

Jillian Ross
Biography
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Jillian Ross was born in Canada in 1978 and completed a Bachelor of Fine Art degree with great distinction at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 2002. She began her career in 2003 at the David Krut Workshop (DKW) in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the mentorship of David Krut, who has been in print publishing for over 40 years. Working together, Ross and Krut established a team of dedicated printers specializing in intaglio printing, relief and monotype techniques.

From 2003 to 2020 Ross was the Master Printer of DKW and worked with over 100 South African and international artists, such as Mongezi Ncaphayi, Deborah Bell, Stephen Hobbs, Robyn Penn, Maja Maljević, Pebofatso Mokoena, Jurgen Partenheimer, Locust Jones, Kate McCrickard, Chris Cozier and Mikhael Subotzky. Ross has a major emphasis on working with both established and emerging artists. Throughout her work, particularly in the publicly accessible open-studio format of DKW at Arts on Main in Johannesburg, she has promoted and enhanced artist, collector and public knowledge of printmaking through mentorship, educational workshops and knowledge sharing.

Ross has collaborated extensively with William Kentridge since 2006 on over 190 prints. While at DKW, Ross and Kentridge completed several major projects including the *Triumphs and Laments Woodcuts* (2016–2021), *The Universal Archive* (2011–2015) and *The Nose* (2006–2010).

Her collaborations can be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Yale University Art Gallery and the Print Study Centre at the University of Alberta among others.

Ross returned to Canada in 2020 and with her partner, Brendan Copestake, founded Jillian Ross Print (JRP) in 2021 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. JRP is a collaborative print studio and print publisher that focuses on collaborative projects in South Africa while developing new working relationships in Canada. Early in 2021, Jillian Ross was the artist-in-residence at Griffin Art Projects in North Vancouver, and JRP collaborated with curator Lisa

Baldissera on the exhibition *William Kentridge: The Colander* at Griffin Art Projects.

Ross's projects in Canada include several residencies: leading the artist-in-residence for the BAiR Text program at the Banff Centre in 2016, artist-in-residence at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in 2021 and artist-in-residence at the University of Alberta, Department of Art and Design from 2020 (ongoing).

JRP's recent collaboration with Kentridge, *Studio Life Gravures* (2020–2023), was created with the technical team at the University of Alberta, Department of Art and Design, completed with DKW in Johannesburg and co-published with David Krut Projects. Additionally, in 2022–2023 JRP co-published prints with Latitudes Online for South African artists Cinthia Sifa Mulanga and Puleng Mongale and released *Prairie Braids* with Saskatchewan artist Wally Dion.

In 2024 the Remai Modern will present two exhibitions exploring the nature of collaborative printmaking. *Live Editions: Jillian Ross Print* will install a working print studio in the Connect Gallery of the Remai Modern to edition Ross and Kentridge's current project from *The Great Yes, The Great No* (2023-ongoing). Over the four-month presentation, gallery audiences can learn how a print edition is made from start to finish and view prints from JRP's last three years of print collaborations. The second exhibition, *Life in Print: William Kentridge and Pablo Picasso*, includes Kentridge linocuts from *The Universal Archive* from the David Krut Workshop and Picasso linocuts from the Remai Modern's archive.

Ross's collaborative projects are well-documented through publications, such as the recent release of *Prints and Their Makers* by Master Printer Phil Sanders, and art journals such as *Art South Africa, de arte, Art in Print, Printmaking Today, Border Crossings* and *Art on Paper*. Ross continues to present lectures and talks at all levels of educational institutions, auction houses, art fairs and online platforms as part of her commitment to education in print.

Ross's aim is to bring her skills in printmaking to the arts in Canada and to bridge her two home countries by continuing and developing relationships within the international print ecosystem. Ross is currently an advisory board member for the Prairie Art Network.