

# EVERARD READ

## **DEBORAH BELL**

(b. 1957 Johannesburg, South Africa)

Deborah Bell is one of South Africa's most celebrated contemporary artists. She works in a range of media on canvas and paper, produces dry point etchings and large-scale bronzes. Her earlier more political work has given way to a broader, deeper investigation into the border between mortality and immortality, matter and spirit, presence and absence, the quotidian and the mythic, the grounded and transcendent. In recent years she has developed an immediately recognisable visual language, her images simple, stark, symbolic – grounded, silent, still, poised. As Ricky Burnett has stated: at the very edge of time.

In her iconography she draws from a range of cultures (including African, Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, early Christian and European) and a range of philosophies (especially the Buddhist preoccupation with stillness and the shedding of attachment and the ego) and psychologies (more Jung than Freud) – but her work digs deeper, arriving finally out of an internal and personal place that Bell occupies in the world as an artist, a woman and an explorer. A central task is to make the unknown present – apprehended in a series of powerful images that are both of her and beyond her. Bell's earlier figures, characterised by entrapment (in the country, in the body), gave way to figures embodying the seeker – often accompanied by boats, horses, chariots. Images of lions, dogs, horses and angels recur. These are often intermediary figures between the physical world and a higher more spiritual realm. They are also aspects of herself – the powerful daemons that reside in all of us, which are often accompanied by solitary female figures, some full of assertive confidence, others more vulnerable and less sure of their agency.

Bell is interested in the half-formed image – the unwritten, as yet unformed spaces we move towards in our quest for self-knowledge. More recent work has also become more concerned with surrender – to the higher self, the mystery of the universe, the simplicity of the present. All her art, she has stated, works towards the Zen mark: the single gesture of absolute presence. Her quest is ongoing – and has left in its wake a series of hugely powerful, totemic images from what Yeats called Spiritus Mundi.

Deborah Bell has worked with a great variety of media during her career and has collaborated on various historically important projects with contemporaries such as William Kentridge and Robert Hodgins. Bell received her BAFA (Hons) and MFA degrees at the University of Witwatersrand, and has been an artist working abroad and a lecturer at various South African tertiary institutions, including the University of the Witwatersrand. Bell lives and works from her studio in Magaliesburg, as well as being a collaborator at the David Krut studios on several projects.

Bell's work is represented in public and private collections around the world including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Smithsonian Institute and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, the Hara Museum, Tokyo and the IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town.

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## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

# EVERARD READ

- 2024 Everard Read , Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020 Sentinels 2020, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019 Enthroned, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Invocations to the Plate, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 Recent Paintings and Sculptures, Everard Read Franschhoek, South Africa  
Uncovering Ancient Memory – 15 Years of Etchings, David Krut Projects, Cape Town
- 2016 Dreams of Immortality: Blood and Gold , Everard Read, London, UK
- 2015 Renunciation, David Krut, Johannesburg , South Africa  
Dreams of Immortality: Return of the Gods, Everard Read, Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 What Would Wisdom Say to Your Dark Heart? Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012 A Far Country, John Martin Gallery, London, and Glyndebourne Opera Festival, UK
- 2011 Presence, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 Alchemy, David Krut, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009 Flux, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Collaborations, David Krut, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 Objects of Power: memory of metal, memory of wood, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005-6 Crossings and Monuments, Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 2005 Crossings and Monuments, Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2004 Sentinels, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2002 Unearthed, Joao Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2001 Unearthed, The Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000 The Journey Home, Art First, London, UK
- 1998 Displacements, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1995 Muses and Lamentations, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1989 Deborah Bell, Potchefstroom Museum, South Africa
- 1982 Deborah Bell, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## SELECTED GROUP (2-3 PERSON) EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2019 Co-responses, with Ricky Burnett, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Deborah Bell, William Kentridge, Diane Victor, David Krut Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997 Collaborations 1986-1997 (11 years of collaborative projects between artists Kentridge, Hodgins and Bell) at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, in association with the FNB Vita Awards, South Africa  
UB101: A portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Kentridge and Hodgins. Grahamstown Festival & Gertrude Posel Gallery. Exhibition curated by Fiona Rankin-Smith, South Africa
- 1994 Memo, installation with video at the Grahamstown festival in collaboration with William Kentridge and Robert Hodgins, South Africa  
Lamentations, Art First, Cork Street. London, UK
- 1993 Easing the Passing (of the hours), Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Portraits in the round, ceramic exhibition in collaboration with William Kentridge & Retief van Wyk at the Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1992 Easing the Passing (of the hours), computer animation, laser prints & drawings in collaboration with William Kentridge & Robert Hodgins, Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1991 Little Morals, a portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Hodgins & Kentridge, Cassirer Gallery, Johannesburg; Gallery International, Cape Town; Taking Liberties, Durban, South Africa
- 1988 Exhibited with Jenny Stadler & Nagel, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1987-8 Hogarth in Johannesburg, a portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Hodgins & Kentridge. This exhibition traveled to all the major centres in South Africa.

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1985 MAFA exhibition, Rembrandt Gallery, Milner Park, Johannesburg, South Africa  
1983-4 Exhibited with Hodgins & Sassoon, Carriage House Gallery, Texas, USA

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 Sentinels (2003), Chelsea Physic Garden, London, UK  
2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Seduction, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Summer Sculpture Exhibition, Riverhill Gardens, UK  
3D IN 22: South African Contemporary Sculpture, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Naughty Aughties, SMAC, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2021 Oasis, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Myths, Martyrs, Monsters & Masterpieces, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa  
Offering, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa  
2020 Odyssey, Everard Read, South Africa & UK  
Still, Everard Read, South Africa & UK  
Pink, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
On Being, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa  
2019 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
2018 FNB Jo'burg Art Fair, with Everard Read, South Africa  
Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair with Everard Read, South Africa  
Summer, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
2017 FNB Jo'burg Art Fair with Everard Read, South Africa  
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Bronze, Steel & Stone II, Everard Read, London, UK  
2016 Bronze, Steel & Stone I, Everard Read, London, UK  
Tacit, travelling exhibition, NWU gallery, Potchefstroom, William Humphrey's, Kimberley, Pretoria  
Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
2015 1:54 Art Fair with Everard Read, London, UK  
2013 Centenary Exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2012 Rainbow Nation: South African Sculptors, Museum Beelden Aan Zee, Den Haag, Netherlands  
2011 HORSE, curated by Ricky Burnett, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2010 TWENTY, 20 Years Of SA Sculpture, NIROX Foundation, South Africa  
2009 Contemporary Sculpture in the Landscape, NIROX Foundation, South Africa  
2007 Lift Off II, Goodman, Cape Town, South Africa  
David Krut print workshop, UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
2005 Art Basel, with Goodman, Miami Beach, USA  
Works on Paper, Collaborative prints from David Krut Print Workshop, Franchise Gallery,  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
David Krut Collaborations: 25 Years of Prints and Multiples, National Arts Festival, Makhanda,  
South Africa  
2004 Earthworks/Claybodies, Sasol Museum, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
2003 Earthworks/Claybodies, Pretoria Art Museum; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
2000 Icons for the Millenium, Atlanta, USA  
1999 The Paper Show, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Emergence, Group Show, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa  
Artery, AVA Gallery, Cape Town & Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Artists in residence, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, 25th Anniversary, Makhanda, South Africa  
1998 Earth Hues – Contemporary African Art, World Space, Washington DC, USA  
1997 Images and Form: Prints, drawings and sculpture from Southern Africa and Nigeria, Brunei  
Gallery, University of London and Edinburgh College of Art, UK  
The Gencor Collection, Sandton Art Gallery, the Grahamstown Festival, South Africa  
Kempton Park Metropolitan Substructure Fine Arts Award Show, Kempton Park, South Africa

# EVERARD READ

- New Art from South Africa, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
Les Arts de la Resistance (Fin de Siècle à Johannesburg), Galerie Convergence; Galerie Jean Christian Fradin; Galerie Michel Luneau; Galerie les Petit Murs, Nantes, France  
Not Quite a Christmas Exhibition, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
CRAM, AVA Gallery, Cape Town & Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996 Gay Rights: Rites, Re-writes, travelling exhibition, South Africa  
Group Salon, curated by Rose Korber, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa  
Common and Uncommon Ground: South African Art to Atlanta, City Gallery East, Atlanta, USA  
Vita Awards, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
Tomorrow is Now, First Canadian Place & Knights Galleries International, Toronto, Canada  
Barber Signs, The Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Recent Drawings, Gallery on Tyrone, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Ceramics Biennial, Sandton Art Gallery, South Africa
- 1995 The Bag Factory: The First Five Years, Civic Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
The Art of Tea, Kim Sacks Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Group Salon, Rose Korber representing artists at the Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1994 Group Show, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Anything Boxed, Group Show, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
South African works on Paper, North Western University of Illinois, Chicago, USA
- 1993 Gallery on Tyrone, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Vita Awards, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
Momentum Life Exhibition, Pretoria, South Africa  
Internations of Millenium, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1992 ICA, 50 Johannesburg Artists, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Paris: The Catalyst, Alliance Francaise, Durban, South Africa  
Looking at Art: Looking at Watercolours, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Vita Awards, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
Works made in August, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1991 Cape Town Triennial, South Africa  
Painted People: Painted Spaces, Newtown Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Hand Coloured Graphics, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tiny Tapestry Show, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1990 Women choose Women, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Art from South Africa, MOMA, Oxford, UK  
Standard Bank Drawing Competition, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1989 Volkskas Atelier Award Exhibition, South African Vita Awards, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
African Encounters, Dome Gallery, New York and Washington, USA  
The Little Big Show, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1988 CASA (Culture for Another South Africa), conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Volkskas Atelier Award exhibition, South African Association of the Arts. Pretoria, South Africa  
100 Artists Protest detention without trial, in aid of DPSC, Market Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Artists for Human Rights Exhibition, Durban Exhibition Centre, South Africa
- 1986 Volkskas Atelier Award Exhibition, South African Association of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa  
4 UNISA Lecturers, Bloemfontein, South Africa  
UNISA Art Lecturers, Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa
- 1985 Cape Town Triennial New Visions, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
11 Figurative Artists, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## AWARDS & MERITS

- 2013 MEDAL OF HONOUR FOR VISUAL ARTS (Sculpture and Painting), Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie for Wetenskap en Kuns, South Africa
- 1997 APSA Award for the best New Signature, Ceramics Biennial, South Africa
- 1991 Vita Quarterly Award, runner-up for Main Award, South Africa

# EVERARD READ

1986 Mamba Award for the Most Sustained Artist  
Merit Prize Winner, Volkskas Atelier, South Africa

## SELECTED PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

BCE, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Bell, Dewar and Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Bristol Myers Squibb Corp. USA.  
Friends of the National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Hara Museum, Tokyo, Japan.  
Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
Johannesburg City Council, South Africa  
King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA.  
MTN Art Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C, USA.  
Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa  
Roodepoort Museum, South Africa  
IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
BHP Billiton South Africa Ltd.  
Sanlam Collection, South Africa  
Sasol Collection, South Africa  
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C, USA.  
Standard Bank Investment Corporation, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa  
Telkom, South Africa  
UNISA Art Gallery, South Africa  
University of Pietermaritzburg Collection, South Africa  
University of the Orange Free State Collection, South Africa  
University of the Witwatersrand Collection, South Africa

## COMMISSIONS

1999 Sculpture for Standard Bank, South Africa  
1991 Large sculpture for Wits Business School, South Africa  
1991 Artist-in-Residence, Standard Bank National Arts Festival – 25th Anniversary  
Grahamstown, South Africa 1994 Graphics for Weekly Mail Film Festival Poster, South Africa  
1994 Involvement in movie animation for Arts Alive  
1994 Title sequence for Grass Roots, NNTV, South Africa  
1993 Graphics for Weekly Mail Film Festival Poster, South Africa  
1990-1 Set of 6 Graphics for First National Bank, South Africa