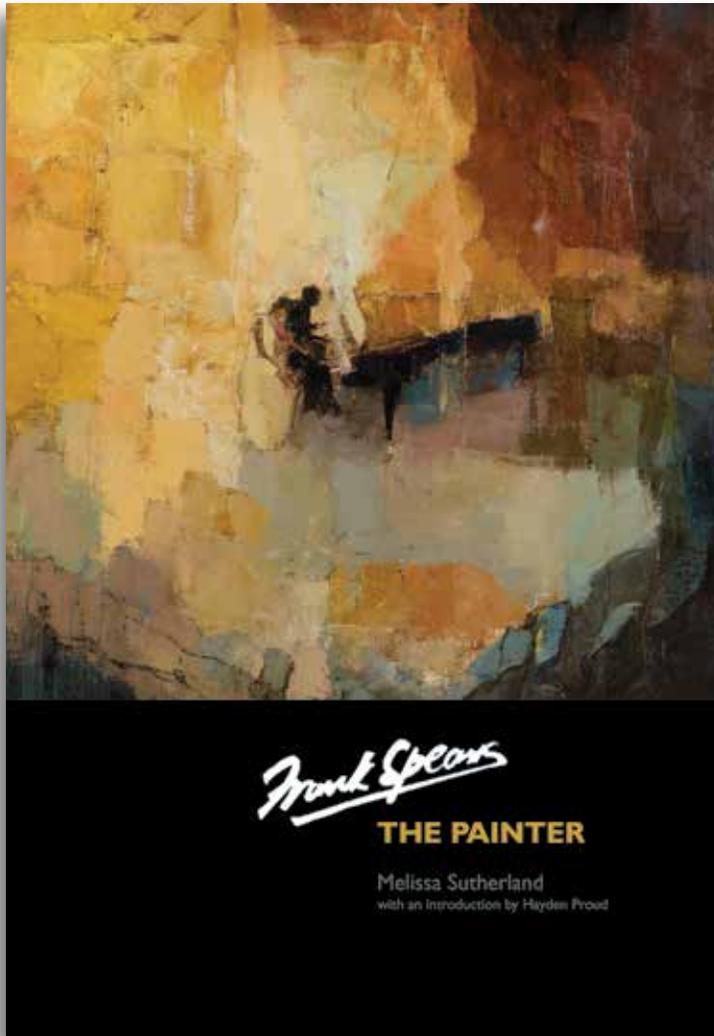


In 1928 a young English draughtsman arrived by boat in Table Bay aged 22 not knowing that the next 40 years of his life would be spent in South Africa.



BOOK DETAILS

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Frank Spears 1906–1991: a man of many talents, he painted throughout his life, first in water colours and then oils. His works were included in over 100 art exhibitions, both solo and group collections. His paintings were chosen on several occasions to represent South Africa in international exhibitions.

Writing about his painting in 1981 he said: 'The value of a picture lies in its ability to awaken a sense of the underlying magic of the totally mysterious universe of which we are part.'

Esme Berman in her book *Art and Artists of South Africa* said of his painting: 'There is an intimacy about Frank Spears's portrayal of his subjects that evokes immediate and warm response from viewers.'

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Frank Spears – the painter is a visual biography which traces his life from his humble beginnings in Birmingham to his professional life in Cape Town where he met his wife of almost 60 years, the poet, Dorothea Spears. As well as becoming a successful businessman, yacht designer, actor and playwright, singer and broadcaster, he was also a painter whose work is represented in public and private collections worldwide.

'... This gifted and thoughtful artist is constantly on the move to new and unexplored artistic territories. In such completely spiritualised work one cannot fail to see that Frank Spears is one of the leading masters in South Africa.'

Professor Matthys Bokhorst
Director of the South African National Gallery

Drawing on original archival material and research, Melissa Sutherland reveals the changing influences on the work of this mystical painter.

'... I try to discover and portray the essential unity of the subject in such a manner as to assist the viewer to perceive the same glimpse as has been given to me. I cannot conceal the subject which originally inspired me. I think such an act would be dishonest.'

Frank Spears
Drian Gallery Catalogue, 1974

From top to bottom:

Sails
Canal in Venice
The Procession of Saints
The pond at Meonstoke House
Spirit of the Cities



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MELISSA SUTHERLAND enjoys writing biography and memoir as it captures the past for future generations. She describes herself as a global citizen, passionate Capetonian, wine tourism promoter, professional tour guide and entrepreneur. Melissa returned to Cape Town in 2006 having lived and worked for more than a decade in New York and Sydney. In the early years of South Africa's democracy she served as a Vice-Consul for Political and Cultural Affairs in New York.

Melissa majored in English and French at UCT. She obtained a Diploma in Publishing and Editing and worked at McGraw-Hill educational publishers in Sydney. In 2008 she started her own company, Vindigo Travel whose mission is to share and connect people and opportunities around wine, art and travel.

HAYDEN PROUD is Curator of Historical Paintings and Sculpture at Iziko Museums of South Africa in Cape Town, working with the collections of the Iziko SA National Gallery and the Michaelis Collection of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the Iziko Old Town House on Greenmarket Square. He is also involved in teaching on a new training programme for aspirant curators at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Hayden studied art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, as well as at UNISA and UCT. He has curated many exhibitions locally and internationally. He has written and edited many publications on South African art, including Revisions: *Expanding the Narrative of South African Art* (UNISA Press/SAHO, 2006).



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