

# EVERARD READ

## **DEBORAH BELL**

(b. 1957 Johannesburg, South Africa)

Deborah Bell is one of South Africa's most celebrated contemporary artists. She works in a range of media on canvas and paper, produces dry point etchings and large-scale bronzes. Her earlier more political work has given way to a broader, deeper investigation into the border between mortality and immortality, matter and spirit, presence and absence, the quotidian and the mythic, the grounded and transcendent. Bell has developed an immediately recognisable visual language, her images simple, stark, symbolic – grounded, silent, still, poised.

Bell is fascinated by ancient civilisations and their excavated artefacts and her work incorporates powerful, totemic images and layered visual, symbolic and iconographic references of past and present worlds. In her iconography, the artist draws from a range of cultures - African, Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, early Christian, European - and a range of psychologies and philosophies, particularly the Buddhist preoccupation with stillness and the shedding of attachment and the ego.

In Bell's recent work, human figures have embodied the seeker on a journey, often accompanied by lions, hounds, wolves, horses and totemic modes of transport such as boats and chariots. However, her latest body of work, is characterised by a sense of coming home, a greater emphasis on the human body being on this earth. There is an increased sense of acceptance of our materiality; a surrendering to who we are, and the suggestion of an end to the constant quest for transcendence.

Deborah Bell has worked with a great variety of media during her career and has collaborated on various historically important projects with contemporaries such as William Kentridge and Robert Hodgins. Bell received her BAFA (Hons) and MFA degrees at the University of Witwatersrand, and has been an artist working abroad and a lecturer at various South African tertiary institutions, including the University of the Witwatersrand. Bell lives and works from her studio in Magaliesburg, as well as being a collaborator at the David Krut studios on several projects.

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2020** *Sentinels*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019** *Enthroned*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018** *Invocations to the Plate*, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017** *Uncovering Ancient Memory – 15 years of etching*, David Krut Projects, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Recent Paintings and Sculpture*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2016** *Dream of Immortality Blood and Gold*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2015** *Renunciation*, David Krut, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Dreams of Immortality*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *What Would Wisdom Say to Your Dark Heart?*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *A Far Country*, John Martin Gallery, London and at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival, UK
- 2011** *Presence*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Alchemy*, David Krut, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Flux*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Collaborations*, David Krut, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007** *Objects of Power: memory of metal, memory of wood*, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005-6** *Crossings and Monuments*, Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa

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- 2005** *Crossings and Monuments*, Aardklop Festival Potchefstroom University Library Gallery, South Africa  
**2004** *Sentinels*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2002** *Unearthed*, Joao Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2001** *Unearthed*, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2000** *The Journey Home*, Art First, London, UK  
**1998** *Displacements*, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1995** *Muses and Lamentations*, Goodman, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1989** *Deborah Bell*, Potchefstroom Museum, South Africa  
**1982** *Deborah Bell*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## **2 / 3 PERSON EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019** *Correspondences*, with Ricky Burnett, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1997** *Collaborations 1986-1997* (11 years of collaborative projects between artists Kentridge, Hodgins and Bell) at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, in association with the FNB Vita Awards, South Africa  
*UB101*, a portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Kentridge and Hodgins. Exhibited at the Grahamstown Festival and at the Gertrude Posel Gallery. Exhibition curated by Fiona Rankin-Smith  
**1994** *Memo*, installation with video at the Grahamstown festival in collaboration with William Kentridge and Robert Hodgins, South Africa  
*Lamentations*, Art First, Cork Street, London, UK  
**1993** *Easing the Passing (of the hours)*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Portraits in the round*, ceramic exhibition in collaboration with William Kentridge and Retief van Wyk at the Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1992** *Easing the Passing (of the hours)*, computer Animation, laser prints and drawings in collaboration with William Kentridge and Robert Hodgins, Waterfront, Cape Town South Africa  
**1991** *Little Morals*, a portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Hodgins and Kentridge, exhibited at the Cassirer Gallery, Johannesburg, Gallery International, Cape Town and Taking Liberties, Durban, South Africa  
**1988** Exhibited with Jenny Stadler and Nagel at the Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1987-8** *Hogarth in Johannesburg*, a portfolio of etchings done in conjunction with Hodgins and Kentridge. This exhibition travelled to all the major centres in South Africa  
**1985** *MAFA* exhibition, Rembrandt Gallery, Milner Park, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**1983-4** Exhibited with Hodgins and Sassoon, Carriage House Gallery, South Africa

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2020** Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
*The Portrait Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2019** *Summer*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2018** Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, South Africa  
**2016-7** *TACIT*, a group exhibition acknowledging 20 years of conjunction and reciprocity at Dionysus Sculpture Works studio and foundry, NWU Gallery, Potchefstroom and William Humphreys, Kimberley, and Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
**2015** *Bronze, Steel & Stone*, Everard Read, Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa  
*1:54 Fair*, with Everard Read, London, UK

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- 2013** *Summer of Sculpture*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Centenary Exhibition, CIRCA & Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012** *Rainbow Nation: Group exhibition of South African Sculptors*, Museum Beelden Aan Zee, Den Haag, the Netherlands
- 2011** *HORSE*, curated by Ricky Burnett, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *TWENTY, 20 Years Of SA Sculpture*, Nirox Foundation, South Africa
- 2009** *Contemporary Sculpture in the Landscape*, Nirox Foundation, South Africa
- 2007** *Lift Off II*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*David Krut print workshop*, UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2005** Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Miami, USA  
*Works on Paper*, Collaborative prints from David Krut Print Workshop, Franchise Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*David Krut Collaborations: 25 Years of Prints and Multiples*, National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2004** *Earthworks/Claybodies*, Sasol Museum Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2003** *Earthworks/Claybodies*, Pretoria Art Museum, Standard Bank Centre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *Icons for the Millenium*, Atlanta, USA
- 1999** *The Paper Show*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Emergence*, Group Show, National Arts festival, Grahamstown, South Africa  
*Artery*, AVA, in conjunction with the Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Artists in residence*, Standard Bank National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 1998** *Earth Hues – Contemporary African Art*, World Space, Washington DC, USA  
*100 Artists Protest detention without trial*, in aid of DPSC, Market Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Artists for Human Rights Exhibition*, Durban Exhibition Centre, South Africa  
*4 UNISA Lecturers*, Bloemfontein, Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa
- 1997** *Images and Form: Prints, drawings and sculpture from Southern Africa and Nigeria*, Brunei Gallery, University of London and Edinburgh College of Art, UK  
*The Gencor Collection*, Sandton Art Gallery, and The Grahamstown Festival, South Africa  
Kempton Park Metropolitan Substructure Fine Arts Award Show, Kempton Park, South Africa  
*New Art from South Africa*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
*Les Arts de la Résistance (Fin de Siècle a Johannesburg)*, Galerie convergence, Galerie Jean-Christian, Fradin, Galerie Michel Luneau, Galerie les Petit Murs, Nantes, France  
*Not Quite a Christmas Exhibition*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*CRAM*, AVA, in conjunction with the Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1996** *Gay Rights: Rites, Re-writes*, travelling exhibition, South Africa  
*Group Salon*, Rose Korber representing artists at the Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Common and Uncommon Ground: South African Art to Atlanta*, City Gallery East, Atlanta, USA  
Vita Awards, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
*Tomorrow is Now*, First Canadian Place and Knights Galleries International, Toronto, Canada  
*Barber Signs*, the Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Recent Drawings*, Gallery on Tyrone, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Ceramics Biennial*, Sandton Art Gallery, South Africa
- 1995** *The Bag Factory: The First Five Years*, the Civic Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*The Art of Tea*, Kim Sacks Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Group Salon, Rose Korber representing artists at the Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1994** *Group Show*, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Anything Boxed*, Group Show, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*South African works on Paper*, North Western University of Illinois, Chicago, USA

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- 1993** Gallery on Tyrone, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
*Momentum Life Exhibition*, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Internations of Millenium*, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1992** ICA, 50 Johannesburg Artists, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Paris: The Catalyst*, Alliance Francaise, Durban, South Africa  
*Looking at Art: Looking at Watercolours*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
*Works made in August*, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1991** *Cape Town Triennial*, South Africa  
*Painted People: Painted Spaces*, Newtown Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Hand Coloured Graphics*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Tiny Tapestry Show*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1990** *Women choose Women*, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Art from South Africa*, MOMA, Oxford, UK  
Standard Bank Drawing Competition, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1989** Volkskas Atelier Award Exhibition, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa  
*African Encounters*, Dome Gallery, New York and Washington, USA  
*The Little Big Show*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1988** CASA (Culture for Another South Africa), conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
Volkskas Atelier Award exhibition, South African Association of the Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1986** Volkskas Atelier Award Exhibition, South African Association of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1985** Cape Town Triennial, New Visions, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*11 Figurative Artists*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

## AWARDS AND MERITS

- 2013** MEDAL OF HONOUR FOR VISUAL ARTS (Sculpture and Painting), Die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie for Wetenskap en Kuns
- 1997** APSA Award for the best New Signature, Ceramics Biennial
- 1991** Vita Quarterly Award, runner-up for Main Award  
Mamba Award for the Most Sustained Artist
- 1986** Merit Prize Winner, Volkskas Atelier

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

BCE, Johannesburg  
Bell, Dewar and Hall, Johannesburg  
Bristol Myers Squibb Corp. USA  
The Leeu Collection, Franschhoek  
Delaire Graff Wine Estate, Stellenbosch  
Friends of the National Gallery, Cape Town  
Hara Museum, Tokyo  
Johannesburg Art Gallery  
Johannesburg City Council

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King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth  
Legal Resources Centre, Johannesburg  
Museum of Modern Art, New York  
MTN Art Institute, Johannesburg  
Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C  
Pretoria Art Museum  
Roodepoort Museum  
SA National Gallery, Cape Town  
BHP Billiton South Africa Ltd.  
Sanlam Collection  
Sasol Collection  
Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C  
Standard Bank Investment Corporation, Johannesburg  
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg  
Telkom  
UNISA Art Gallery  
University of Pietermaritzburg Collection  
University of the Orange Free State Collection  
University of the Witwatersrand Collection

## COMMISSIONS

- 1999** Sculpture for Standard Bank  
**1991** Large sculpture for Wits Business School  
Artist-in-Residence, Standard Bank National Arts Festival – 25th Anniversary, Grahamstown.  
**1994** Graphics for Weekly Mail Film Festival Poster  
Involvement in movie animation for Arts Alive  
Title sequence for Grass Roots, NNTV  
**1993** Graphics for Weekly Mail Film Festival Poster  
**1990-1** Set of 6 Graphics for First National Bank