

1934

Born Pretoria South Africa.

1951

Matriculates Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool Pretoria.
Is awarded 4 year Athletic Scholarship in springboard diving to University of Oklahoma USA.

1952

Enters School of Art, University of Oklahoma.
Studies under Professors Amelio Amero – Stone Lithography, John O'Neil – Painting, Eugene Bavinger – Design.

1954

Studies ballet – Oklahoma City.

1955

Marries Gwen Drennan of Oklahoma City, a dancer and fellow art student.

1956

Wins diving honours at University, Regional and National level.
Is awarded Letzeiser Medal for best student in faculty of art.
First one-man show – Student retrospective in University Fine Arts Building.
Graduates from University of Oklahoma with BFA in Information Design and Painting.

1957

Employed one year as a designer with the Graphic Arts Centre in Oklahoma City.

During return trip to South Africa, visits the major museums of New York City, Washington D.C. and London.
Settles in Pretoria.

1958

Establishes Ernst de Jong Studios, Pretoria and for the next three years teaches part-time at Pretoria Technical College introducing new directions in the teaching of Information Design.
During the next 15 years (1958 to 1973) Ernst de Jong Studios employs and trains many of South Africa's top designers and produces much of South Africa's prestige graphic work as well as several award winning exhibitions and pavillions.
Ernst de Jong Studios comes to be regarded as the top graphic design firm in South Africa. In 1968 the Studios establishes a Film division producing many excellent advertising films which have a notable impact on cinematographic trends in South Africa.
With the field of Corporate Image the Studios pioneers a new direction in South African design.
Work of the Studios gains National and International recognition as in the National Design Contest of 1972 arranged by the newspaper, RAPPORT, where it takes the major prizes. On several occasions the world's most influential graphic design publications – Graphis of Zurich and the New York Art Directors Annual – select work by Ernst de Jong for reproduction – a singular honour for a South African designer.

1959

One-man show South African Arts Association (SAAA) Gallery Pretoria.
Stone Lithography and paintings.
Daughter Giselle is born.

1960

Wins South African Springboard Diving Championship.
Group Show Queen's Hall, Johannesburg.
Exhibition SAAA Gallery Pretoria.

1961

Designs several private residences in Pretoria including own.
Son Marc Ernst is born.
Exhibition Gallery 101 Johannesburg with Robert Hodgins.
Relief steel and gold leaf assemblages.
Wins National competition for two 20' x 10' mosaic murals for the Transvaal Provincial Administration Building. Is commissioned to design a linear steel mural for the new German Embassy in Pretoria. Completes same year.

1962

Exhibition Gallery 101 Johannesburg. Welded steel and gold leaf paintings and lithographs. Exhibition SAAA Gallery Pretoria.
Relief paintings in gold leaf and steel.

1963

Is appointed director of Intam Advertising Agency.
Is appointed Advertising and Design advisor to United Tobacco Company.
Completes mosaic murals 'Day' and 'Night' for the new Transvaal Provincial Administration Building in Pretoria.
Exhibits 6 slides of paintings in an exhibition entitled Distinguished Former Art Students at University of Oklahoma.

1964

Exhibits graphic design work for show 'Intergraphis' – Montreal.
Exhibits 20 paintings at Galleria Montenapoleone Milan.
Exhibition SAAA Gallery Pretoria. Gold leaf and white paintings.
Exhibition Gallery 101 Johannesburg.
Is commissioned to design concrete relief motifs for the Atomic Energy Research Centre Pelindaba.
Is commissioned to design mosaic mural for the Permanent Building Society Kimberley.
Completes mural same year.

1965

Travels to America and Europe. Meets Thomas Messer, curator of Guggenheim Museum, who expresses interest in his work.
Studies development of many related art fields: Painting, Graphics, Film, Photography and Design in the United States of America and declines several possible positions with organisations there.
Visits museums and galleries of several American cities as well as Amsterdam and Rome.
On return to South Africa concentrates on printmaking, primarily Serigraphy.
Takes up diving coaching and during the course of the next 9 years sees 5 pupils achieve Springbok Colours.

1966

Exhibition Gallery 101 Johannesburg.
Predominantly gold leaf and silver foil paintings.
Exhibition SAAA Gallery Pretoria.
Silver paintings and experiments in Op Art.
Exhibition SAAA Gallery 'Printmakers'.
Stone lithographs and serigraphs.
Designs State President's Sport Award.
Work shown on Republic Festival Exhibition.

1967

Exhibition SAAA Gallery Pretoria. Graphic work – predominantly serigraphs.

Exhibition Gallery 101. Paintings, serigraphs and lithographs. Graphic work exhibited at Memorial University Newfoundland.

1968

Work shown on Golden Jubilee Exhibition of the Eastern Province Society of Fine Arts Port Elizabeth.

Is commissioned to paint 127' mural for new

Jan Smuts International Airport Johannesburg.

Designs 3 General Hertzog postage stamps with illustrations by Irmin Henkel.

1969

Designs 12½c Heart Transplant Stamp.

Completes airport mural.

Is elected National Springbok Diving Coach and tours Europe with National Diving Team.

Produces Oklahoma series,

a portfolio of 12 multicolour serigraphs.

Makes another European tour to study hotel design visiting Lisbon, London, Copenhagen, Geneva, the Riviera and Rome.

1970

Exhibition Goodman Gallery Johannesburg – Oklahoma series.

Exhibits serigraphs in Transvaal Art Show, Bloemfontein.

Attends World Diving Coaches Association Congress in Germany and is appointed Representative for Africa.

Visits museums in Basle and Zurich.

Completes 5 paintings for IBM's Pretoria Showroom.

Shows 'Reclining Nude' at Gallery 101 Exhibition 'THE NUDE IN 101'.

Elected Chairman South African Diving Board of Control.

1971

Exhibits Winter Art Show Johannesburg.

Is commissioned to paint six – 12' x 8' murals for the Arcadia Shopping Centre Pretoria. Is commissioned to design 16 Definitive Postage Stamps for South Africa on the themes of South Africa's Birds, Fishes and Flowers.

Work shown in Republic Festival Exhibition Cape Town.

Work on group show Arts Association Gallery Johannesburg – '10 Artists of today and tomorrow'.

1972

Begins teaching at University of Pretoria inaugurating a new degree course in Information Design.

Travels to USA, makes tour of several University art schools to study recent United States teaching trends.

Studies current American painting scene and New York City museums and galleries.

Reads paper on art education at SAAA Congress in Pretoria.

Oklahoma series selected to represent South Africa at Venice Biennale – subsequently tours South Africa as the Republic of South Africa (RSA) Exhibition.

Sets foundation for the development of an advanced sport training complex in Pretoria.

Attends Olympic Games, Munich and is re-appointed

Representative for Africa to the WDCA. Studies Olympic

Exhibition – *die Kunst der Welt* in 'die Haus der Kunst' – Munich.

Completes murals for Arcadia Centre.

Paints 20' x 40' gold leaf relief mural for the Banking Hall of the United Building Society, Pretoria.

Designs mural for Natal Provincial Administration Building Pietermaritzburg.

Is commissioned to paint 8' x 33' mural for the Everite Company Johannesburg.

1973

Accepts position on Selection Committee for SAAA, Pretoria. Works on the technical artwork for the 16 Definitive postage stamps.

Designs Corporate Image for RSA International Games. Is elected as the first President

of the South African Diving Union.

Works on mural for Everite Company Johannesburg.

Travels to Europe to study museums in Zurich,

Paris and St Paul de Vence

and attends the WDCA congress in Gwatt Switzerland.

1974

Withdraws involvement in many other creative spheres to devote more time to painting.

Completes mural for Natal Provincial Administration Building Pietermaritzburg.

Resigns post at University of Pretoria.

Is appointed by the Minister of Post and Telegraphs to the Stamp Committee.

Besides directing a limited amount of films and design work is appointed creative advisor to the Springs Town Council for the prestige areas of the new civic centre.

Designs 11' x 20' tapestry for the Mayoral Reception room.

Paints painting entitled 'Coal and Gold' for the Springs Mayors Office.

Produces the Springs portfolio of 4 limited edition serigraphs for the council. Designs and directs 6' x 10' painting of the Old Raadsaal - Springs.

His diving pupil, Springbok Gina Lawrie, wins National 1 and 3 metre titles - and is accepted for training by the American Olympic team coach.

Produces portfolio of 4 limited edition serigraphs entitled 'Shells'.

Produces portfolio of 4 limited edition serigraphs entitled 'The Dance'.

20 serigraphs are shown at Basle Art Fair in June.

First one man show in Johannesburg since 1967 in Pieter Wenning Gallery in November.

The 16 Definitive postage stamps are released.