

EVERARD READ

GARY STEPHENS

(b. 1962 Yuma, AZ, USA)

WORK

Monumental in scale, Gary Stephens portraits pay homage to the African traditions of hair-braiding, hats, headscarves and contemporary urban style. The drawings capturing a view from behind, focus on the iconic power of a subject's hair or hat instead of their specific facial features. Stephens portrays women in headscarves or men wearing caps to focus attention on the power of these "everyday" symbols of African life. He documents the sense of style and attention people put into how they present themselves in a contemporary African setting. From a visual perspective, he is constantly drawn to patterns and visual rhythms, such as geometric repetitions, textile patterns, or botanical shapes. He is attracted to non-verbal, hypnotic visual experiences and chooses his subjects for their stripes and textures. He creates patterns underneath the images that randomly break through and energize the image.

BIOGRAPHY

Born on the Mexican border town of Yuma, Arizona, Gary Stephens studied painting and drawing at the University of Arizona and the San Francisco Art Institute. For the past thirty years, he has worked as an artist and travelled extensively in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa for inspiration. In 1998, he moved to Florence, Italy, where he lived and worked for ten years refining his drawing style. In 2009, he did a year-long residency at Greatmore Studios in Cape Town. Since 2008, Stephens has been living and working in South Africa – where his work began on a series of monumental portraits of his artist friends and their African sense of style and dress. He combines his interests in optical effects, stripes, fractured images, with his love of pattern and mark-making and uses the portrait and cityscape to explore both his visual interests and to engage with the beauty of the African continent. Stephens' work is in public and private collections in the US, Europe and the Middle East.

CV

EDUCATION

1980-82 University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

1983-84 San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, USA

1985-86 College of Marin, Kentfield, Ca, USA



EVERARD READ

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021

Lambent Folds, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa,

2020

Local, Everard Read Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

Pleated, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg

2015

Scarf, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg

2013

Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, *Networks and Voids*, *Modern Nigerian Hairstyles with Okhai Ojeikere*

2012

Gallery Momo, *In Conversation*, Johannesburg, SA

Omenka Gallery, *The Ankara Portraits*, Lagos, Nigeria

2011

Gallery Momo, *Braids and Caps*, Johannesburg, SA

2008

NewWork, Yuma Art Center Museum, Arizona, USA,

Studio Dimore, Florence, Italy,

2005

Cactus and Sunflowers, Yuma Art Center Museum, Yuma, Az

Gallerie Franzke Art Meeting Point, Vienna, Austria

Arizona Meets Africa, Polissena, Prato (Florence), Italy

2004

Giant Sunflowers, BZF, Vellechi Spazio Culturale, Florence, Italy

2003

Desert Fauve Landscapes, Yuma Fine Arts Center, Yuma, Az,

2002

Spirit Vessels, Momoyama Art space, Florence, Italy



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2000

Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, Ca

1995

College of Marin; Kentfield, Ca

1991

Personal Icons, Braunstein / Quay Gallery, San Francisco, Ca,

1990

Elaine Horwitch Galleries, Palm Springs, Ca

Earthly Delights, Sun Gallery, Hayward, Ca

The Whimsical Animal, Yuma Art Center; Yuma, Az,

1989

Heads, Claudia Chapline Gallery; Stinson Beach, Ca

1987

The Wild West Show, Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, Ca,

The Phoenix Gallery, San Francisco,

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024

Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa

2021

Summer 2021, Everard Read, London, UK

2018

Botanical group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg

2017

Summer Exhibition, Group show at Everard Read, London, UK

Kynsna Fine Arts, Kynsna, SA, 20th Year Anniversary Exhibition

2016

Opening Exhibition, Everard Read London UK

Summer Exhibition, Everard Read London UK

2014

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Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, London 14, International Art Fair, Booth F9

Artco Gallery, Aachen Germany. London 14, International Art Fair, Booth H4

2013

Everard Read Gallery, Sydney Australia, Sydney Contemporary13 art booth

Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg Art Fair, Sandton Civic Center,

Trees, David Krut, Newlands, Capetown, SA

2012

Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, SA, Gallery artists exhibit.

2010

Spanish Embassy, The World of Cape Town Art, Cape Town, S A

2009

Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, South Africa, members show

Portraits, UCA Gallery, Woodstock, South Africa

2006

Summer Group Show, L'Albero Celeste, San Gimignano, Italy,

1998

I. Wolk Gallery, St. Helena, Ca

Mill Valley Sculture Garden, Mill Valley, Ca

Ceramic Sculpture: A Fine Art View, Mendocino Art Center, Ca,

1997

Bay Area Art, Napa Valley College, Ca,

1996

Maps, Globes and Charts, Irvine Fine Arts Center; Irvine, Ca

1994

A World of Maps, Anchorage Museum of History & Art, Anchorage, Ak

1993

Body Politic, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery,

Self Portraits: True Stories, Bolinas Museum, Pt. Reyes, Ca

Earth Day Juried Show, University of Arizona, Tucson, Az

1992

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Shrines, Faulkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael, Ca, (Cash Award)

1991

8th Juried Exhibition, LA Artcore, Los Angeles, Ca

Contemporary Virgins of Guadalupe, Downey Museum of Art, Ca

Biennial Exhibit, Dinnerware Artists' Cooperative, Tucson, AZ

Anti-War Signs, Nelson Morales Gallery, San Francisco, Ca

1990

Juried Exhibition, Arpel Gallery, Santa Barbara, Ca

Living Artists Program, Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, Ca

The Reflected Image, Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Scottsdale, Az

True Blues, Arizona Art Commission Traveling Exhibition

Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Sedona, Az

1989

San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, San Francisco (Curator, ReneYanez)

Animals, Casa Grande Art Museum, Casa Grande, Az

Introductions, San Francisco Art Dealers Association, San Francisco, Ca

1988

New Landscapes, Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, Ca

Southwest Christmas, Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, Ca

Yosemite Renaissance III, Yosemite Nat'l. Park, Ca

1987

Michael Ivey Gallery, Los Angeles

Virginia Breier Gallery, San Francisco

1986

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery, San Francisco

Falkirk Center Annual Juried Show, San Rafael, Ca

1985

Annual Exhibit, Crocker-Kingsley Museum, Sacramento, Ca

TEACHING/RESIDENCIES



JOHANNESBURG | CAPE TOWN | LONDON | FRANSCHHOEK

EVERARD READ

2012

Printmaking lecture and workshop leader, Yaba Tech, Lagos Nigeria

2008

Painting Residency, Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, S A

Guest lecture, Living Artist, Polytech University of Milan, Italy

1993

Studied traditional Balinese painting with native artists, Ubud, Bali

1990

Fairbanks, Alaska, "Animals, Myths & Monsters", Ceramics Workshop

Juror, 64th Parallel Competition, Fairbanks, Alaska

Exhibition, Residency, Public Lecture, and

School Tours; Yuma Art Center, Yuma, Az

AWARDS

1994

Grant Recipient, Crafts Category, Marin Arts Council

1993

Best of Class (Drawing), Marin County Fair, Ca

1991

Best of Class (Mixed Media), Marin County Fair, Ca (Jurors: Wayne Thiebaud, Ruth Braunstein)

1986

Grand Prize, "Spirit of Agriculture" Contest, MALT, Marin, CA

Honorable Mention, Marin County Fair, CA

1985

Honorable Mention Cash Award, Marin County Fair, California ,Invitational Exhibit Student Award, Sausalito Art Festival, California