

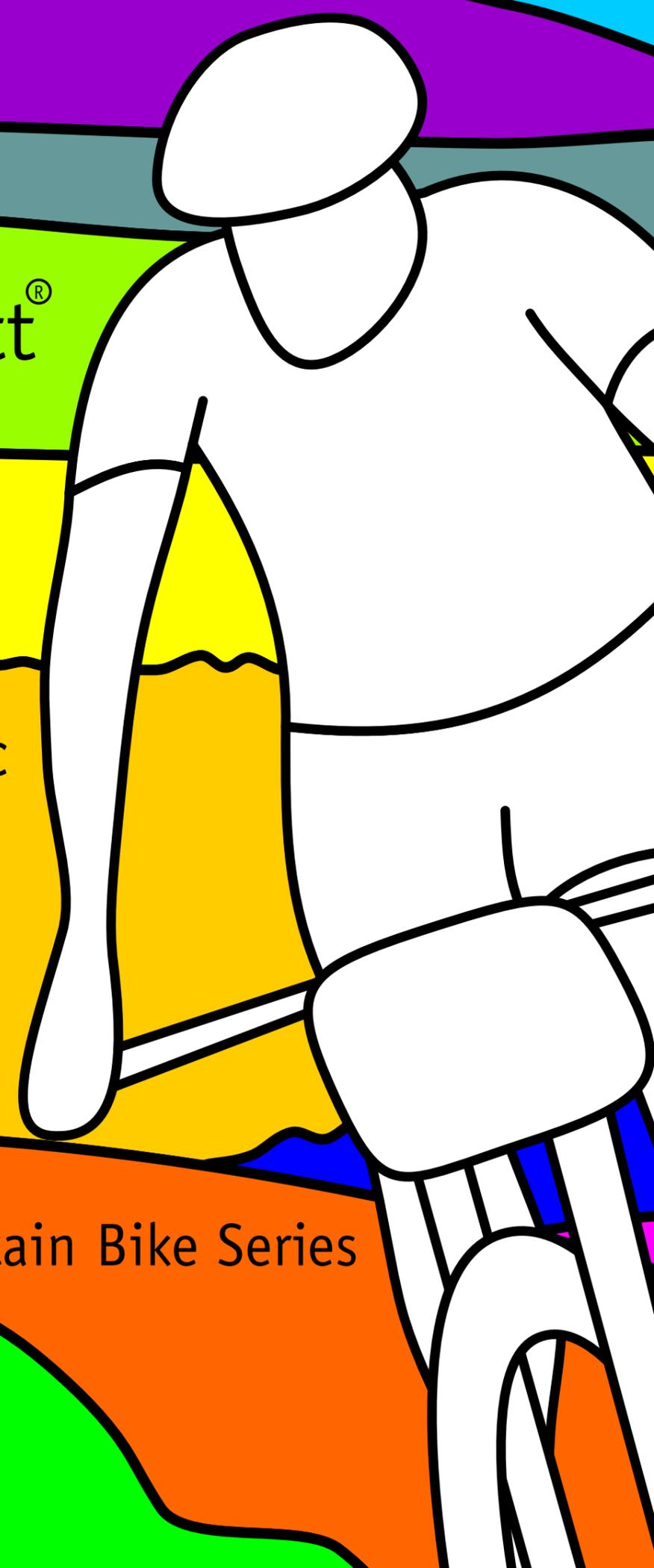
Back cover    Font cover

Richard Scott<sup>®</sup>

2015

Absa Cape Epic

Mountain Bike Series





## The Epic Art of an Epic Race

Art is the creative force that drives and inspires me, filling my days with the joyful toil of bringing colour and line to life. But even the most obsessive artist needs to get out of the studio every now and again, and when that urge overtakes me, I hop on my bike and head for the mountains.

Mountain biking is my sport of choice, and I doubt that there is a more beautiful and challenging place in which to practice that pursuit than in my home province of the Western Cape.

But those trails through the mountains and forests can be gruelling, if you take the scenic route on one of the most epic mountain bike stage races in the world. The Absa Cape Epic.

Known to its ardent devotees as "the Tour de France of mountain biking", the race covers more than 700 kilometres over eight days, on a course that changes every year. For beauty of landscape and test of endurance, it's an event that takes your breath away, and I say that with some conviction, having completed it twice. So my dream as an artist and an Absa Cape Epic racer was to combine my two passions, and it was with this in mind that I approached the founder of the race, Kevin Vermaak, at the 2013 post-Epic auction at Meerendal Wine Estate.

My original idea was to capture the colour and grandeur of the Absa Cape Epic in a single oil on canvas, but that meeting with Kevin led me to believe that the Epic is too epic an event for just one work of art.

Hence the series of five works that you see on these pages, showcasing the different stage locations of the 2015 Absa Cape Epic: Cape Town, Elgin, Worcester, Wellington and Meerendal.

The five original artworks were accompanied by a print edition of each artwork. The print edition is 12, to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Absa Cape Epic. I was thrilled when Kevin announced that the imagery would be used on merchandise in the form of T-shirts at the different stage locations. I hope you enjoy my tribute to this amazing race, as much as I have enjoyed riding it and putting my vision of its beauty and challenges to canvas.

Photo: Richard in his studio applying the black line to the Cape Town painting.

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2015 Absa Cape Epic Mountain Bike Series

Stage Location

1

# Cape Town



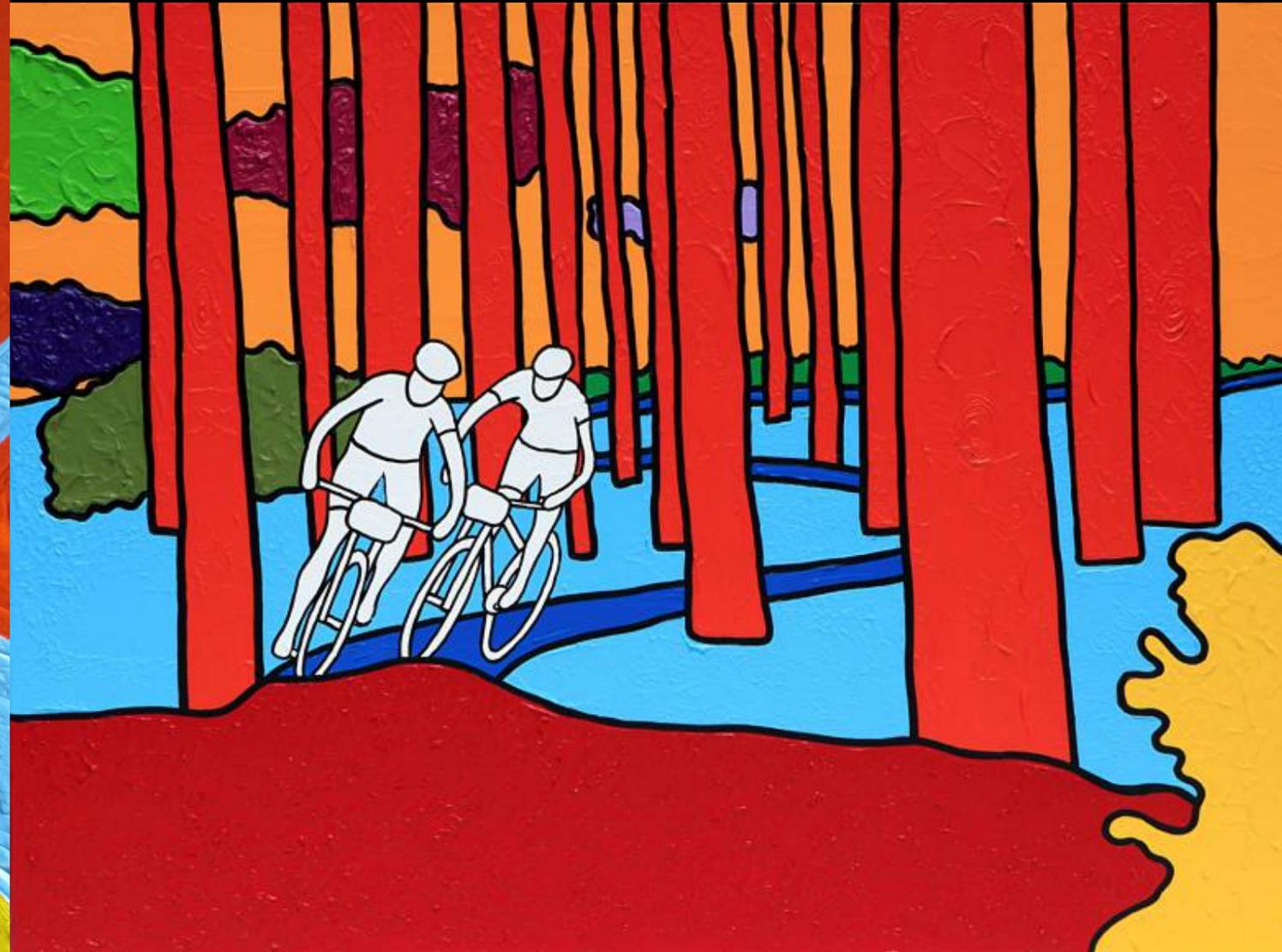
One of my regular training rides is to cycle from my home in Melkbosstrand to Cape Town, and then ride on Table Mountain. It is a nice-warm up ride to Cape Town then a good, fast, climbing workout on the mountain. You have to stop often to take in the magnificent views the trails have to offer. This piece was the first of the five works I completed with colour. The colours used in this painting were then used in the other four paintings.

Photo: Close-up of Richard applying the black line to the Cape Town painting.

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# Elgin



As a mountain biker, you get to know these trees all too well. You glide between them at breathtaking speed, left then right then left, then touch the brake, then apply the power and finally gear up for a steep climb as you exit the forest, only to enter another forest, as you wait a few seconds for your photo-chromatic lenses to adjust.

I enjoyed the wiggly lines of the bushes and pine trees in this work. I think this is my favourite piece. I'm not sure if it is the colour orange, or the trees, or just fond memories of riding this type of terrain.

Photo: Close-up of the Elgin painting, clearly showing the texture of the impasto paste.

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Stage Location

3

# Worcester



The mountains around Worcester are spectacular, from the Hex River Mountains to Slanghoek to Du Toitskloof. For me, it is an exhilarating place to mountain bike.

This painting allowed me to create an array of additional colours in the flowing bushes in the foreground, contrasting with the striking angles of the sharp, rocky mountains in the background.

Photo: Close up the work in progress, showing a cyclist making his way through the beautiful landscape.

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# Wellington



Wellington is one of my favourite places to ride. We often go to Welvanpas and ride all three routes, Yellow, White and Blue, for an Epic training ride. Riding in Wellington offers brutal climbs, smooth winding single track, and fast, cow-trodden, arm-breaking downhills. This piece took me the longest to complete. I'm not sure why. I enjoyed the contrast of red and green, which I am told "should never be seen". But then again, I never did abide by the rules.

Photo: Richard's studio with paintings in progress.  
The Wellington painting stands proudly in the background, waiting its turn for the black line.

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Stage Location

5

# Meerendal



I try not to get into my car and drive my bike to a place where I want to ride. At least once a week, I set off from home and cycle to Durbanville. Most rides end up somehow at the Meerendal wine estate. It's a great little climb, especially if my coach has hill climbs on the programme. Meerendal is also a great place to meet the family half way and have lunch with Willie at the Crown. I thoroughly enjoyed painting the Meerendal painting. It is the most detailed painting of the five. I had never before painted an old Dutch Style House in my contemporary style. I think I need to expand this as a series on its own. A new look at old landmarks.

Photo: Overhead GoPro shot of Richard applying the black line to the Meerendal original painting.

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2015 Absa Cape Epic Mountain Bike Series



## Prints

Each of the 5 Absa Cape Epic paintings has been printed in an edition of 12.

Size: A1 - 84 x 61cm (33 x 24 inches)

Paper: Hahnemuhle Photo Rag 308g

Edition: 12

Print: Giclee

Year: 2014

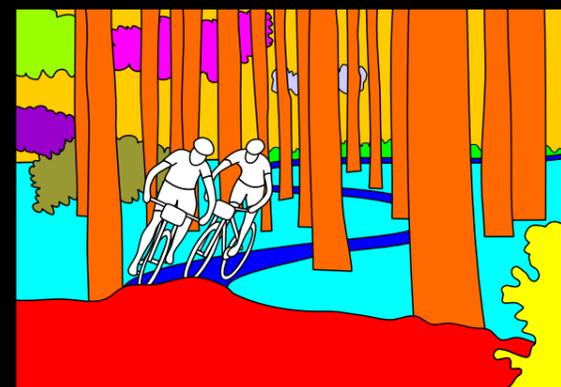
Unframed

The prints are available at:  
[www.richardscott.com/shop](http://www.richardscott.com/shop)

25% of proceeds from the sale of the prints goes to Qhubeka, a charitable organisation that distributes bicycles for transport in rural areas. Visit [www.qhubeka.org](http://www.qhubeka.org) to find out more.



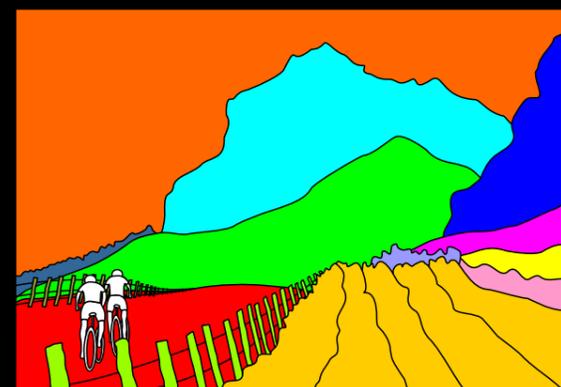
Cape Town



Elgin



Worcester



Wellington



Meerendal

Photo: Close-up of the Elgin print coming out of the printer.

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