

# EVERARD READ

## **NIGEL MULLINS**

(b. 1969 Makhanda, South Africa)

Nigel Mullins's works, from *Chaotic Region* (2013) and beyond, present the disparate images of human existence as a compendium of fruitless tropes that have perpetrated, sustained and perpetuated Western culture since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The works draw every sacralised view and arch-theory into question. Even the designation 'human', with its defining sets of ideologies, has become an obsolete remnant, exposing every pedagogue and hero, every defining character as, at the very most, ineffectual. The paintings reflect the enveloping totality of contemporary culture and posits it clearly as a deadlock between past and present.

His painterly exploration makes use of sumptuous impasto, veering between figuration and abstraction without restraint, the lashings of paint (both sensual and viscous) conveying the turmoil and restlessness of our times. Mullins applies his material as libations covering a sacred artefact or an amulet: fetishistically. The paint, dense in meaning and referential value, thickly covers the support as it alters and constructs. This explicitly references the painting as a thing; a support to which meaning (as material) is applied often in layers and over an expanse of time. It is not that the thick patinas of paint have no regard for the frame, and thus no consideration for the delineations of border. Rather, they recognize the boundaries specifically, some even bare their marginalia, titles and subtexts as physical 'charms' suspended from below. Every painted mark, like the wiry phrases affixed to the frames of the paintings is a litany petitioning nothingness and a no one.

The insistence of the materiality of paint exposes the frame-laden subtexts. It recognises these as definitive entities, rich in cultivated meaning. The medium treats them physically in the same way that it treats the subject matter. With the sensual gesture and drama of paint application, Mullins's work then finally turns on the paint itself and exposes the sedimentary material as concomitant to the myths of Western civilisation. It is the vehicle and medium that imagines our underlying desires, hopes and fantasies – the futility of its so-called gains.

## **EDUCATION**

1993 Master of Fine Arts, with distinction, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 Paintings For Jubilant Temporal Ideologies, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2021 The Time Keepers, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 Mass Gatherings, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2018 Glorious Order, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017 Artefacts from the Anthropocene, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 21st Century Talismans, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2015 The Obsolete Remnants of the Industrial Age, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2014 Buy You Time, Equus Gallery, Western Cape, South Africa  
Chaotic Region, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 2013 Chaotic Region, curated by Tanya Poole, Rhodes University Alumni Gallery and Standard Bank Gallery, South Africa  
Chaotic Region, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 Caveman Spaceman, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 Earthlings, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2005 Ends and Escapes, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa



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- 2004 Pacifier, ABSA Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003 Fix, Rhodes University Alumni Gallery, Albany Museum, Grahamstown Arts Festival, South Africa
- 2001 Hopeful Monsters, Hanel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Superhuman, ROSL, London and Edinburgh, UK  
Hopeful Monsters, Hanel Gallery, Wiesbaden, Germany  
Hopeful Monsters, Lithographs in Collaboration with Fine Line Press
- 2000 New Work, Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 1999 Superhuman, Hanel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1998 ROSL Prizewinner Exhibition, Continuum, Landings Gallery, Edinburgh, UK  
Continuum, Lamont Gallery, London, UK  
Momentum, Grahamstown Arts Festival and Association of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
- 1994 Window into the South African Landscape, Grosvenor St, Mayfair, London, UK

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
110 Year Anniversary, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2022 Spring, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Seduction, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2020 Summer, Everard Read, London, UK  
Masterpiece online, with Everard Read, London, UK  
Staring Straight to the Future, online exhibition, Everard Read, UK & South Africa  
Pink, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Odyssey, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2019 CONTEXT Art Miami, with Everard Read, Miami, Florida, USA  
Southern Aspect, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2018 In the Forests of the Night, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 Bronze, Steel, Stone, Everard Read, London, UK  
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read Booth, Johannesburg, SA  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read Cica Booth, Cape Town, SA  
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK  
Reality Check, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Summer Exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK  
Reality Check, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, CIRCA Gallery Booth, London, UK  
FNB Jo burg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Cape Town Art Fair 2015, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Empire , Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014 Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Johannesburg Art Fair, Johans Borman Fine Art, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Winter Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 Tom Waits For No Man, curated by Gordon Froud, Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees,  
Oudtshoorn, South Africa  
Weerberig, Curated by Luan Nel, Aardklop, South Africa  
Kunstefees, Potchefstroom, South Africa  
Johannesburg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 MullinsPoole, the Bettendorffsche Gallery, Germany
- 2010 View From The South, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
On Colour, Colour a Colloquium. Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa  
8th MUMIA – Underground World Animation Festival 2010. Brazil



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- Juncture. Painting from South Africa. Nigel Mullins, Tanya Poole, Luan Nel. artSPACE, Berlin, Germany  
International Festival of Animated Film of Fortaleza, Brazil
- 2009 Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa  
X2, Albany Museum, Grahamstown National Arts Festival, South Africa  
Hang in There, Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2008 Johannesburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Between Meaning and Matter, Bell-Roberts, Cape Town, South Africa

## SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

ABSA, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum  
Ann Bryant Art Museum  
Deloitte and Touche  
Ernst and Young  
Hollard Insurance  
Ken Logan Art Collection, USA  
KPMG  
Nandos UK  
Oliewenhuis Art Museum  
Old Mutual Bank  
Pretoria Art Museum, Sanlam  
Rhodes University Collection  
South African Association  
Spier Art Collection  
SAB  
SASOL  
Telkom, Rand Merchant Bank  
Westminster and Chelsea Hospital Collection, London, UK  
ZENECA

## SELECTED AWARDS

- 1997 First Prize, Royal Overseas League 14th Annual Exhibition. London.  
1999 Nominee for the Daimler Chrysler Award for Contemporary South African Art  
2000 Merit Prize, ABSA l'Atelier