

# EVERARD READ

## **GERHARD MARX**

(b 1976 Johannesburg, South Africa)

Gerhard Marx's poetic and philosophical visual language is composed through a physical engagement with distinctive material traditions. His process entails careful acts of dissection and rearrangement, which allow Marx to engage the poetic potential and philosophical assumptions of his chosen material in the process of developing original drawing, sculptural and performative languages. A primary focus in his work engages physical depictions of space – 'spatial imaginaries' – with an interest in how these descriptions of space affect and shape that which it describes. Marx uses acts of fragmentation and reassembly to construct alternate and deliberately complicated spatial propositions that aspire to hold multiple positionalities, doubled presences, folded histories, spaces that exist across, in between, and amongst.

Completed in 2022 is *Locus (Richmond)*, a public sculpture for the small town of Richmond in the Northern Cape of South Africa. Previous public sculptures include *Vertical Aerial: JHB* (Hollard, JHB); *The World On Its Hind Legs*, a collaboration with William Kentridge (Beverly Hills, LA); *The Fire Walker*, in collaboration with William Kentridge (Queen Elizabeth Bridge, Johannesburg); and *Paper Pigeons*, in collaboration with Maja Marx (Pigeon Square, Johannesburg).

Marx's work has been shown at international art fairs (Art Basel, Frieze London, FIAC, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Basel Miami). It is held in numerous public and private art collections, and was included on the South African pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale. Marx's most recent solo exhibition, *Spatial Imaginaries, Propositional Cartographies* opened at the Goodman Gallery, London 2021. Recent performative work includes scenography and costumes for Lara Foot's 2022 reinterpretation of Shakespeare's *Othello* for Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus.

Marx completed his undergraduate degree at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, and received his MFA (*cum laude*) from Wits School of Art, Johannesburg, where he was a full time member of staff between 2003 and 2007, lecturing in both the Fine Art and Dramatic Arts Departments. Marx is a fellow of the Eckhart Residency, the Sundance Film Institute, the Annenberg Fund and the Ampersand Foundation. He lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Marx is represented by Everard Read Gallery.

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2021 *Spatial Imaginaries, Propositional Cartographies*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 *Near Distant*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Soundings and Fathoms*, US Woordfees, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2019 *Ecstatic Archive*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 *Transparent Territories*, The Viewing Room, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 *A Geometry of Echoes*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 *The Garden at Night*, NWU gallery, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2013 *Lessons in Looking Down*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 *Cumulus*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*The Viewing Room*, The Viewing Room, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 *photo-*, Warren Siebrits Modern and Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005 *Gerhard Marx*, Warren Siebrits Modern and Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003 *New Works*, Outlet, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2000 *Drawing and Animation*, Open Window Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1999 *You are here*, Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa



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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Where do I begin*, curated by Alexander Richards, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa  
*The Same Space Three Times*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Turbine Art Fair, with The Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021 *Fathom*, RHE water show, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 *Burning House*, a selection of Antoine de Galbert collection, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland  
*Witness: Afro Perspectives from the Jorge M Pérez Collection*, curated by Tandazani Dhlakama, El Espacio 23, Miami, USA  
*Did you ever think there would come a time*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Frieze, with Goodman Gallery, New York, USA  
Frieze, with Goodman Gallery, London, UK  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 *Shutter Speed Reflection/Deflection, South African Indie Scenography*, curated by Tamara Guhrs and Jenni-lee Crewe, Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space, Czechia  
*My Hart is so Leeg Soos 'n Spieël (My Heart is a Void, the Void is a Mirror)*, curated by Gian Maria Tosatti, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 *I'VE GROWN ROSES IN THIS GARDEN OF MINE*, Goodman Gallery, London, UK  
Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Miami, USA  
Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2018 Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2017 Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Miami, USA  
Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Basel, Switzerland  
Art Basel, with Goodman Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 *7 Rewind Films*, Williams College, Massachusetts, USA
- 2015 *Skelet, de armatuur van het lichaam in de hedendaagse beeldhoukunst*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague, Netherlands
- 2014 *Between Subject and Object*, Michaelis Galleries, Cape Town, South Africa  
*300 Years of Botanical Art*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Sitting to Selfie*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 *Imaginary Fact: South African Art and the Archive*, South African Pavilion, 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Italy  
*My Joburg*, Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
*The Beautiful Ones*, Nolan Judin Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2011 *The Life of Bone*, Origins Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 *The Marks We Make*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
*The Land Revisited*, Klein Karoo Arts Festival, Oudsthoorn, South Africa
- 2009 *Adding Subtractions*, curated by Daniella Geo (Belgium), Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Capital: How heads speak*, curated by Fiona Rankin Smith, Wits University Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Sources: Contemporary sculpture in the landscape*, Nirox Sculpture Garden, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006 *Figuring Faith*, curated by Fiona Rankin Smith, Standard Bank Art Gallery, Johannesburg; National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2004 *Ten Years of Democracy*, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudsthoorn, South Africa

## PERFORMANCE AND THEATRE

- 2022 *OTHELLO* directed by Lara Foot Newton for Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus (scenography and costumes), Germany



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- 2020 *VEHICLE*, with Shane Cooper, Kyle Shepherd and Toast Coetzer, US Woordfeees, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2019 *VEHICLE*, with Shane Cooper and Diamanda La Berge Dramm, Frascati Theatre, Holland Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2018 *VEHICLE*, with Shane Cooper, Kyle Shepherd and vocals by Toast Coetzer, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019 *VEHICLE*, conceived, created and directed by Gerhard Marx, with performances by musicians Shane Cooper and Diamanda La Berge Dramm, spoken word poetry written and performed by Toast Coetzer, performed at The Frascati Theatre, Holland Festival, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2018 *VEHICLE*, conceived, created and directed by Gerhard Marx, with performances by musicians Shane Cooper and Kyle Shepherd, spoken word poetry written and performed by Toast Coetzer, as part of the Season 4 programme, curated by Jane Taylor, Centre for the Less Good Idea, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008 *REwind, a Cantata for Voice, Tape and Testimony*, composed by Phillip Miller, directed by Gerhard Marx, with interactive film by Gerhard and Maja Marx, Market Theatre, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*They Say*, written, designed and directed by Gerhard Marx for Aardklop National Arts Festival (winner: Bravo Award - Most Memorable Moment, Aardklop 2008), Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2007 *REwind, a Cantata for Voice, Tape and Testimony*, Celebrate Brooklyn NY and the 62' Centre, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA
- 2006 *The Collision Project*, directed by Gerhard Marx, composed by Clare Loveday, The Substation, Wits Theatre Complex, South Africa  
*Truth in Translation*, directed by Michael Lessick (NY), set design by Gerhard Marx, tours internationally 2006-2008
- 2005 *Hear and Now*, written by Lara Foot Newton, co-directed by Lara Foot Newton and Gerhard Marx, scenography by Gerhard Marx, tours internationally 2005-2006
- 2003 *Tshepang*, written and directed by Lara Foot Newton, scenography by Gerhard Marx, tours internationally 2003-2019

## PUBLIC ART

- 2022 *Locus (Richmond)*, Richmond, Northern Cape, South Africa
- 2020 *The World on its Hind Legs*, in collaboration with William Kentridge, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 *Vertical Aerial: Johannesburg*, Hollard, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 *The World on its Hind Legs*, in collaboration with William Kentridge, Beverley Hills, Los Angeles, USA
- 2015 *Vertical Aerial: Johannesburg*, Old Fort, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 *Vertical Aerial: Johannesburg*, commissioned by Spier Architectural Arts for the Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*90 Grayston*, facade of 90 Grayston building, with GLH Architects, Sandton, South Africa
- 2010 *The World on its Hind Legs*, in collaboration with artist William Kentridge, Nedbank Campus, Sandton, South Africa
- 2009 *The Fire Walker*, in collaboration with William Kentridge, Queen Elizabeth Bridge, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009 *Paper Pigeon*, in collaboration with Maja Marx, Pigeon Square, Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 *Ecstatic Archive*, with texts by Sean O'Toole, Edgar Pieterse and Alex Dodd (published by Goodman Gallery)
- 2015 *Depths in Feet*, catalogue (co-published by the artist and Goodman Gallery)



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- 2009 'A Matter of Life and Death: The Function of Dysfunction in the work of the Handspring Puppet Company' in Taylor, J (ed) 2009, *Handspring Puppet Company*, Johannesburg, David Krut Publishing
- 2005 *Gerhard Marx*, catalogue (published by Warren Siebrits Modern and Contemporary Art)

## ART COLLECTIONS

Fondation Antoine de Galbert  
South African Foundation for Contemporary Art  
Renee and Robert Drake Art Collection  
Wits Art Museum  
Johannesburg Art Gallery  
Absa Bank  
SABC  
Nedbank  
Sasol Art Collection  
The Perez Collection, Perez Art Museum, Miami  
21 C collection, Kentucky  
Spier Collection

## ART AWARDS

- 2020 Festival Artist, *Woordfees, Soundings and Fathoms*, Stellenbosch
- 2014 Festival Artist, Aardklop Festival, *The Garden at Night*, NWU gallery, Potchefstroom
- 2012 Visual Artist Award, KYKNET, Aardklop Art Festival, Oudtshoorn
- 1998 Michaelis Award; Best Student, Michaelis School of Art, UCT  
Simon Gershwin Award; Most Promising Art Student
- 1997 Michaelis Award; Best Student, Michaelis School of Art, UCT

## SELECTED FILM AWARDS

- 2007 *And There in The Dust*, with Lara Foot Newton: Best Animated Film, and Best International Short Film at the Bird's Eye Festival in London
- 2006 *And There in The Dust*, with Lara Foot Newton: Best Short Film at the Latin, African and Asian Film Festival, Milan; 3 Golden Horn awards at the South African Film Awards (Best Animation, Best Direction, Best Screenplay, short film)

## THEATRE AWARDS

- 2009 Naledi Award, Best Set Design (*REwind: A Cantata for Voice, Tape and Testimony*)
- 2008 Bravo Award; Most Memorable Moment, Aardklop National Arts Festival (*They Say*)
- 2005 Naledi Award, Best Set Design (*The Tempest*)
- 2004 Naledi Award, Best Set Design (*Tshepang*)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2009 Cinema du Monde Pavillion fellow, Cannes Film Festival, by invitation of the French Institute, France
- 2008 Sundance Institute Fellowship: Sundance Film Directors' Laboratory, Utah, USA

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Annenberg Film Fellowship, University of Southern California, USA  
2007 Sundance Institute Fellowship, Sundance Screen Writers' Laboratory, Utah, USA  
2004 Ampersand Fellowship, New York, USA

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2004–07 Lecturer, Wits School of Art, University of the Witwatersrand  
2001–03 Lecturer, School of Art, Pretoria Technikon (currently known as Tshwane University of Technology)