

EVERARD READ

MARK RAUTENBACH

(1964 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa)

Mark Rautenbach is a Cape Town artist who has also worked as Mark Splendid, Mark Maria and Splendid Miriam. He works in a variety of media, including material which is considered waste matter, as well as textiles and paper. Rautenbach's practice is often process-based, and draws on traditional craft techniques.

For Rautenbach, matter is the means he uses to express memory and meaning. He looks at the unseen forces and tensions which are inside and in between visible material things. The textural languages he uses guide his creative procedures by inviting consideration of their inherent potential and associations. Through ritualistic repetition – drawing on the arcane and everyday, the collective and personal – Rautenbach uses his meditative works to embody psychological and cultural patterns, giving form to invisible spaces. Physical conglomerations – whether of thread, steel safety pins or glass – symbolise emotional connections.

By renegotiating found objects and materials from shops, recycle bins, gifts and disassembled artworks, Rautenbach manifests forms which exhibit his alchemical journey: his commitment to be present with all things even when they are uncomfortable. To delve into, uncover, bind and cocoon his being – to transform into something beyond expectations.

Rautenbach lectured Design for a number of years at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), and education recurs as a theme in his work, along with identities born out of narratives – represented through yarn. Rautenbach has exhibited at the Iziko South African National Gallery, Everard Read, Open 24 Hrs, Spier, David Krut Projects and Ebony/Curated, among others.

EDUCATION

1983-7 BAFA, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

- 2026 Aletheia - Truth of the Meta (10 Greatest Hits), Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2025 Tending the Courtyard, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2024 Home, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 Pigments of the Alchemist's Imagination and the Non-Dual, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Ariadne's Thread, Cubicle Series, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 WORLD WORLDING, OPEN 24 Hrs, in partnership with Ebony/Curated, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 [U]ntelling [S]tories, Distancio/Tranås, Distancio, Sweden
- 2019 Underpinnings, Ebony/Curated, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2018 How Long Can I Hold Your Attention For?/ How Much Presence Can I Give You?, performance,
Jewellery as a Social Object, Contemporary Jewellery Forum, Seminar and Exhibition,
University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa
Noonoo Index, FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 Dawning New Narratives, performance, Rhodes Memorial, Cape Town, South Africa
Mothertongue 1, performance, Art Thursdays, Reverie Social Table, Observatory, Cape Town,
South Africa
Fatherland, performance, Borderlands, Cape Point, Cape Town, South Africa
Ouma se Kind, performance, Cape Town, South Africa

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- 2015 [Terror]Tory, performance, The Dark Precursor: International Conference on Deleuze and Artistic Research, Orpheus Institute, Ghent, Belgium; TEDx 2015, City Hall, Cape Town; Deleuze and Guattari and Africa Conference, University of Cape Town, Cape Town
- 2014 The Educator's New Clothes, Room, Johannesburg (exhibition); Cape Town & surrounds, Johannesburg, South Africa (performance)
- 2006 Introducing Splendid, Amoeba Light & Living, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000 Womb, solo exhibition, I Cafe, Observatory, Cape Town

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS/COMMISSIONS

- 2026 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Matereality V2, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
WORDS, WORDS, WORD, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2025 Matter Matters: Artists and Their Media, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2024 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Southern Light, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About the Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
The Other's Warmth, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Winter, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Things I'd Like to Remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 Phantasmagoria, group exhibition, RK Contemporary, Riebeek Kasteel, South Africa
Oasis, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Plane, Deepest Darkest, Cape Town, South Africa
Persistence of Vision, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa
In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
These Walls Have Eyes, Haas, Cape Town, South Africa
The Troubled Archive, Ellis House Art Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa
In Conversation with Colour Symphony, Rupert Museum, Jan Rupert Art Centre, Graaff-Reinet, South Africa
- 2020 Hard, But Soft, group exhibition, Gallery at Glen Carlou, Klapmuts, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 A Splendid Summer Send-Off; 40 Years 40 Plus Artists, Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
Textile, curated by Amy Pike for Dyman Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Conversations in Texture, curated by Khumo Sebambo, Berman Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
Small Room, curated by Sarah Grace, Priest, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 FORWARD?FORWARD!FORWARD..., University of Stellenbosch Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Touchwood, 203 Percy Osborn, Durban, South Africa
KZNSA Gallery, Park Gallery, Durban, South Africa
Candice Berman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 A Romulus Rebus, curated by Priest, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
Ebony/Curated, Franschhoek, South Africa
Dream Rift, Eclectica, Cape Town, South Africa
Proud, The Studio Door, San Diego, USA
Verging Thresholds, Eclectica, Cape Town, South Africa
Most Beautiful Object, nominee, Design Indaba, Cape Town, South Africa
The Sky Over Berlin, installation, 50th anniversary of the Krugerrand, South African Mint and Rand Refinery, World Money Fair, Berlin, Germany
- 2016 Woman's Work, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
What's The Matter? Ebony/Curated, Cape Town, South Africa

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- District Six Museum Print Exchange: District Six Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
Muse Montage, Eclectica, Cape Town, South Africa
Eduplation, performance, group exhibition, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
Optical Diversion, Eclectica, Cape Town, South Africa
Commission for Shortmarket Street Club, Cape Town, South Africa
Unheimlich, performance & group exhibition, Woordfees, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
2015 Fetish, performance and group exhibition, Priest, Johannesburg, South Africa
Vuleka, competition, 3rd and highly commended prize, ART B, Bellville, South Africa
Uima Mask Competition, Finalist, University of Iowa Museum Of Art, Iowa, USA
Fetish, Arttec - Epsac Community Art Centre, Port Elizabeth and Makhanda, South Africa
Décor Z, Spier, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2012 Southern Ink Exposure 3, International tattoo convention, Cape Town
2011 Open Books, Brundyn & Gonsalves, Cape Town, South Africa
Pinhole Photography, Haas, Bokaap, Cape Town, South Africa
2010 Southern Ink Exposure 2, International tattoo convention, CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa
Gill Alderman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
These Four Walls, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa
2009 Southern Ink Exposure 1, international tattoo convention, co-curator and exhibitor, CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa
Gill Alderman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2008 Gill Alderman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2007 World Tribe, collaboration with Brandon Amronski, Alison Café, Leon, Mexico
Gill Alderman Gallery, Kenilworth, Cape Town, South Africa
Walker Bay Gallery, Hermanus, South Africa
2003 Human Genome Project, competition finalist, Natural History Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
2002 MARK MRS LOVE, collaboration with Mrs Love, Obs Cafe, Cape Town, South Africa
2000 Sex & Culture, Gauloise Warehouse, Cape Town, South Africa

COLLECTIONS

Iziko South African National Gallery
Rand Refinery Collection
Rupert Museum
Kilbourn Collection
Investec Collection

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021 Grace of Abstraction, Ashraf Jamal, ART THROB, 8 February 2021
2018 Noonoo Index Catalogue, Lunetta Bartz, MAKER, ISBN 978-0-620-79668-2
2017 Contemporary Performance Almanac 2017 (Volume 4), Edited by Caden Manson and Daniel Nelson, ISBN-13: 978-1546818854
2015 THE DARK PRECURSOR, International Conference on Deleuze and Artistic Research, edited by PAULO DE ASSIS and PAOLO GIUDICI, ISBN 978 94 9038 904 8
2014 KNOTWE: ALL THINGS FIBER, <http://www.knotwe.com/mark-rautenbach/>
ART SOUTH AFRICA, volume 12, issue 4, June 2014
VISI, February/March 2014, volume 70

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RESIDENCIES & WORKSHOPS

- 2022 MAGNITUDE; Björkö Konstod; Björkö, Sweden
- 2020 DISTANCIO, social sculpture residency, Tranås, Sweden
- 2018 Noonoo Catalogue Index, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 Centre for Artistic Activism, New York, USA
SWEAT and ASIJKI, Johannesburg, South Africa
Body Scenography, workshop with Steven Cohen, ICA, UCT, Cape Town, South Africa