to study at London's Slade School of Fine Art from 1953-57.

He then won a scholarship to the Munich School of Art. He was exposed, during this time, to the expressionist work of Oskar Kokoschka (which had been branded 'degenerate' by the Nazis).

Oscar Kokoschka recorded an address for Albert's first major solo exhibition in Cape Town in 1959, in which he said: *"We live with closed eyes, not daring to see the misery we create on earth. The task of the artist is to see."*

After the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, where police killed 69 people during an anti-apartheid protest, Albert moved to London permanently, where he continued to bear witness through his art to injustices and inhumane acts perpetrated internationally.

Britain's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq affected him deeply and he joined a 'Stop the War' march in London in 2003. He based several works on nightmarish newspaper images of prisoners at Abu Ghraib in Baghdad and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

His contribution has ultimately led to his recognition as one of South Africa's great 20th Century artists.



1.

*Ape on Standing Man*  
2001  
Etching, Aquatint  
41.5 x 29 cm

R 65 000



2.

*Circus I*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



3.

*Circus II*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



4.

*Circus III*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



5.

*Circus IV*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



6.

*Circus V*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000





7.

*Circus VI*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



8.

*Circus VII*  
2006  
Lithograph  
83 x 63 cm

R 50 000



9.

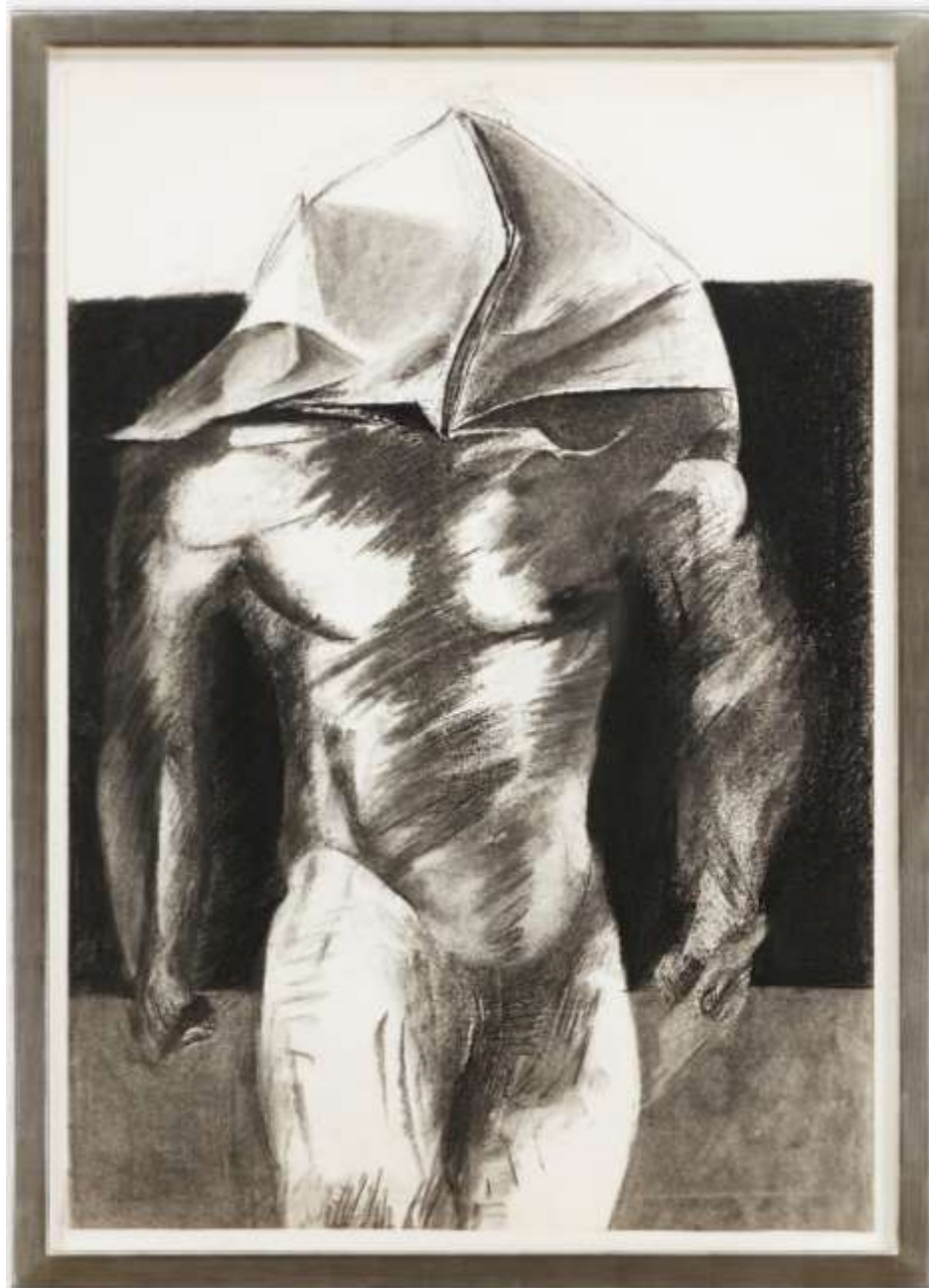
*Locusts*

1996

Charcoal on Paper

135 x 132 cm

R 180 000



10.

*Male Figure*  
1980  
Charcoal on Paper  
108 x 78 cm

R 120 000



11.

*Spotted Chameleons*

1980

Pastel on Paper

144 x 165 cm

NFS



12.

*Kirstenbosch II*  
1990  
Oil on Canvas  
153 x 153 cm

R 500 000