NIGEL MULLINS
(b. 1969 Makhanda, South Africa)

Nigel Mullins's works, from *Chaotic Region* (2013) and beyond, present the disparate images of human existence as a compendium of fruitless tropes that have perpetrated, sustained and perpetuated Western culture since the 18th century. The works draw every sacralised view and arch-theory into question. Even the designation 'human', with its defining sets of ideologies, has become an obsolete remnant, exposing every pedagogue and hero, every defining character as, at the very most, ineffectual. The paintings reflect the enveloping totality of contemporary culture and posits it clearly as a deadlock between past and present.

His painterly exploration makes use of sumptuous impasto, veering between figuration and abstraction without restraint, the lashings of paint (both sensual and viscous) conveying the turmoil and restlessness of our times. Mullins applies his material as libations covering a sacred artefact or an amulet: fetishistically. The paint, dense in meaning and referential value, thickly covers the support as it alters and constructs. This explicitly references the painting as a thing; a support to which meaning (as material) is applied often in layers and over an expanse of time. It is not that the thick patinas of paint have no regard for the frame, and thus no consideration for the delineations of border. Rather, they recognize the boundaries specifically, some even bare their marginalia, titles and subtexts as physical 'charms' suspended from below. Every painted mark, like the wiry phrases affixed to the frames of the paintings is a litany petitioning nothingness and a no one.

The insistence of the materiality of paint exposes the frame-laden subtexts. It recognises these as definitive entities, rich in cultivated meaning. The medium treats them physically in the same way that it treats the subject matter. With the sensual gesture and drama of paint application, Mullins's work then finally turns on the paint itself and exposes the sedimentary material as concomitant to the myths of Western civilisation. It is the vehicle and medium that imagines our underlying desires, hopes and fantasies – the futility of its so-called gains.

EDUCATION

1993 Master of Fine Arts, with distinction, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Manifesto, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2025 Morpheus Constructs, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
2024 Paintings For Jubilant Temporal Ideologies, Everard Read, London, UK
2021 The Time Keepers, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2019 Mass Gatherings, Everard Read, London, UK
2018 Glorious Order, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 Artefacts from the Anthropocene, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 21st Century Talismans, Everard Read, London , UK
2015 The Obsolete Remnants of the Industrial Age, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa
2014 Buy You Time, Equus Gallery, Western Cape, South Africa
Chaotic Region, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
2013 Chaotic Region, curated by Tanya Poole, Rhodes University Alumni Gallery, Makhanda; Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg; Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2008 Caveman Spaceman, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2006 Earthlings, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2005 Ends and Escapes, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2004 Pacifier, ABSA Bank Gallery, Johannesburg. South Africa
2003 Fix, Rhodes University Alumni Gallery, Albany Museum, Grahamstown Arts Festival, South Africa
2001 Hopeful Monsters, Hanel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa; Hanel Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany
Hopeful Monsters Lithographs, in Collaboration with Fine Line Press, St Peter's Annex, Makhanda, South Africa
Superhuman, ROSL, London and Edinburgh, UK
2000 New Work, Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
1999 Superhuman, Hanel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1998 ROSL Prizewinner Exhibition, Continuum, Landings Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Continuum, Lamont Gallery, London, UK
Momentum, Grahamstown Arts Festival and Association of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
1994 Window into the South African Landscape, Grosvenor St, Mayfair, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 The Armory Show, with Everard Read, New York, USA
GUT FEELING, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Winter Collection Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
ArtParis, with Everard Read, Paris, France
2025 EXPO CHICAGO, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
2024 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
EXPO CHICAGO, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
110 Year Anniversary, Everard Read, London, UK
2022 Spring, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Seduction, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2021 In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2020 Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
Masterpiece online, with Everard Read, London, UK
Staring Straight to the Future, online exhibition, Everard Read, UK & South Africa
Pink, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Odyssey, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
2019 CONTEXT Art Miami, with Everard Read, Miami, Florida, USA
Southern Aspect, Everard Read, London, UK
2018 In the Forests of the Night, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
2017 Bronze, Steel, Stone, Everard Read, London, UK
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read Booth, Johannesburg, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read Cica Booth, Cape Town, SA
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
Reality Check, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 Summer Exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK
Reality Check, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, CIRCA Gallery Booth, London, UK
FNB Jo burg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
Cape Town Art Fair 2015, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Empire , Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2014 Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Johannesburg Art Fair, Johans Borman Fine Art, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2013 Tom Waits For No Man, curated by Gordon Froud, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees, Oudtshoorn, South Africa
Weerberig, Curated by Luan Nel, Aardklop, South Africa
Kunstefees, Potchefstroom, South Africa
Johannesburg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2011 MullinsPoole, the Bettendorffsche Gallery, Germany
2010 View From The South, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
On Colour, Colour a Colloquium. Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa
8th MUMIA – Underground World Animation Festival 2010. Brazil
Juncture. Painting from South Africa. Nigel Mullins, Tanya Poole, Luan Nel. artSPACE, Berlin, Germany
International Festival of Animated Film of Fortaleza, Brazil
2009 Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
X2, Albany Museum, Grahamstown National Arts Festival, South Africa
Hang in There, Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2008 Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa
Between Meaning and Matter, Bell-Roberts, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

ABSA, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum
Ann Bryant Art Museum
Deloittes and Touche
Ernst and Young
Hollard Insurance
Ken Logan Art Collection, USA
KPMG
Nandos UK
Oliewenhuis Art Museum
Old MutuaL Bank
Pretoria Art Museum, Sanlam
Rhodes University Collection
South African Association
Spier Art Collection
SAB
SASOL
Telkom, Rand Merchant Bank
Westminster and Chelsea Hospital Collection, London , UK
ZENECA

SELECTED AWARDS

1997 First Prize, Royal Overseas League 14th Annual Exhibition. London.
1999 Nominee for the Daimler Chrysler Award for Contemporary South African Art
2000 Merit Prize, ABSA l'Atelier