

## ERASMUS STA (DOCENCIA+FORMACIÓN) 4-10 MAYO 2021

**PERSONAL INVITADO:** NORA KOVATS (STUDIO NORA KOVATS)

**COORDINACIÓN IMPLICADA:** Joyería Artística

**ACTIVIDADES A REALIZAR:** Taller práctico.

**ENLACE WEB:** [www.norakovats.com](http://www.norakovats.com)

### ABOUT

Nora Kovats is a contemporary jewellery designer, illustrator, writer and botanical enthusiast from South Africa.

Through her creative practice, Nora has begun to open a window into an imaginary world where botanical and animal shapes merge to construct a unique visual language. As an 'identity-hopper', both South-African and European, she is interested in the way stories, layered over each other countless times, construct human identities. Identities are infinitely complex and fragmented compositions, stories-in-stories-in-stories, overlapping, fragile and fluid, yet so powerfully definitive.

Nora studied contemporary jewellery design at Stellenbosch University near Cape Town. After graduating with her Masters in Visual Arts, Nora set up her own studio.

In 2016 she moved her atelier to Berlin, where she lived for four years, exhibiting both in Germany and internationally on a regular basis. Recently, Nora relocated to the picturesque town of Bamberg.

Nora acts as an ambassador for the hand-crafted. She sincerely believes that a path towards a positive future for humankind leads through strengthening and inspiring the act of imagining in herself and others.

## Statement

*As an "identity-hopper", both South-African and European, I am interested in the way stories, layered over each other countless times, construct how humans think about themselves. Identities are infinitely complex and fragmented compositions - overlapping, fragile and fluid, yet so powerfully definitive. I attempt to represent this idea visually in the form of complicated, multi-layered structures in my jewellery and watercolour paintings: stories-in-stories-in-stories. I am particularly fascinated by boundaries. Can one even say precisely where one entity ends and another start? The closer you look, the more difficult drawing a clear line becomes. At a microlevel, boundaries become pixelated, see-through; holes open up to porous membranes that permit a glimpse beyond.*

*My work is largely botanically inspired, perhaps influenced by my childhood in South Africa. Gardens can be metaphors for identities, always growing, evolving, spilling over their boundaries. The image of the garden unites the desire to organize and discipline nature - that need for boundaries - with the equally human urge to be unconstrained, free, to break through boundaries.*

*Fire – heating metal and enamelling – is my language of creating. I am drawn to enamelling as a technique because of its uniqueness and its seductive possibility for spontaneity, dictated by the firing process. My method is becoming more experimental as I am growing in my practice, savouring the burns and scars of this haphazard process. Enamel dust is thrown at the metal almost violently, layer upon layer, then ground off again, scraped, colours bleeding into one another, bruised, fired over again until I achieve that mottled brightness fringed with the burn. I love the immediacy and the rhythm of this process; I breathe it when I work. Yet it cannot be completely impulsive, there are natural laws to be obeyed, melting temperatures and properties of metals to consider, the language of the colours to respect. Enamelling is the marriage of something wild and untameable with an ordered, measured, law-abiding other.*



# NORA KOVATS

Contemporary jewellery & objects

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## EDUCATION

2009

Abitur (German A-Levels) | German International School Cape Town

2010 - 2013

Bachelor of Arts – Creative Jewellery Design & Metal Techniques  
University of Stellenbosch | South Africa | *cum laude*

2014 - 2016

Master of Visual Arts | University of Stellenbosch | South Africa | *cum laude*

## EXHIBITIONS

2013

- I. *Thuthuka Jewellery & Product Development Competition* winner's exhibition | University of Johannesburg
- II. Stellenbosch University Gradex | graduation exhibition

2014

- I. *Keith Dietrich Award Exhibition* | Gallery University Stellenbosch
- II. *[O]bject House Art Exhibition* in conjunction with Cape Town Design Capital 2014

2015

- I. *Precious Obsession* | exhibition | Brundyn Gallery | Cape Town
- II. *ABSA L'Atelier 2015 Finalists' Exhibition* | Rust & Vrede Gallery Durbanville | Cape Town

2016

- I. *Imagining Paradise: MA Graduation Exhibition* | Gallery University Stellenbosch | January
- II. *Om te Droom* | group show in conjunction with the *Endler Gala Concert Series* | Stellenbosch | February
- III. *A New Wave* | group exhibition at Southern Guild Gallery Cape Town & Johannesburg
- IV. *Droombos* | group exhibition at Slee Gallery | Stellenbosch October
- V. *Phoenix* | solo show in Brandenburg | Germany | December

### ADDRESS

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Germany

### TEL

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### WEB

[www.norakovats.com](http://www.norakovats.com)

### BLOG

[www.norakovats.com/blog](http://www.norakovats.com/blog)

### INSTAGRAM

@studionorakovats

### FACEBOOK

@NoraKovatsJewellery

## SPECIFIC INTERESTS

Enamelling, especially in terms of pushing the technique's limitations and experimenting; colours and their meaning; watercolour painting; mythology; narratives and storytelling; boundaries and how humans negotiate them; cultural identities and how they shift; alchemy; the history of gardens, gardening and new developments in urban gardening; the concept of paradise; interdisciplinary approaches to contemporary art.

## ASSOCIATIONS

### AKBB – Angewandte Kunst Berlin-Brandenburg

(Applied Arts Association  
Berlin & Brandenburg)  
member since 2018  
board member since 2019

### Künstlersozialkasse

member since 2017

## EXHIBITIONS (continued)

2017

- I. *Glimpses of Eden* | Imibala Gallery | Somerset West | Cape Town  
February

2018

- I. *TRANSFORMATION* | awards exhibition | Berlin state prize for applied arts | Berlin Kunstgewerbemuseum | March
- II. *South African Contemporary Jewellery Awards* exhibition | Fada Gallery | Johannesburg | April

2019

- I. *South African Contemporary Jewellery Awards* exhibition | Fada Gallery | Johannesburg | April
- II. *Oustok-Jongstok* | group show | Brandwag Farm | South Africa  
September
- III. *Now-Now* | Contemporary Jewellery Exhibition | San W Gallery  
Shanghai | October
- IV. *A Perfect Pair* | group show | Tinsel Gallery | Johannesburg  
November

2020

- I. *FOUR ELEMENTS* | awards exhibition | Berlin state prize for applied arts | Berlin Kunstgewerbemuseum | April
- II. *Es grünt so grün* | summer exhibition | Handwerksform Hannover  
June

## GENERAL

Regular participation at trade fairs & art shows since 2017:

*Eunique* in Karlsruhe | *Designer's Open* in Leipzig | *Design & Craft Fair* in  
Hildesheim | *Zeughausmesse* in Berlin | *Tendence* in Frankfurt *IHM/Handwerk*  
& *Design & Munich Jewellery Week* in Munich

## AWARDS

2013

- I. National overall winner at *Thuthuka Jewellery & Product Development Competition* | "Mermaid Egg" concept  
Johannesburg
- II. *Keith Dietrich Award* | award for academic excellence |  
Stellenbosch University

2015

- I. 2015: Top 100 | Absa L'Atelier Art Competition | Cape Town

2018

- I. Final round: *Berlin State Prize Competition for Applied Arts*  
Kunstgewerbemuseum Berlin
- II. Third Prize: *South African Contemporary Jewellery Awards 2018*  
Johannesburg
- III. *FORM Award* at *Tendence Design Fair* | Frankfurt am Main |  
Germany

2019

- I. Final round: *South African Contemporary Jewellery Awards 2019*  
Johannesburg

2020

- I. Final round: *Berlin State Prize Competition for Applied Arts*  
Kunstgewerbemuseum Berlin