

EVERARD READ

TAMLIN BLAKE

(b. 1974 Johannesburg, South Africa)

Tamlin Blake is a professional multi-media South African artist. A central theme of Blake's work is a concern with cross-cultural South African symbols of wealth and status. More recently she has focused her work on what constitutes and underpins each individual's sense of belonging and identity as she became influenced by her rural surroundings and the communities who live and work there. A prominent aspect of Blake's practice is her fascination with materials and manipulating new mediums in ways which take them past the merely decorative or prosaic. Blake was instrumental in developing specialised beading techniques now used by Qaqambile Bead Studio in Cape Town in collaboration with various contemporary South African artists.

Her own work currently consists of tapestries, woven from re-cycled hand-spun newspaper and working with acrylic paint in a way which uses its plasticity to create textured surfaces that closely resemble beadwork and textiles. She also works closely with various studios including the Spier Artisan Studio and The Keiskamma Arts Project to help produce collative works in mosaic and embroidery belonging to the Spier Arts Trust of which she is also the chief curator.

Tamlin Blake holds a Masters Degree in Fine Art from the University of Stellenbosch. She has had nine solo exhibitions to date, the most recent being at Everard Read Franschhoek entitled *Treading Lightly*. In 2019 her large-scale tapestry piece *Tied By Time* commissioned by Spier, was exhibited at Everard Read Johannesburg's CIRCA gallery and again at the African American Museum, Dallas, Texas, USA (2023) and now the Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane, New Orleans (2025). She has also exhibited extensively in group shows nationally and internationally. Her work was included in the *Synergy* exhibition of contemporary bead art at Iziko Michaelis Collection (2005-06), the *South African Art: Signs* exhibition held at Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum in Bratislava (2007) and the *Skin-to-Skin: Challenging Textile Art* show, which formed part of the Kaunas Art Biennial TEXTILE 07 in Lithuania (2007). Her work was exhibited at the Spier Contemporary Exhibition (2008), included in the South African Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China and presented as a Spier Special Project at the FNB Joburg Art Fair in 2012. In 2003 she received the Brett Kebble Merit Award and in 2011 she was invited to the Frans Masereel Centre in Belgium for an artist's residency. Her work can be found in various permanent corporate and public collections.

SELECTED SOLO SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Treading Lightly*, Everard Read, Franschhoek
- 2024 *After the Fire*, Sisonke Gallery, Heritage Hotel, Cape Town
- 2019 *Tied by Time*, Everard Read CIRCA, Rosebank, Johannesburg
- 2018 *Stealing Beauty*, Everard Read Gallery, Rosebank Johannesburg
- 2015 *Revelation: Stories and Secrets Disclosed*, CIRCA, Rosebank, Johannesburg
- 2013 *Altered Yarns Revisited*, online exhibition at Out of the Cube
- 2012 Spier Special Project: *Tamlin Blake*, The FNB Joburg Art Fair, *Altered Yarns*, Spier Wine Estate, Cape Town
- 2008 *Private Spaces*, Curious Whetstone and Frankly, Cape Town
- 2007 *Birthright*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary Art Gallery, Cape Town and 2008 Hollard Gallery Hall, Johannesburg



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- 2005 *Blood, Sweat and Tears*, blank projects, Cape Town
- 2004 *Change of Address*, AVA, Cape Town
- 2001 *Exploring Cremnophytes*, Bang the Gallery, Cape Town

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 **WORDS, WORDS WORDS | Group Exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA**
- 2025 Diepe Grond, curated by Liza Grobler, KKNK Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn
Motherhood: Paradox and Duality, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town
If You Look Hard Enough You Can See Our Future: Selections of Contemporary South African Art from the Nando's Art Collection, curated by Laurie Ann Farrell, Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane, New Orleans
- 2024 INNER SANCTUM, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa
- 2023 If you look hard enough, you can see our future, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
- 2020 Odyssey, online exhibition, Everard Read, South Africa & UK
- 2015 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Summer Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, South Africa
- 2013 Small Canvas Project, initiated by the Benetton Foundation and exhibited at Ca' dei Carraresi, Treviso (2014); Museo Bilotti, Rome (2014) & the Venice Biennale (2015), Italy
SPI National Portrait Award, shown at various galleries in South Africa through
- 2012 The 8th Definitive Series of Stamps, Iziko SA National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 South African Pavilion at the World Expo 2010 Shanghai, China
- 2009 Keepsakes, AVA, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 Skin-to-Skin: Challenging Textile Art, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007-8 Spier Contemporary 2007. Spier Wine Estate and Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Skin-to-Skin: Challenging Textile Art. Kaunas Art Biennial TEXTILE 07, Kaunas, Lithuania
South African Art, Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum. Bratislava, Slovakia
Portrait and Landscape, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Lourensford, Somerset West, South Africa
- 2005-6 20 Artists, print exhibition, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Synergy, Iziko Michaelis Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
Shaping Place, Grande Provence Estate, Franschoek, South Africa
Finding You, Collaborative work in clay, AVA, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2004 11th International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
Doring Dollies, AVA, Cape Town, South Africa
Assemblage, Battersea Affordable Art Fair, London, UK
- 2003 Water Colour Society of Ireland Annual Exhibition, Dun Laoighaire, Ireland. Botanical Art Exhibition, group show, Queen Victoria and Art Gallery, Tasmania, Australia
- 2002 Fruits of Desire, joint exhibition, The Metatron Art Gallery, Co. Wicklow, Ireland Water Colour Society of Ireland Annual Exhibition, Dun Laoighaire, Ireland
Red Dot Artists. Bartley Dray gallery, 62 Old Church St, Chelsea, London
- 2001 Botanical Art, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg
- 1998 Botanical Art, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, RSA
Succulents in Botanical Art, Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, RSA

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EDUCATION

- 2001 Masters in Fine Art (Illustration), University of Stellenbosch
1999 BA in Fine Art (Honours) Illustration, University of Stellenbosch
1995 BA in Fine Art (Sculpture), University of Stellenbosch, top graduate student of the year

COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS

- 2005 *ABSA l'Atelier Competition*, National Exhibition, Johannesburg
2003 *Brett Kebble Art Awards*, Merit Award, CTICC, Cape Town
2002 *Kirstenbosch Biennale*, Silver medal, Kirstenbosch Gardens, Cape Town
Royal Horticultural Society Botanical Art Show, Silver-Gilt medal, RHS, London Awarded membership of the Water Colour Society of Ireland (WCSI) (2002 and 2003)
2000 *Inaugural Kirstenbosch Exhibition of Botanical Art*, Bronze medal, Kirstenbosch, Cape Town
1996 *Volkskas L'Atelier Competition*, National Exhibition, Johannesburg
1995 *Absolute Artistic License*, First Prize, held by Absolute Vodka, Annex to the National Gallery, Cape Town
Top graduate student of the year, Department of Fine Art, University of Stellenbosch

RESIDENCIES

- 2011 Frans Masereel Centre, Kasterlee, Belgium. A three-week residency focusing on two-colour, stone, lithographic printing.

CORPORATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Iziko Art Collections (South African National Gallery)
Spier Holdings Contemporary Art Collection
The Contemporary Collection for the New Hollard House at Villa Arcadia
South African Breweries
Erma Stern Museum, UCT
Meulensteen Collection, Slovakia
Nandos UK
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, USA
Water Colour Society of Ireland at the University of Limerick
Botany Department of the University of Stellenbosch (commissioned by Dr. Piet Vorster and Dr. Betty Marais)
Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Cape Town (commissioned by Dr. Ernst van Jaarsveld)

BOTANICAL WORK REPRODUCED IN

Flowering Plants of Africa, Volume 58, 2007
Cactus and Succulent Journal. (U.S.), Vol. 73, March-April 2001, no. 2. p 68.
Aloe. (South Africa), Vol. 38, No 1&2, 2001. p 30.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

MCINNES, Jackie (2012) *Tamlin Blake*. Spier ISBN 978-0-620-52880-1

ARNOLD, Marion (Ed.) and ROURKE, John P. (2001) *South African Botanical Art: Peeling Back the Petals*, Cape Town: Fernwood Press, p 188. ISBN: 978-1-8749-5054-7

Catalogue: FNB Joburg Art Fair 2012 (Artlogic and Jacana Media: 2012), p 60. ISBN: 978-1-4314-0709-5

Catalogue: South Africa: 10x12 @ SA, Contemporary Artists from South Africa. Luciano Benetton

Collection. Curator: Nadja Daehnke (Fabrica: 2012). p 35-36.

Catalogue: Spier Contemporary 2007 exhibition and awards. Editor: Jay Panther (Africa Centre: 2007), p 52.