

EVERARD READ

NORMAN CATHERINE

(b. 1949 East London, South Africa)

'Norman Catherine's prodigious career spans more than 50 years and has straddled the most formative periods in South African contemporary art, from the '70's through the end of the last millennium and into the youth of this one. His oeuvre includes painting sculpture, printmaking and mixed media. His nutrients have, at times, included the cultural equivalent of junk food: pop culture, comic books, cartoons, sci-fi movies, pulp fiction; and, whether deliberately or inadvertently, like all South Africans, he has subsisted on a daily diet of news reports reflecting the violence, brutality, corruption, and dandified revelry of an empire dangling on the edge of the precipice. In short, his art has both depicted and mitigated South Africa's growing pains and its fractured psyche.'

Hazel Friedman, 2013

Since his first 1969 solo exhibition, consisting of oil paintings on wood, bone, wire and an assortment of found objects, Norman Catherine's art has since undergone "several metamorphoses, from the pristine airbrush paintings of the 70s to the frenzied, ritualistic mixed media works of the early and mid 80s; the wire sculptures and tin can works of the late 80s, and the primitive-futuristic paintings of the early 90s which provided the seeds for his pre-millennial menagerie of anthropomorphic beasts. In the years spanning his past and present output, Catherine's visual trademarks have included rough-edged comical and nightmarish forms, rendered in brash cartoon colours. His idiosyncratic vision - a combination of dark cynicism and exuberant humour, as well as his innovative use of everyday materials, has secured his place at the forefront of South African contemporary art" (Hazel Friedman).

Norman Catherine's art imbibes a dystopian vision of the socio-political landscape that informs his psyche. History, horror, crime, conflict, psychoses, politics & pathologies serve as stimuli for his creative output that vacillates between the macabre and the comic, between a gasp and a giggle. He conveys his cynical vision through a juxtaposition of dark and light sensibilities veering between an internal hallucinatory realm and literal commentary on the material world. There are no easy classifications for the genre of his work suffice to say that he rebels against any dogma or rigid definition.

Catherine has exhibited extensively in South Africa and internationally. His work is included in public and corporate collections in South Africa and internationally including the Museum of Modern Art and the Brooklyn Museum in New York City.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Head to Toe, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 Incognito, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2006 Now & Then Retrospective, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Dualities, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2005 Now & Then Retrospective, Stellenbosch Art Gallery, South Africa
Now & Then Retrospective, Nelson Mandela Metro Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, Polokwane Art Gallery, Durban Art Gallery, South Africa
- 2004 Urban Mutations, Moba Art Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Now & Then Retrospective, Pretoria Art Museum;, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 2002 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

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- 2000 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1995 Espace XL, Luxembourg
- 1994 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1993 Spot-On Gallery, Windhoek, Namibia
- 1991 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1987 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1986 S.A. Association of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (Fook Island-Walter Battiss Commemoration Exhibition), South Africa
Gallery 21, Johannesburg (100 works from Pelmama Collection), South Africa
Area-X Gallery, New York, USA
- 1985 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1984 S.A. Association of Arts, Windhoek, Namibia
- 1982 Gowlett Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1980 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1979 Rand Afrikaans University, Johannesburg (Retrospective exhibition 1969-1979), South Africa
- 1978 Kunsthandel SIAU, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Gallery 21, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1977 No 13 Abel Road Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1976 Gallery 21, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1974 Goodman-Wolman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1973 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1972 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1971 N.S.A. Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 1970 Motif Gallery, East London, South Africa
- 1969 Herbert Evans Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2022 3D in 2022: South African Contemporary Sculpture, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Ancestors & Dreams in African Art, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa & Jacaranda,
New York, USA
- 2021 Spring Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Oasis, 25th anniversary exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Odyssey, online exhibition, Everard Read, South Africa & UK
- 2017 Off the wall: A Group Sculpture Show, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 Summer of Sculpture III, Mount Nelson Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 It's New, It's Now, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minnesota, USA
- 2012 Impressions from South Africa: 1965 to Now, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 2011 Art Monaco 11, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
Entre de Cultura Contemporania de Barcelona, Spain
Water – the [Delicate] Thread of Life , Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 Local Racism, Global Apartheid , CCCP, Barcelona Spain
- 2006 1er Salon d Art Contemporain Africain , Brussels, Belgium
- 2004 Identity - The ID of South African Artists Exhibition, Scheveningen, Netherlands
- 2003 Brett Kebble Awards, Cape Town, South Africa
Art 34 Basel, Switzerland
- 2002 Passport to South Africa, Centro Culterale Trevi, Bolzano, Italy
Natural Born Painters, Galerie W, Paris, France
L humour dans i art contemporain, Espace Belleville, Paris, France
Zeignössische Kunst aus Südafrika, Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany

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- 1998 Included in United Nations Portfolio: "New York - Artists Salute Gerard Schroeder"
1997 South Africa, Kohn Turner Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Fin de Siecle, Michel Luneau Art Gallery, Nantes, France
1996 Simunye, Adelson Galleries, New York, USA
Modern Konst i Afrika, MalmöKonsthall, Malmö, Sweden
Common and Uncommon Ground, Atlanta, USA
Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, USA (May)
Art 27 96, Basel, Switzerland
Eight from South Africa, Centre for the Arts, Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco, USA
Colours, Zeignössische Kunst aus Südafrika, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
1995 Seven Stories About Modern Art in Africa, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK
On The Road, Delfina Studio Trust Gallery, London
Mayibuye i Afrika, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, UK
Kunsthall, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Panoramas of Passage: Changing Landscapes of South Africa, Meridian Cafritz Galleries,
Washington, Touring USA (Dallas, Atlanta, Detroit and Wilberforce, Ohio)
1994 In Full Color, Les Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA
Cuban Biennial, Havana, CUBA & Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
1993 Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Graphica Creativa, Jyväskylä, Finland
1991 AA Life Vita Art Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa
1990-1 Art from South Africa, Zabalaza Festival, Oxford Museum, Oxford, UK (touring exhibition)
1990 Voices from South Africa, Contemporary Art against Apartheid, Stuart Levy Gallery, New York,
USA
1989 Art 20 89, Basel, Switzerland
1987 Art 18 87, Basel, Switzerland
1986 Pictures of People, Area-X Gallery, New York, USA
1985 Tributaries Exhibition, Johannesburg & Germany (BMW-sponsored touring exhibition)
Soker-Kaseman Gallery, San Francisco, USA
1981 Defense Art Gallery, Paris, France
Art EXPO, San Francisco, USA
Art EXPO, Los Angeles, USA
1975 Art 6 75, Basel, Switzerland
1973 Galerie Daniel Gervis, Paris, France
1972 Galleria d'Arte L'Orizzonte, Senigallia, Italy

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- 1973 Art South Africa Today, Durban (Cambridge Shirt Award)
1981 Republic Festival Arts Exhibition, Durban (1st prize for Graphic Art)
1991 AA Life Vita Art Now 3rd Quarterly Award (Shared with Andries Botha)
2012 SA Academy of Science & Art: Award for Visual Arts.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

SA National Gallery, Cape Town
Johannesburg Municipal Art Gallery, Johannesburg
Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria
Durban Art Gallery, Durban
Ann Bryant Art Gallery, East London
Sandton Municipal Art Gallery, Sandton
Oliwenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein
The Haenggi Foundation Inc, Switzerland

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Pelmama Permanent Art Collection, Johannesburg
University of South Africa, Pretoria
Rand Afrikaans University, Johannesburg
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
University of Natal, Durban
Walter Battiss Museum, Somerset East
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, Port Elizabeth
Roodepoort Public Library, Roodepoort
Department of National Education
Carnegie Art Gallery, Newcastle
Gauteng Legislature, Johannesburg
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg
Constitutional Court of SA, Johannesburg
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (MOMA)
Reserve Bank of South Africa
Minneapolis Institute of Arts (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

CORPORATE COLLECTIONS

Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, USA
Mobil Court Art Collection, Cape Town
Volkskas Bank, Pretoria
Everite Ltd, Johannesburg
Premier Milling Co, Johannesburg
Trust Bank, Johannesburg
Bankorp, Johannesburg
Standard Bank, Johannesburg
Sasol Art Collection
World Bank, Johannesburg
BHP Billiton, Johannesburg
World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland
Union Bank of Switzerland, Sandton
Telkom, Johannesburg
Absa, Johannesburg
Saronsberg Wine Estate Collection, Tulbagh
Vodacom, Cape Town
Berardo Foundation, Portugal
Sanlam Ltd., Bellville
Fortis CircusTheater, Scheveningen, Netherlands