



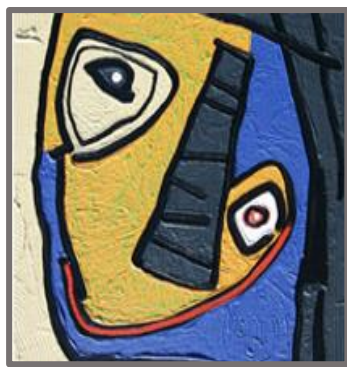
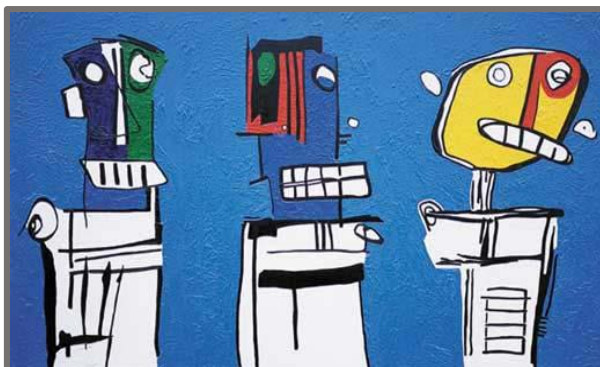
Paul

# Paul du Toit

*'I can't live with dark art, it depresses me.'*



**Paul du Toit  
(1965 - 2014)**



Paul du Toit grew up in Mayfair, Johannesburg, and his time was spent between his artist aunt, Elizabeth van der Sandt, and his father's workshop, where he used to create sculptures out of electrical gadgets while his aunt tutored him in oil painting techniques. After matriculating, he was conscripted to the RSA Airforce in 1985. During that time he did carpentry and his first bronze work of an aeroplane.

After visiting Italy in 1992, he was inspired Michelangelo's 'David' which ignited his passion for his artwork. In 1994 he visited Paris and was exposed to sculptures at the Louvre made from polyurethane foam metal drums and plastic

He returned to South Africa and started making sculptures in his garage, from discarded materials. Paul studied IT and had no formal Art training. .

His paintings are bold and dynamic and his use of primary colours have a distinctive childlike and naïve characteristic.

His sculptures are made out of found objects retrieved from scrapyards which are sandblasted, coated with automotive paint and painstakingly refashioned into intricate, colourful constructions.

Paul worked from his studio in Hout Bay. He married Lorette in 1988.

At the age of 48, he died of cancer.

Paul started using an impasto technique (thick industrial paste into which he scratched lines and images) which was to become intrinsic to his style of automatic scribbling. The term 'primitive' may be used in critical analysis of du Toit's work,

**'Du Toit's art is his own; a linear, phantasmic world that he has created from his mind and experiences.' He worked in painting, sculpture, paper and mixed media.**

<http://www.pauldutoit.com/2012/about.html>

"I force myself to be uncontrolled so I can keep things pure," he said. "I always say it has to be ugly enough. Then I know it's complete."



Bold colours, naive figuration and rapid-fire lines signalled the work of an artist in a hurry. "I always feel as though I am running out of time," he said. "What drives me is my curiosity. It's what drives, or should drive, any artist – a constant hunger to discover new things."

<https://mg.co.za/article/2014-01-30-a-light-soul-dispelled-the-dark>



His sculptures are constructed from found industrial metal parts, and his oil and impasto paintings are variations of child-like imagery.

‘Painted in bright, crude swathes and primary colours, the portraits have been affectionately compared to the impromptu faces that kids make from potatoes and other objects of a playful eye.’

‘Inspired by the shadows cast from his sculptures, these works exude a whimsical spontaneity that is absent from his labour-intensive, meticulously reworked sculptures.’

<http://www.artthrob.co.za/01sept/reviews/bbr.html>

As a child he started out drawing crude drawings.

After developing rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 11, his aunt bought him books artists such as Joan Miro and Dutch painter, Karel Appel. ‘I thought to myself, “Wow, its ok to draw this way.”’



[https://pauldutoit.wordpress.com/2012/09/28/prestige-magazine-feature-on-paul-du-toit/prestige-magazine-october-2012-p84-87-art\\_paul-du-toit-2/](https://pauldutoit.wordpress.com/2012/09/28/prestige-magazine-feature-on-paul-du-toit/prestige-magazine-october-2012-p84-87-art_paul-du-toit-2/)