

EVERARD READ

ANGELA BANKS

(b. 1977, Johannesburg, South Africa)

Living and working during an uncertain time in South Africa, I am happy to escape it all by delving into painting in my studio on a daily basis. Creating my own narratives and realities in the paintings is a way of escaping the real world for a while, and instead focusing on that which is appealing and uplifting.

As an artist, I am largely influenced by what I consider to be beautiful and want to inspire people to look more carefully at the world around them, to discover charm in unusual places. By exploring the delicate relationship between man, animal and nature, I hope to create an alternative reality where things work very differently and life becomes a type of dream. This too is what I wish for the viewer, to be lost in imagination when standing in front of a painting, to slow down and be lost in another world. – Angela Banks, 2023

Angela Banks is a fine artist living and working in Johannesburg. She received a BA (Fine Arts) in 1999 and MA (Fine Arts) in 2003 from the University of Pretoria. She has since taken part in numerous exhibitions throughout South Africa and abroad, and this is her fifth major solo exhibition. She has been on residencies in both France and China.

Banks is inextricably connected to the portrait as subject, both human and animal, and is in constant pursuit of what lies behind the projection of the outer appearance of a subject. She describes her work as 'a surface search for the hidden reality or identity of the individual, the real story behind the facade'.

The conflict between masquerade and truth, with regards to identity, stems from studies she did delving into Mikhail Bakhtin's carnival theory. He differentiates between the 'official' world where one has a true and real official identity, and the carnival world that allows one an unofficial, 'made up' identity. Banks finds that much of life is a type of masquerade, where the 'made up' has become common place. The disguise is aided by the various masks we adorn ourselves with in order to feel accepted or powerful or 'good enough'. In previous works the artist worked with hybrid human/animal figures, where the animal head became the mask worn to either hide or enhance the individual's identity. In her latest body of work, the animal becomes the subject's companion, confidant, or counterpart.

The depiction of the relationship between human and animal stems back to our prehistoric ancestors who shared their world in paint on cave walls. As John Berger notes, our first paintings and symbols were of animals and paradoxically 'what distinguished man from animals was born out of our relationship with them'. It therefore makes sense to Banks that visually juxtaposing human and animal exposes many large and small intricacies of our humanity. Who we are at our core is evident in who we are like, or not like, in the animal world. Banks likes to look at the relationship created by the human figure and animal creature cast together within a specific space or context, in order to discover more about the character and hidden truths of the painted person.

In her work, Banks aims at capturing in permanent paint, a beautiful yet impermanent moment in time. Her meticulous attention to detail and form produces whimsical narratives of identity through the idiosyncratic relationships between human and animal.

EDUCATION

1999 BAFA, University of Pretoria, South Africa
2003 MAFA, University of Pretoria, South Africa

EVERARD READ

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Future Remembered*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
2022 *Sideways in Time*, Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
2019 *Deep in the Quiet*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
2017 *Glowing Shadows*, Art Lovers Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Feather Collectors, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
2013 *Legal Eagles and Other Juristic Animals*, Law Circle, Pretoria, South Africa
Posing on Pedestals, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
2004 *Rumble in the Jungle*, Gesseau Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Seeing Far*, Glen Carlou Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Group Miniature Show, Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
2021 *Persistence of Vision*, Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
2020 *Classical Painting*, Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
Fleeting Times, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Still, Everard Read, Online
2020 *Easter*, Association of Arts, Online
Phantasmagoria, Lizamore & Associates, Online
2018 *Wool Gathering*, Trent Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Balancing the Acts, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Drawing Exhibition, Pretoria Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Art Alive, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
2017 *Art Alive*, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
Jan Cilliers Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 *Three Man Show*, Gallery 011, Kramerville, Johannesburg, South Africa
Two Man Show, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Jan Cilliers Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Sirens and Sailors*, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Not A Portrait, Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Art Alive, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
Jan Cilliers Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa
2014 *Turbine Art Fair*, Art Source, Cape Town, South Africa
Little Inconsistencies, Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Art Alive, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
Grand Exhibition, Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2013 *Arts Alive*, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
Tom Waits for No Man, Travelling Exhibition
2012 *It Fell from the Sky*, Creative Studio Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2011 *Altered Pieces*, Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Watching on White, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Art Alive, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
2010 *Parallel Worlds*, Innibos Festival, Nelspruit, South Africa
Zoo II, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2009 *Hybrid*, Upstairs @ Bamboo, Johannesburg, South Africa
Walk on by, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Enigma, Upstairs @ Bamboo, Johannesburg, South Africa
Our World Unfiltered, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2008 *Encounter*, Upstairs @ Bamboo, Johannesburg, South Africa
Innibos Festival Exhibition, Nelspruit, South Africa
Dit en Dat, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2007 *Zoo*, Magpie Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Project, Upstairs @ Bamboo, Johannesburg, South Africa
Space, Alliance Franse, Johannesburg, South Africa
2006 *Psykotrope*, Gordart Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

EVERARD READ

- 2005 *Five Women*, Gesseau Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Art Alive, WHPS, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2004 *Miniatures*, Gordart Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003 *About Face*, Centurion Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Femina, Arts Association, Pretoria, South Africa
No-A-Gender, Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2002 *Drawing Conclusions*, Art Association, Pretoria, South Africa
Fresh 6x8, Art Association, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2001 *Launch*, Open Window Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Refill, Tina Skukan Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
Equus, Art Association, Pretoria, South Africa
National Print Exchange, Rhodes University Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2000 *Volkskas Atelier Exhibition*, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
New Signatures Exhibition, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
Veiled, The Millennium Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1999 *Kempton Park Competition Exhibition*, Johannesburg, South Africa
Reginal Turvey Bursary Award Exhibition, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
Bahai Architectural Exhibition, Grahamstown Festival, Cape Town, South Africa
Double Exposure, Voss Street Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa

AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Artist in Residence Exhibition, Shenzhen Fine Art Institute, China
- 2022 Artist of the month January, Awarded by Circle Foundation of the Arts, Lyon, France
- 2021 SPI Portrait award Top 100
- 2019 Finalist Award in Circle Foundation Artist of the Year Competition
ATKV Award for Best Book Illustrator, for *Sasha word stil*, written by Jaco Jacobs
- 2018 Commissioned to paint academic portrait of Chairman of UNISA
- 2015 Commissioned by the Reserve Bank to do a portrait of Governor Gill Marcus
- 2013 SPI National Portrait Award, Top 40, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 Represented South Africa in Focus on *African Culture Exhibition*, China
Top 40 in SPI National Portrait Award
- 2006 Cite Des Internationale Artist in Residence, Paris, France
- 1999 Reginald Turvey Award, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
Franken Award for fourth year student with "most varied and impressive body of work"
Puniv Bursary for Masters Degree at University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

UNISA, Portrait of Chairman
Reserve Bank, Portrait of Gill Marcus
Ellerman House Art Collection
University of Pretoria
Bahai Spiritual Assembly
Stuttaford Van Lines Collection
Rhodes University, Graphic Printmaking Collection
Art House Gallery
TRANSNET
Shenzhen Fine Art Institute, China
Ministry of Culture, China

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2002 Banks, A; Van Eeden, J. 2002. *The Odds on art in Casino Paintings*. Communicatio, University of South Africa