

# CAMILLA PONTIGGIA

ARTIST | FILMMAKER

## professional experience.

INDEPENDENT ARTIST, FILMMAKER, RESEARCHER  
present

At present I work as an independent artist, filmmaker, and researcher. These roles are employed across a series of independent projects: I am furthering research into decolonial and embodied feminist methodologies that offer filmic, artistic, and day-to-day alternatives to Western normative options in regards to socio-economic narratives, artistic modalities, and justice practices. Using my artistic research I develop workshops, dialogue sessions, and academic papers for local and European universities. Here I explore -among others- the power dynamics of researcher positionality in the context of racialized structures, and how embodied practices can help to unravel these. I'm developing three original screenplays whilst also taking on freelance directing, videography, editing, and art department roles for private clients and the film sector. I would relish taking on lecturing roles in which I can help students think and question critically for themselves, and empower them with artistic, written, and critical tools that help them reshape their worlds.

CONTRACT WORK IN THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR  
University of Ca' Foscari, Venice (ITA)  
2025

Presenter and facilitator of the online critical creative writing workshop, "*Performing 'Things I Found Nelle Viscere': Using Art And Creative Writing To Promote Plurilingualism*", for students and lecturers of the Department of Linguistics and Comparative Cultural Studies. This practical workshop took my translingual creative writing and research as a starting point for attendees to think critically through the power dynamics of their native and inherited languages. From there they followed prompts in order to write their own translingual prose.

University of Padua (ITA)  
2025 & 2024

Presenter and facilitator of the online workshop, "*Things I Found Nelle Visere*", for students of the Masters in Local Development, in the Department of Historical and Geographical Sciences and the Ancient World. The workshop began with a screening of my performance, based on my research of the transcontinental colonial ties between South Africa and Italy. We then went into a dialoguing session with attendees to think critically about their varying positionalities as researchers of local development in foreign contexts.

Wits School of Arts  
University of the Witwatersrand (SA)

- 2023: I assisted the lecturers of the Film, Visual, and Performing Arts course with mid year marking of 1<sup>st</sup> year essays, and worked with the university's digital administration platform to input marks and give feedback.
- 2022: Invited by Gabrielle Goliath to facilitate an embodied creative and academic writing workshop with students of the Fine Arts honours programme. This was both a theory and practical workshop. I shared ideas about embodied research methodologies; we experimented with tools such as guided meditations and stream of consciousness writing; we looked at experimental texts ranging from poetry, cookbooks, fiction, and essays, in which creative writing modalities became strategies to weave dense academic research and social histories into engaging texts.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES  
2022 - 2024

I took a sabbatical from work, and, with funding by the National Arts Council, the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, the Arts and Culture Trust, and Arts Research Africa (Mellon Foundation), I was able to pursue an MA in fine arts. I took this time out in order to hone my craft, as well as my critical and intellectual praxis as both an artist and filmmaker, particularly in regards to pivotal intersectional issues of justice. This time was also used to explore ways in which I could create a more transdisciplinary practice across film and art.

## education.

2022 - 2024  
*Master of Arts in Fine Arts (with distinction)*  
University of the Witwatersrand.

2007 - 2010  
*Bachelor of Arts (Hon.) in Fine Arts (with distinction)*  
University of the Witwatersrand

2009  
*6 month course in stop motion animation, WITS Digital Arts*

academic awards  
*Giovanna Millner Scholarship for Distinguished Work in Fine Arts and History of Art*

## recent awards.

- *People's Choice Award* winner, Contra Fair
- *Womxn To Watch Award* winner

## get in touch.

✉ [camilla.pontiggia@gmail.com](mailto:camilla.pontiggia@gmail.com)

☎ (+27) 081 490 8482

🌐 [www.camillapontiggia.com](http://www.camillapontiggia.com)

📺 [vimeo.com/camillapontiggia](https://vimeo.com/camillapontiggia)

📷 [@camilla\\_pontiggia](https://www.instagram.com/camilla_pontiggia)



## professional experience cont.

### INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER

2019-2021

I went independent and started my own freelance filmmaking business. I worked as a director, videographer, editor, and script writer. During this time, two of my original screenplays were selected for development; one through the Durban International Film Festival; the other through the KZN Film Commission and Urban Vision (Jayan Moodley).

### COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

tomfoolery tv - 2017-2019

As a creative director, I oversaw and managed the creative workflow of a team of editors, animators, and copywriters, right from concept to final handover. Alongside this, I was also an in-house director (and occasional videographer) of brand stories, commercials, and documentaries, many centred around issues of social justice. This involved in-depth research into topics, synthesising complex issues into compelling narratives that held complexity and nuance in a heartfelt, honest way; designing and presenting creative treatments to clients; creating precise pre-production documents (identifying people to interview, interview lists and questions, input in production budgets, creating shot lists, documentary scripts, clear creative direction for the team); communicating clearly with clients at each stage of production; clear briefs for my team regarding client notes and changes; and making sure that deadlines were on track.

### PRODUCTION MANAGER & ART DIRECTOR

tomfoolery tv - 2015-2016

This role at a production company started out in production management, and included being a client liason (in-person and via email communication), managing traffic and deadlines across several projects, and managing suppliers. I was then offered a creative role as the in-house art director, which included art direction, props and wardrobe sourcing, and on-set styling. Both of these roles included managing a team of animators, editors, and freelancers, and ensuring that the creative aspect of projects from concept to final hand-over were well executed, on brief, and to the client's satisfaction.

### ART AND DESIGN LECTURER

boston city campus - 2015

This position involved lecturing 1<sup>st</sup> year students on the basic foundations of art and graphic design. This included theory (e.g. color wheels) and practice (e.g. drawing). Course textbooks were provided, which I used as the starting point to flesh out teaching sessions.

### HISTORY OF ART AND DESIGN LECTURER

inscape design college - 2015

This position involved lecturing 1<sup>st</sup> year students about the history of art, with a particular focus on the history of architecture and design within the arts. This involved prepping notes and slides for lecturing sessions, marking of essays, planning an interactive outing on the historic architecture of Durban, and basic administrative work on Inscape's digital administration platform.

### ARTIST ASSISTANT

dala artarchitecture - 2014-2015

Artist assistant at Dala Artarchitecture, an NPO and artist collective whose primary purpose was to create art around issues of land and socio-spatial justice in South Africa, in order to promote dialogue and awareness with the public and local government.

### ITALIAN TEACHER

italian institute dante alighieri - 2014-2015

Italian teacher for one year to a group of primary school learners as an after school italian language programme at the italian language institute of Durban.



## art exhibitions.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 - *Mending A Kitchen Table*, August House (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2024 - *Things I Found Nelle Viscere*, The Point of Order (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2024 - *Things I Found Nelle Viscere*, Museo di Geografia (Padua, Italy)
- 2024 - *Things I Found Nelle Viscere*, Biblioteca di Vobarno (Vobarno, Italy)

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 - *The Last Straw: From Needle Point To Infinity Point*, Nuru Showroom (Cape Town, South Africa); co-curated by VIVIERS, Li Edelkoort & Philip Fimmano
- 2025 - *Salon Vanguard*, August House (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2024 - *The Myth Of A Woman*, Ellis House Gallery (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2024 - *From Root To Route*, August House (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2023 - *Pingyao Photography Festival* (Pingyao, China)
- 2023 - *Quanzhou Photography Biennale* (Quanzhou, China)
- 2019 - *Know This Place?*, KZNSA Gallery (Durban, South Africa)
- 2019 - *Sister Outsider*, Community ZA Gallery (Durban, South Africa)
- 2015 - *Image[s] Fragile[s]*, La Box Gallerie (Reunion Island)
- 2010 - *Martiensson Prize Exhibition*, Museum Africa (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2010 - *New Work*, Main Street Life (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2008 - *I Was Younger Then, I'm Older Than That Now*, Park Gallery (Johannesburg, South Africa)

## art residencies.

- 2024: Selected for the *Womxn To Watch Award*, a three month residency at August House (Johannesburg, South Africa), culminating in a solo exhibition in August 2025.

## prizes & awards.

- 2025 - *Peoples Choice Award* winner at Contra Fair (Johannesburg)
- 2025 - Tierney Photography Fellowship finalist and Special Mention awardee
- 2024 - Recipient of the *Womxn To Watch Award*
- 2024 - Ellis House Residency Finalist
- 2023 - Recipient of the *National Arts Council (NAC) Scholarship* award.
- 2022 - Recipient of the *Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) Scholarship* award.
- 2021 - Recipient of the *Arts and Culture Trust (ACT) Scholarship* award.
- 2021 - Recipient of the *Arts Research Africa (ARA) Scholarship* award.
- RISE: Black Ocean (Documentary):
  - 2020 - Nominated for Best Post-Production at *Global Lift-Off Network's 2020 Season Awards*
  - 2019 - Official Winner of the *Global Lift-Off Network: First Time Filmmaker Sessions*
- 2010 - Selected for *Martiensson Prize* competition and exhibition at Museum Africa, Johannesburg.
- 2010 - Recipient of the *Giovanna Millner Scholarship for Distinguished Work in Fine Arts and History of Art* award.



## select film & commercial projects.

### FEATURE FILMS

whitenoisewhitegirl | (in production) director, videographer  
The Missionaries | (in development) director, writer  
IGGANG | (in development) director, writer  
Welcome To Sotswanaland! | (in development) director, writer  
Those Who Dwell In Darkness | (in development) production designer  
Dreams Of Gomorrah | production designer  
Dinner To Die For | art standby  
Greytown Girl | art standby

### DOCUMENTARIES

#Am I Next? | (produced for eTV) director, scriptwriter, editor  
Rise: Black Ocean | director, scriptwriter, editor  
Good Governance Africa: Cities | director, narrative editor  
Fresh Start Anti Human Trafficking | director, animator, editor  
Open For Business: a public art series | director, editor

### BRAND CAMPAIGNS

Opennetworks + Google | director, videographer, editor  
Open Circles Dialogues | director, videographer, editor  
Morrells Boutique Hotel | director, videographer, editor  
Harvest Renaissance Conference | director, videographer, editor  
Big Box Co. | director, videographer, editor  
ISCA Taps 2018 Trends | director, art director  
Varsity College Campus Tour Series | director, videographer  
FMI Insurance: 21 Lives Documentary Series | director, videographer  
Varsity College Head of School Series | director  
Bidvest Insurance Series | director, editor

### COMMERCIALS

Tharisa Mine Commercial 2025 | art director  
ABSA Sunshine Ladies Tour Commercial 2025 | art director  
Telkom SME Product Commercial 2025 | art standby  
Durban International Film Festival Commercial 2017 | director  
Game Winter 2017 | director  
Game Winter 2016 | director  
Game April Fools 2016 | director  
Sey Pearl soft drinks 2018 | director  
Ouma Rusks Dip It Campaign 2017 | production manager, art director, art standby

### TV SERIES

Spoorloos Season 5 | props assistant  
The Great South African Bake Off Season 1 | art standby  
e-tv Mzansi Love | art standby

### MUSIC VIDEOS

Gangs of Ballet: Something | art director  
Josh Wantie: Fall Again | art standby

## festival screenings.

- Rise Black Ocean (Documentary):
  - 2020: Lift-Off Los Angeles Film Festival, Raleigh Studios (Hollywood, USA)
  - 2020: Lift-Off UK Sessions Film Festival, Pinewood Studios (Buckinghamshire, England)
  - 2020: Classics In The Park Film Festival, Akola Boni Park (Accra, Ghana)



## get in touch.

 [camilla.pontiggia@gmail.com](mailto:camilla.pontiggia@gmail.com)

 calls /sms (+27) 081 700 9684  
whatsapp (+27) 081 490 8482

 [www.camillapontiggia.com](http://www.camillapontiggia.com)

 [vimeo.com/camillapontiggia](https://vimeo.com/camillapontiggia)

 [@camilla\\_pontiggia](https://www.instagram.com/camilla_pontiggia)

## film labs.

2020 - 2021: Selected as a participant in for the KZN Film Commission/Urban Vision Slate Funding For Feature Film Development, with the original screenplay IGGANG (One year screenwriting workshop).

2020 : Selected as a participant for the Durban Film Mart Jumpstart Script Lab with the original screenplay, The Missionaries. The script lab was part of the Durban International Film Festival in partnership with Produire Au Sud, and Festival de 3 Continents (Two week script lab).

## conferences & panel discussions.

- 2025: Presenter at the GALA (Global Academy of Liberal Arts) Online Conference. Paper presented: *Attuning To Aesthesis: Reparative Artistic Meditations on The Kitchen Table, Communion, Food, And Love.*
- 2024: Presenter at the GALA (Global Academy of Liberal Arts) conference, *How Can The Liberal Arts Help A World in Crisis?* Paper presented: *The Hi-Stories Of whitenoisewhitegirl: Unravelling A Colonial Blueprint.* Hosted by Bath Spa University in Bath, England.
- 2024: *Things I Found Nelle Viscere: Un Dialogo Con Camilla Pontiggia, Prof. Andrea Pase E Prof. Tania Rossetto.* Public dialogue hosted by the Museo Di Geografia in Padua, Italy.
- 2024: *Thinking Through Alternative Forms of Knowing, Being, Doing, And Resisting: A Conversation Between Prof. Mariasole Pepa And Camilla Pontiggia.* Public dialogue hosted by the Museo Di Geografia in Padua, Italy.
- 2022: Presenter at the WSOA postgraduate conference, *Art Matters: Inherited Histories And The Politics of Mapping.* Paper presented: *BAD MATHS TAXI (and other border stories).* Hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand at The Point of Order in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## interviews.

- 2024: Interview with TOLD online magazine: [The Uncomfortable, Constant, And Necessary Work Of Decolonization](#) in Padua, Italy.
- 2020: Online interview and roundtable discussion with the winners of the 2019 Global Lift-Off Network: First Time Filmmaker Sessions, and the festival programmers.