

# EVERARD READ

## **LIBERTY BATTSON**

(b. 1990 Benoni, South Africa)

Liberty Battson is inspired by Modernism, and its theories around abstraction and the pursuit for 'truth' and 'true art'. Battson has used Dadaism in particular as her source of inspiration, producing ready-mades and using unconventional ways of transferring paint to canvas. Battson focused on celebrating abstraction and the century since the birth of the idea in visual art circles. Battson focuses on the aesthetic of abstraction to conceptually address bigger issues. It is in the audience's interest to decode the artwork through the playful engagement.

Battson is a conceptual artist born and raised in Benoni, South Africa. She matriculated from St. Dunstan's College in 2009 and obtained her BA(FA) with distinction for her work with automotive paint on canvas in 2013 from the University of Pretoria.

Battson won the 2014 ABSA L'Atelier competition, with her piece 'Odds of an Artist Like Me', a diptych in 2K automotive paint on canvas, which is her preferred medium. As part of her prize, Battson won a 6 month residency at Cité Internationale des Artes in Paris, and a solo exhibition in South Africa in 2016. Notably, Battson was selected to exhibit at the 2022 Dak'Art Biennale in Senegal, with collective Tripe.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

2013 BA Fine Arts University of Pretoria, with distinction  
Standex Qualified spray painter (level 2)

## **EXHIBITIONS AND AWARDS**

- 2024 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2022 Yada-Yada Club, solo, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Dak'Art Biennale, with collective Tripe, Senegal  
Summer, group show, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2021 Spring Show, group exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Offering, group exhibition, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
In Conversation, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 The Fix, solo, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Don't Ask Me Where I'm From, Aga Khan Museum, Canada  
On Being, group exhibition, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Unprecedented Lines, solo, Cubicle Series, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 Art's OK, solo, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
TRIPE, collaborative installation, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Don't ask me where I am from, Galleria delle Prigioni, Treviso, Italy  
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2018 Dada Data, solo, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Innibos National Arts Festival, Nelspruit, South Africa
- 2017 Off the wall: A Group Sculpture Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Southern Abstract, Everard Read, London, UK  
Inside out, two-person show, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, South Africa

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- Curator of The Confessional, Absa Gallery and KKNK, South Africa  
Spectrum, group exhibition at CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Truth Sleuth, solo exhibition at CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
FNB Art Fair, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa, South Africa  
Winter Collection, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town
- 2016 Solo exhibition at Absa Gallery , South Africa  
Venice Architecture Biennale (Cool Capital)  
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg , South Africa  
Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 Solo exhibition at ABSAKlein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, South Africa  
Nominee for Absa KANA Award, South Africa  
Solo Exhibition at Clover Aardklop National Art Festival, South Africa  
The Summer Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, South Africa
- 2014 Absa l'Atelier overall winner  
Cool Capital Biennale
- 2013 PPC young concrete sculpting awards 2012 Fans Favourite winner, South Africa  
Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa  
SASOL New Signatures 2013 merit award winner, South Africa  
Thami Mnyele Fine Arts painting merit award winner, South Africa

## RESIDENCIES

Two-Month residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 2013-2014, awarded by the University of Pretoria.

Seven-month return to Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris 2015 in conjunction with the Absa L'Atelier first prize.

Two-week residency at Mas de Gravieres, Provence, France 2018.

Curator of a three-week residency at Mas de Gravieres, Provence, France 2019 awarded by the organization.

## COLLECTIONS

Battson's work is represented in notable collections such as Nando's Corporate Collection, Spier Collection, Telkom, Sasol, Ellerman House and Absa as well as numerous private collections.