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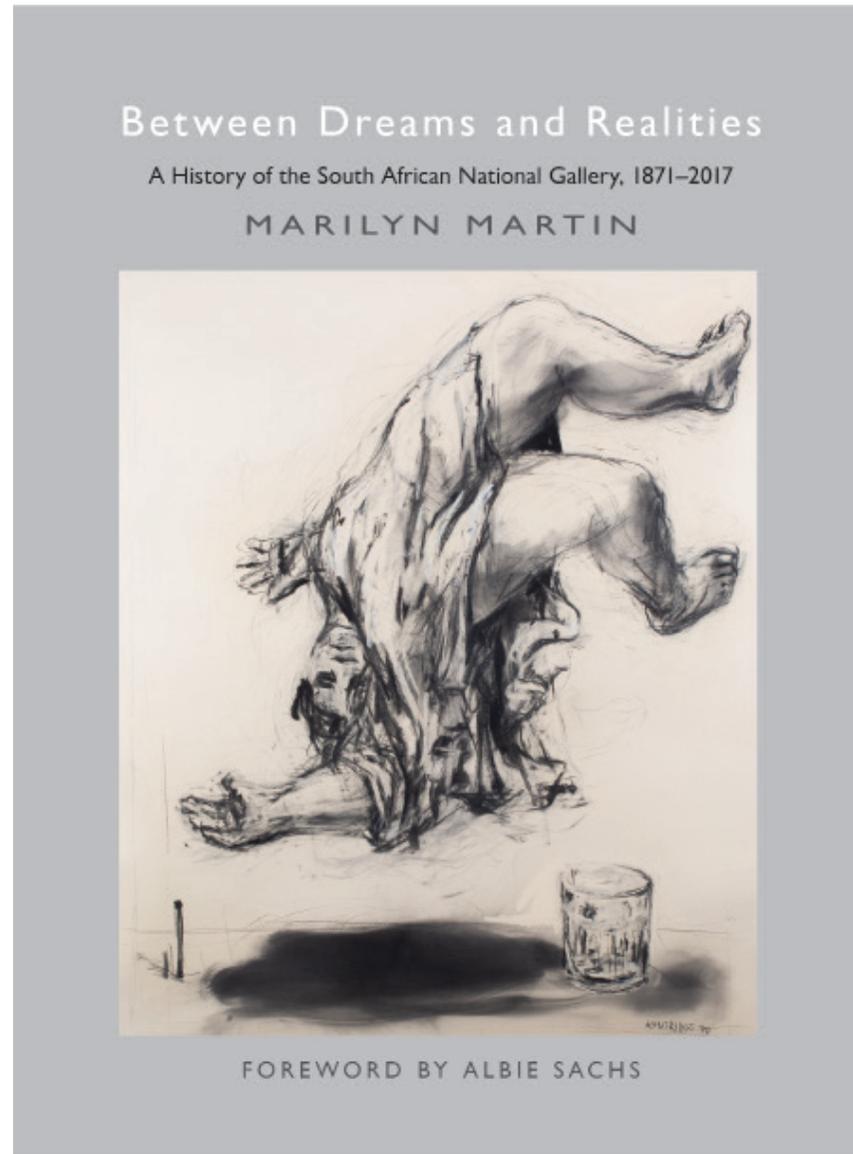
WRITTEN BY MARILYN MARTIN, a former director of the South African National Gallery, *Between Dreams and Realities* is based on extensive research and experience. This book revisits important exhibitions, events and forgotten controversies; it highlights the achievements of directors, who often faced political agendas and strained relationships within and outside the institution.

*Between Dreams and Realities* considers the aspirations and role of civil society in creating and maintaining a national institution for the common good. Concurrently, the book examines long-standing government disinterest and neglect for the museum, and the difficulties that confronted directors in acquiring a collection worthy of its status. It also tells the story of excellent public cooperation and support, and of boards of trustees, directors and staff together overcoming the realities of budget cuts, government interference and severe space constraints.

*Between Dreams and Realities* is a celebration of South Africa's heritage and cultural wealth; it contributes to the fields of museum, heritage, cultural and curatorial studies, as well as visual and art history. It opens up the discourse and revives interest in public art museums in general and in the national art museum in particular, while offering perspectives on the future, and galvanising custodians and the public into action.

FOR THE FIRST TIME within the South African art historical discipline we have here an all-encompassing text by a respected art- and architectural historian who has the courage to boldly tackle and address key and controversial issues pertaining to art-political minefields and the frequent lack of support by the State, past and present, regarding the arts in this country.

**EUNICE BASSON**



After eleven years as director of the South African National Gallery, Marilyn Martin was appointed director of art collections for Iziko Museums in 2001. She retired in 2008 and has since worked as an independent writer, curator and lecturer. She is an Honorary Research Associate at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. In 2002 Martin was admitted to the Legion of Honour of the Republic of France at the rank of Officer and in 2013 she received the medal of the Fondation Alliance Française in Paris.

### BOOK DETAILS:

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A History of the South African National Gallery, 1871 - 2017

**AUTHOR:** Marilyn Martin **FOREWORD:** Albie Sachs

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AS CHRONICLED here, SANG's history is told as one of a triumph over adversity, and I agree with Martin that given the museum's precarious status at present, the book provides a convincing argument for its crucial importance as a cultural institution. By charting its history, Martin concludes with her hope that it provides a road map for its future as well.

**PAMELA ALLARA**