

# EVERARD READ

## **COLBERT MASHILE**

(b. 1972 Bushbuckridge, South Africa)

'I come from a place that is shrouded by powerful cultural norms and customs.'

In previous work, Colbert Mashile explored the psychological impact of traditional circumcision and initiation rituals on initiates. As Mashile's work had developed, he has established a style, technique and iconography that are uniquely his own. Using acrylic water paints and charcoal on thick watercolour paper, he has become known for his earthy colours, precise draftsmanship, and witty and idiosyncratic compositions that combine animal characters and human figures – often in apparently equal-status exchanges. These are also combined with a range of props that often seem unrelated to the scenario depicted, creating a sense of dialogue at the heart of each work. Growing up in the rural areas around Bushbuckridge, Mashile spent his childhood deeply embedded in folk tales and mythology, interacting with animals (he and his friends, for instance, herded goats) and the full range of humanity. Several animals – like goats and baboons – recur throughout his work, and each of these animals has acquired a particular character and symbolic resonance. There are animals that are eaten (goats being the most common) and animals that are never eaten (reptiles). There are animals that are closer to the human world (baboons) and animals that are closer to the spirit world (hyenas). Often Mashile will insert props that have a personal autobiographical significance for him (a box of matches) or his original community (the miner's hat, for him, represents the challenges of manhood).

Although his artistic vision is highly individual, Mashile's art is full of commentary on social and political issues – between the rural and urban, Western and African, physical and spiritual, beautiful and 'ugly'. He has already established himself as South Africa's most unique and exciting contemporary artists.

## **EDUCATION**

**2001** Master of Arts in Heritage Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa  
**1996-2000** Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**2020** *What I dreamt during times of Drought*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2018** *As We Are*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Who Feels It, Knows It*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2017** *Just my Imagination*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Truth or Dare*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2016** *Man's Duality (Unearthed)* CIRCA, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2015** *Beast of Burden* NIROX Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*S'Ka Motho (Just Like Man)* SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2013** *Messages from our Ancestors* Art Eye Gallery, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa  
**2006** *Mmawaka Montedi* AVA, Cape Town, South Africa  
**2004** *Tsa Bagale*, Gallery On The Square, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2021 *In Conversation*, Everard Read, Cape Town

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- 2020** *Staring Straight to the Future*, online exhibition, Everard Read, UK & South Africa  
*The Portrait Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016** Opening exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2015** FNB Jo'burg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006** *Les arts de la Coexistence?* Alliance Francaise, Paris, France  
*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Musee des Arts Derniers, Paris, France  
*New Painting*, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
*New Painting*, Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
*DAK'ART*, Dakar, Senegal  
*New Painting*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005** *Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition*  
*ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa Johannesburg  
*Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Migrations Culturelles, Bordeaux, France  
*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Médiathèque, Biarritz, France  
*Florence Biennale*, Florence, Italy
- 2004** *ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition*  
*A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa: 2004 -2005*, Boston, Smithsonian, Gibbs Museum, Detroit USA  
*The ID of South African Artists*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
*A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994 -2004* from the Permanent Collection, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Making Waves (A selection of works from the SABC art collection)* Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Negotiated Identities - Black Bodies*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003** *Circumcised/Circumscribed*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA  
*New Works*, Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Show Me Home*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*A New Collection*, Gallery On The Square, Sandton, South Africa
- 2002** *Insider / Outsider*, Art On Paper Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Klein Karoo National Arts Festival*, Oudshoorn, South Africa
- 2001** *Museum Africa Gallery*, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*The Art Space Gallery*, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *ABSA Gallery*, Johannesburg UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Malangatana in South Africa*, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Bill Ainslie Art Gallery*, South Africa  
*Klein Karoo National Arts Festival*, Oudshoorn, South Africa
- 1998/9** *Martienssen*, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- 1994** *JHB Art Foundation*, Johannesburg, South Africa

## AWARDS

- 2005** *Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition*  
*ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa Johannesburg  
*Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa  
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*Brett Kebble Awards Exhibition*

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- A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa: 2004 -2005, Boston, Smithsonian, Gibbs Museum, Detroit USA  
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A New Collection, Gallery On The Square, Sandton, South Africa
- 2002** Insider / Outsider, Art On Paper Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudshoorn, South Africa
- 2001** Museum Africa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
The Art Space Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudshoorn, South Africa
- 2000** ABSA l'Atelier Merit Prize  
ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
Malangatana in South Africa, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Bill Ainslie Art Gallery, South Africa  
ABSA l'Atelier Merit Prize
- 1999** Certificate of First Class: Painting IV, Johannesburg Art Foundation
- 1998/9** Martienssen, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- 1998** Certificate of Merit: Outstanding Results in Drawing & Design III
- 1994** JHB Art Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1992/4** Certificate in Art Foundation Course
- 1989** Tladishi High School Matric

## **SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS**

3M  
African Life BHP Billiton  
(Gencor)  
Daniel Erasmus Attorneys  
Durban Art Gallery  
De Beers  
E. Oppenheimer & Sons  
Johannesburg Art Gallery  
IBM  
MTN Corporation  
NEDCORBank  
SASOL  
Limited  
South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)  
Stanlib  
The Mandela Foundation  
The South African National Gallery University of the Witwatersrand

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