

EVERARD READ

KILMANY-JO LIVERSAGE

(b. 1973, South Africa)

Kilmany-Jo Liversage creates portraits that intentionally blur the boundary between fine art and street art. Her rendering of female subjects is inspired by Renaissance era portraiture. By adopting the language of graffiti or urban art, she updates, renews and challenges the conventions of painting. Her work also references digitised mass production and a futuristic post-human world, populated by perfect-looking female cyborgs. The result is a series of vivid, large-format paintings, evoking the street, art history as well as a vision of the future.

Liversage explains further: 'During the Machine Age, artists would reduce their compositions to its smallest constituent parts. With my current paintings I manufacture this deconstruction by combining the painting tradition of portraiture with idiosyncrasies from the urban culture of tagging. This enables me to explore the intersection between street art and fine art while reconstructing them into a new genre of portraiture.'

With a list of achievements that include a Sasol New Signatures Award in 2000 and a UNESCO bursary in 2005, as well as an artists' residency in Colombia, Liversage has had the opportunity to explore and interpret the concept of street art in a distinctive and original way.

Liversage lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Her work is included in several public and private collections in South Africa and around the world.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 AURA, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2025 PREKARIA, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
PREKARIA, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 2023 ILLUMINA23, Everard Read, London, UK
REVOL, Worldart, Cape Town South Africa
- 2021 FERVA, World Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018 Chroma718, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Orda716, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
Orda716, Lizamore & Associates, South Africa
- 2015 Ordamental515, Hay Hill Gallery, London
- 2014 Obversa714, Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
Obversa714, Lizamore & Associates, South Africa
- 2012 Portra, Source 53, Singapore, Singapore
Portra, Artspace gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Portra, Worldart gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011 Moniker. Worldart, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 Orda 2010, Erdmann Contemporary, South Africa
- 2009 Symbol of Tribute, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 Orda 2006, Blank Projects
- 2003 Orda 2003, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 Matter Matters | Artists and Their Media, Everard Read, London, UK
Winter, Everard Read, London, UK

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- 2024 INNER SANCTUM, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2023 If You Look Hard Enough, You Can See Our Future, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with World Art, Cape Town, South Africa
Interferences, ABC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2021 Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020 Against Interpretation, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019 Southern Aspect, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2011 Tattoo Convention, Word of Art, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 Creative Context: A Group Show by Contemporary African Fine Artists, Singapore
- 2010 World Aids Congress, Vienna, Austria & Brussels, Belgium
Matters Conceptually, Erdmann Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005 Graffiti is Public Art, Jardin Botanical Garden, Medellin, Colombia
- 2004 Spier Outdoor Sculpture Biennale, Stellenbosch, South Africa

EDUCATION

- 1997 B.Tech Fine Arts, Free State Technikon
- 1994 H.Dip Fine Arts. Free State Technikon. Received a distinction in Painting

AWARDS

- 2013 Back 2 back to Biennale, 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2005 UNESCO Aschberg Bursary, Paris, France
- 2004 Spier Arts Trust, Spier Sculpture Biennale, South Africa
- 2003 Finalist ABSA L'Atelier Arts Award
Finalist Brett Kebble Art Award
- 2000 SASOL New Signatures Art Competition, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 1995 Coca-Cola Bursary
- 1994 Distinction-H.Dip FA (Painting)

ARTIST RESIDENCY

- 2005 UNESCO Aschberg-Medellin, Colombia

COLLECTIONS

Nando's collection
Department of Science and Technology, Pretoria, South Africa
Absa Bank Art Collection, South Africa
Centro Colombo Americano. Paul Bardwell Contemporary Gallery of Modern Art, Medellin, South America
Comfandi Centre-Cali, Colombia