

## chronology

- 1886** Magdalena Maria Laubser born on the wheat farm, "Blou-blommetjieskloof" on 14th April. Eldest of the six children of Gerhardus Petrus Christiaan Laubser and Johanna Catharina Laubser (née Holm).
- 1893** Attends farm school, Rocklands, and takes piano lessons privately.
- 1897** Attends Bloemhof Seminary, Stellenbosch. Art as a school subject is taught by Miss Wilson (later Mrs. Rowan) in accordance with the conventional methods of the time.
- 1901** Interrupts her education to give her brothers the opportunity to study. Enjoys the freedom and spaciousness of farm life. Devotes time to needlework and attends singing lessons in Cape Town under Mrs. Vincent. Meets Beatrice Hazel, a realistic romantic style painter who introduces her to Prof. Edward Roworth.
- ±1903** Attends painting lessons for two months under Prof. Edward Roworth. Meets W. R. Burns who stimulates her interest in English literature. Paints from postcards.
- 1909** Works included in the SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION.
- 1912** Visits family in Pretoria. Employed as a governess on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Wolmarans in Ermelo district, Transvaal. Teaches Art and Needlework at Ermelo. While on vacation in Durban, befriends Jan Hendrik Arnold Balwé, (Consul for the Netherlands in Durban 1903–1913) shipping-line owner and successful businessman who offers to finance her and her sister, Hannah's studies overseas.
- 1913** Travels with Hannah to the Netherlands in October to study music and the visual arts. Resides in Laren. Befriends Ita Mees, a Dutch actress and Frederik van Eeden, author and poet of the eighties. Anton Mauve's studio is at her disposal. Befriends Frans Langeveld, a Dutch landscape painter and Laura Knight, English painter of horses and circus scenes.
- 1914** Leaves the Netherlands for England to continue her studies at the Slade School of Art, London. Studies under Professor Wilson Steer, W. W. Russell and A. MacEvoy, who notice her strong compositional talent and ability as a portraitist. In order to retain her individuality, she refuses to paint while studying. Models numerous busts in clay and develops a control of form to be utilized in her painting.
- 1915** Returns to South Africa. Visits the farm Oortmanspost purchased by her father in 1914. Returns to the Slade School in London. Friendship with painter Arnold Balwé (son of J. H. A. Balwé) who studied at the Academy in Antwerp and was influenced by Vincent van Gogh and Hans Vollmer.
- 1918** After the First World War 1914-1918, travels with the Balwés to Italy. Passes through Southern Germany where she is introduced to the work of the German Expressionists. Paints together with Arnold Balwé in Italy, particularly at Torri-del-Benaco and San Vigilio near Lake Garda.
- 1919** Leaves England for Antwerp, Belgium.
- 1920** Resides and paints near Lake Garda in Italy and in San Vigilio. Undertakes short visit to South Africa.
- 1921** Returns to Italy in February. Towards end of year again visits South Africa.
- 1922** Arrives in Germany. Numerous works with German motives and oil sketches from nature as well as harvesting scenes are executed. Contacts and befriends Irma Stern in Berlin. Secures lodgings at Fräulein Finck's pension near Tiergarten where she meets numerous members of the diplomatic corps. Paints portraits and attends music concerts. Befriends pianist Wilhelm Busch and the Swiss Otto Glone. Introduced by Arnold Balwé to Prof. Jächels, a portrait painter under whom she studies in Berlin. The works of the expressionists, Emil Nolde, Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, Max Pechstein, Frans Marc and Eric Waske, stimulate and clarify her aim. Befriends Schmidt-Rottluff. Accompanied by Irma Stern, undertakes a sketching tour of three weeks to the Baltic Sea.
- 1924** Death of J. H. A. Balwé. Returns to Cape Town in November and settles at Oortmanspost. August — Exhibits FERDINAND POSTMA-BIBLIOTHEEK, POTCHESTROOM.
- 1924 or 1925** Exhibits ARGUS GALLERY, CAPE TOWN. Finds herself surrounded by a Victorian atmosphere where all are sceptical about her work. First exhibition in CAPE ARGUS GALLERY — Art critics write disapproving critiques (Bernard Lewis (Brander), Melvin Simmers and L. L. van Oordt.). Meets D. C. Boonzaier (cartoonist for Die Burger) and sculptor Moses Kottler.
- 1929** A close friendship with Mieke Siegers, the new Dutch teacher at Klipheuwel, Malmesbury, leads to an introduction to Prof. and Mrs. P. Serton who encourage her to hold an exhibition in Stellenbosch in September. (Assisted by Prof. A. C. Celliers and Dr. Koos Botha.)
- 1929** Exhibits STELLENBOSCH. Achieves official recognition when works are purchased by the Union Government for Embassies in Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and United States of America.
- 1931** Nov. FIRST TRANSVAAL EXHIBITION at MACFADYEN HALL OF THE TRANSVAAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (now the University of Pretoria). Exhibits MARTIN MELCK HOUSE, CAPE TOWN. Undertakes sketch tours: Waenhuiskrans (Arniston), Langebaan, Gansbaai, Elim. Visits the Transvaal, paints on a farm in

the Standerton district and near Nelspruit, Kaapmuiden and Irene, the Orange Free State, where she paints in the Ficksburg district, and Natal.

- 1942** Exhibits ARGUS GALLERY, CAPE TOWN.
- 1944** After the death of her parents, settles at the Strand, Cape, at "Altyd Lig".
- 1945** May: Exhibits SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.  
June: Exhibits CONSTANTIA GALLERY, JOHANNESBURG.
- 1946** Receives Medal of Honour for painting from the South African Academy of Arts and Science in November. May: Exhibits CONSTANTIA GALLERY, JOHANNESBURG.
- 1947** Receives the Oscar award for painting from Die Vaderland.
- 1948** March: Exhibits DERRY'S GALLERY, CAPE TOWN.
- 1948** June: Exhibits BLOEMFONTEIN, ORANGE FREE STATE.
- 1949** Feb.: Exhibits ARGUS BUILDING.
- 1949** Exhibits CONSTANTIA GALLERY, JOHANNESBURG.
- 1950** April: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.
- 1952** April: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.  
Sept.: Exhibits PRETORIA.
- 1953** Oct.: Exhibits WHIPPMAN'S GALLERY, JOHANNESBURG.
- 1954** May: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.
- 1955** May: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.  
Sept.: Exhibits TECHNICAL COLLEGE, PRETORIA. S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS.
- 1957** May: Exhibits ARGUS GALLERY. S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS.
- 1957** Death of her brother Gert. Experiments with abstract forms.
- 1959** Elected an Honorary member by the South African Academy of Arts and Science.
- 1959** April: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.  
Sept.: Exhibits PRETORIA.
- 1961** Sept.: Exhibits HENRI LIDCHI GALLERY, DURBAN.
- 1965** May: Exhibits S.A. ASSOCIATION OF ARTS, CAPE TOWN.
- 1965** Aug.: Exhibits HENRI LIDCHI GALLERY, DURBAN.
- 1968** April: Exhibits SILBERBERG GALLERY (FESTIVAL OF THE SOIL).
- 1968** Nov.: Awarded the South African Association of Arts Medal.
- 1969** RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION, SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL GALLERY, PRETORIA ART GALLERY AND JOHANNESBURG ART GALLERY.

#### IMPORTANT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1909** Second Annual Exhibition of the Fine Arts Association, Cape Town.
- 1922** Twenty first Annual Exhibition, S.A. Society of Artists, Cape Town.
- 1929** Inaugural Exhibition of the "Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurvereniging (F.A.K.)", Bloemfontein.
- 1932** First S.A. National Gallery Annual Exhibition, Cape Town.

- 1933** Second S.A. National Gallery Annual Exhibition, Cape Town.
- 1936** Fifth S.A. National Gallery Annual Exhibition, Cape Town.
- 1936** Empire Exhibition, Johannesburg.
- 1937** Art from the Commonwealth Exhibition, Royal Institute Galleries, London.
- 1938** Orange Free State Society for Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Bloemfontein.
- 1943** Fifth Annual New Group Exhibition. Argus Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1944** New Group Spring Exhibition. Argus Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1945** New Group Spring Exhibition. Argus Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1947** New Group Exhibition. Argus Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1948-9** South African Art. Fine Arts Association, Cape Town.
- 1948** Exhibition of Contemporary South African Paintings, Drawings and Sculptures, Tate Gallery, London.
- 1949** New Group Exhibition. Association of Arts, Cape Town.
- 1951** New Group Exhibition. Association of Arts, Cape Town.
- 1952** Exhibition of Contemporary S.A. Art, Van Riebeeck Festival, Cape Town.
- 1952** New Group Exhibition. Association of Arts.
- 1952** Venice Biennale XXVI, Venice.
- 1953** Central African Rhodes Centenary Festival Exhibition, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia.
- 1954** Venice Biennale XXVII, Venice.
- 1955** Historical Exhibition of South African Art. Pretoria Centenary, Pretoria.
- 1956** First Quadrennial Exhibition of South African Art. Association of Arts, Cape Town.
- 1958** Academy for Arts and Science Festival Exhibition, Stellenbosch.
- 1959** Still Life and Flowers by some Women Artists of the Cape Peninsula. S.A. National Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1959** Eight Contemporary South African Painters. Gemeente Museum, Den Haag, Netherlands.
- 1960** Festival Quadrennial Exhibition of S.A. Art. Association of Arts.
- 1960** Looking at Landscape — S.A. Landscape Painting 1910 — 1960. Festival of Union. S.A. National Gallery, Cape Town.
- 1963** Retrospective Exhibition. Gallery Egon Guenther, Johannesburg.
- 1964** South African Masters. Association of Arts.
- 1964** Third Quadrennial Exhibition. Association of Arts.
- 1966** South African Art of the Twentieth Century. Rembrandt van Rijn Art Foundation, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch.
- 1966** Annual Exhibition Eastern Province Society of Arts and Crafts.
- 1967** A group of ten best South African Women Artists. Adler Fielding Galleries, Johannesburg.
- 1967** Cape Art '67. S.A. Association of Arts, Cape Town.