

# EVERARD READ

## **SETLAMORAGO MASHILO**

(b. 1987 Johannesburg, South Africa)

'I unpack my own spiritual and psychological connections with these established systems of thought or ideologies and how they still condition our contemporary lives – the very same systems created by previous generations to secure our being and give them what we/they seek from life.'

Setlamorago Mashilo is compelled by a sense of social conscience. He incorporates proverbs and idioms in his mother tongue (Sepedi) into his multidisciplinary art practice, to translate the community's oral histories into artistic interventions and installations.

Continuing the thread from his earlier works, Mashilo's work centres around the consequences of dwelling, building and thinking, by articulating and interrogating narratives that resonate individually and collectively about our sense of loss, nostalgia and inherited memories. His work becomes a form of conversation about our society's values: how they are deeply encoded in our language and in objects and, ultimately, how that shapes the communities of which we are a part.

Mashilo's first solo exhibition was in the Netherlands and he has also exhibited in South Africa, the UK, Germany and China. Awards in South Africa include the Facebook Fan's Choice at the 2013 PPC Young Concrete Sculptor Awards, as well as the inaugural Turbine Art Fair and Sylt Emerging Artist award in 2014.

'The thorny issue come discourse concerning land in South Africa has always been a contentious dialogue to engage with. There are seemingly new complexities that emerge with the interrogation of this subject as there is a collective understanding that the land was stolen from the indigenous peoples who occupied it. This view still persists in South Africa's contemporary society to the extent where it expands to politics and economics. The year 2013 marked the 100th year anniversary of the Native Land Act. Thus beckons the questions: what permutations exist due to this happening? What types of connection are there between the land and its "custodians"?'

The series *Mabu a u tswitswe* is engrossed in exploring these potent questions and analysing the multi-faceted narratives that inform our historical and contemporary lives. The title is in fact a Sepedi idiom which literally means 'the land has been stolen'. I critique various narratives that resonate collectively with the greater public such as issues of migration, labour, dispossession, alienation, angst etc. Inversely, I also interrogate my own spiritual/ psychological alienation and angst towards the lands which I occupy.'

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2022 Spring, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Negotiating the Crossroads, solo, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Land Grabber's Shrine, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 Against the Grain, solo, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Oasis, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Spring Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020 Visions of the Interior, solo, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Journeys of the Mind, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Us, Everard Read, South Africa & UK

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- Life & Land, mmARTHouse, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
The Land Will Decide, solo exhibition at Everard Read Gallery
- 2017 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Amandla! Reform, Debate, Redress, Oliewenhuis Art Museum  
Bodulo, Rotterdam International Art Fair  
Performing Wo/Man, North-West University Gallery  
Tokyo International Art Fair  
Installation Art Fair, New York  
African Equations, Lizamore & Associates
- 2015 New Voices, Lizamore & Associates  
When You Come Back, Art on Paper Miami  
FETISH, Albany Museum  
The Spiritual in the Material", Lizamore & Associates  
Capital Present, Fried Contemporary  
Emerging Artists, Shanghai Art Fair  
Landlords & Trespassers, Turbine Art Fair
- 2014 Contemporary Totem Poles (Cool Capital Biennale)  
Fresh Produce, Turbine Art Fair
- 2013 PPC Young Sculptor Awards, Pretoria Artist Association

## SELECTED AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2013 PPC Young Concrete Sculptor Award (Fans Choice Award)
- 2014 Turbine Art Fair & Sylt Emerging Artist Award
- 2015 Sylt Residency
- 2016 Global Nomadic Art Project

## SELECTED PUBLIC COMMISSIONS/COLLECTIONS

- Modern Art Projects, South Africa
- Tambo Foundation, South Africa