BRETT CHARLES SEILER
(b.1994 Zimbabwe)

Through his paintings, Brett Charles Seiler creates an interior world which wavers between desire and anxiety. He explores the male body, domestic space, poetry, Queer history, Biblical symbolism, love and alienation, as well as the possibilities of painting as a medium. His experimentation with material, colour, and line has culminated in a unique and carefully honed style. In his search for materials which are both evocative and easily accessible, Seiler's early paintings included found objects such as old black-and-white photographs and fabric. Though these objects have mostly been stripped away from his most recent paintings, they have been absorbed as visual strategy. The photographs are present in the snapshot-like, narrative atmosphere of the depicted scenes, and in the colour palette and tones. The interest in fabric can be seen in his treatment of the canvas as an important part of the finished work. The rawness of the surface and the sketched quality of the lines add to the feeling that we are witnessing a brief, urgent moment in time which has passed but been memorialised.

Even in the more conventional of Seiler's painted scenes, the void-like backgrounds add an enticing ambiguity to the works. They become otherworldly. In some cases, they offer a vision of an untouched heaven, but more often they have the texture of a dream (or nightmare). You can see familiar objects – a houseplant, a thrifted mid-mod chair, a parquet floor – and yet the surroundings remain alien and unstable. Perspective is unsturdy, with flatness and depth being represented alongside each other.

Words and poetry are another important aspect of Seiler's practice. His works have included comic but tragic anecdotes, love letters, and references to Queer culture. He references the legendary Fire Island. The 'Coke/cock bottle' which appears often within the paintings and as a sculptural object allows for a moment of erotic humour.

All of these visual elements offer a sensitive navigation of his own experiences as a gay man who has lived through shame and alienation, as well as love – and the joy and anxiety that comes with it. As seen in works such as the *Gay Alphabet* series, Seiler is not afraid to engage directly with the political, but he makes the politics of gender and sexuality feel intimate and immediate. Beyond this personal/political lens, the works are an expression of his passion for artistic practice itself – through both the physical act of painting, and the history of art and culture.

– extract from a text by Khanya Mashabela

Brett Charles Seiler graduated from the Ruth Prowse School of Art in 2015. In addition to his solo shows in South Africa, Germany, the USA, UK and China, Seiler has been included in various group exhibitions and fairs, including a performance piece with Luvuyo Nyawose titled 'Reading Homophobia' (2017) at the A4 Arts Foundation in Cape Town, and the Armory Show and Art Basel with Galerie Eigen + Art. TeNeues published a monograph on Seiler in 2022. 2025 includes a solo show in Korea as well as a museum show in Bensheim, Germany. His work will be part of the 2026 *Here: Pride and Belonging in African Art* project curated by the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026 Occasional Lovers, Eigen+Art, Berlin, Germany
Wish you were here, The Third, Seoul, Korea
2025 LOW BUDGET LOVE STORY, Museum der Stadt Bensheim, Germany
I would like to lose it all with you, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2024 I would like to say thank you to all my past lovers, A26 Space, Beijing, China
so many pictures, so little memories, Gallery Eigen+Art, Leipzig, Germany
2023 Luke, Warm, Everard Read, London, UK
Riding in cards with boys, Eigen+Art, Berlin, Germany
2022 scenes from an apartment, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Oh, Christopher, M+B, Los Angeles, USA
At some point, I thought I was building a home, Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2021 Timber, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2020 Closet, Goodman Gallery viewing room, Johannesburg, SA
Pride or Die, curated by Jana Terblanche, Gallery Lab, FNB Art Joburg, Johannesburg, SA
2019 How I forgot the colours of the rainbow, SMITH Studio, Cape Town, SA
2018 More scared of what was in the closet than what was underneath my bed, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2016 Macho Man, Tell It To My Heart, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, SA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 The Armory Show, with Everard Read, New York, USA
GUT FEELING, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Here: Pride and Belonging in African Art, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
Miettinen Collection: Body Politics, Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art, Vaasa, Finland
Matereality V2, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, SA
The Armory Show, with Everard Read, New York, USA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read & Eigen+Art, Cape Town, SA
2025 The Armory Show, with Everard Read, New York, USA
When works meet again, Stevenson, Cape Town, SA
In us is heaven, Southern Guild, Los Angeles, USA
Training Terrain, curated by Matthew Michael at DEMO projects, Cape Town, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read & Eigen+Art, Cape Town, SA
EXPO CHICAGO, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
Art Basel, with Gallery Eigen+Art, Basel Switzerland
Motherhood, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
What the Eye Brought Back, P420, Bologna, Italy
2024 EXPO CHICAGO, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
INNER SANCTUM, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read & Gallery Eigen+Art, Cape Town, SA
Mangrove Gallery, Shenzhen, China
Beeldhonger, NoHero Museum, Delden, Netherlands
2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read & Gallery Eigen+Art, Cape Town, SA
The Armory Show, with Gallery Eigen+Art, New York, USA
Art Cologne, with Gallery Eigen+Art, Cologne, USA
Art Basel, with Gallery Eigen+Art, Basel, Switzerland
The Other's Warmth, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
2022 Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
In Between Dreams, Gallery Eigen+Art, Berlin, Germany
Das Eigene im Fremden, Museum Bensheim, Germany

Hot House, Sixty Six, London, UK
Rohkunstbau 27, Altdöbern Castle, Germany
The Armory Show, with Gallery Eigen+Art, New York, USA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Eigen+Art, Cape Town, SA
Seduction, Everard Read, Cape Town
m.T., Gallery Eigen+Art, Leipzig, Germany

2021 OASIS, 25th Anniversary Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Summer 2021, Everard Read, London, UK
In Your Shadow, SMAC, Cape Town, SA
In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Space and Place, curated by Khanya Mashabela, Galerie Eigen + Art, Leipzig, Germany
This room glows in the dark while we are asleep, curated by Jana Terblanche, The Vault, Cape Town, SA
Art Cologne, Cologne, Gallery Eigen + Art, Germany
Positions, Berlin, Gallery Eigen + Art, Germany

2020 ODYSSEY, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Three Way, KwaZulu Natal Society of Arts, Durban, SA
The Spectacle, THEFOURTH, Cape Town, SA

2019 Emphatic Whispers, SMITH Studio, Cape Town
Winter 2019, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Home Affairs, Waterfront Docks, Cape Town, SA
OUTSIDE, RK Contemporary, Riebeek-Kasteel, SA
FNB Joburg Art Fair, online, solo booth curated by Jana Terblanche, Johannesburg, SA

2018 One Straight Hour performed for The Main Complaint, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town, SA
Sunday Service, GUS, Stellenbosch, SA
Unfair, The Ruth Prowse School of Art, Cape Town, SA
The Edge of a Thread, Eclectica Contemporary, Cape Town, SA
Close Encounters, SMITH Studio, Cape Town, SA
Not Really, Studio 136 Bree, Cape Town, SA
Multiplicities Vol1: Continuous Unknowing, Assembly Room, NYC, USA

2017 Closer than Ever, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, SA
Performance Night, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, SA
One Week, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, SA
Young Now, Hazard Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
Hold, The Ruth Prowse School of Art, Cape Town, SA
You & I, A4 Arts Foundation, Cape Town, SA
Dislocation, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Salon Show, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, SA
ABSA L'Atelier Top 100 finalists, ABSA Gallery, Pretoria, SA

2016 Falling Into One Another, Ruth Prowse School of Art, Cape Town, SA
New Monuments, Commune.1, Cape Town, SA
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
One Zero Seven, 107 Long market Street, Cape Town, SA
The Ties That Bind, Bend, Break, Secret Dungeon, NYC, USA
Lip Service with Khanya Mashabela, Open Dialogue Box, Cape Town, SA
Sorry! Please Try Again, Palms Centre, Cape Town, SA
Reading Homophobia, with Luvuyo Nyawose, performance, Gallery MOMO, Cape Town, SA
Emerging Painters, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, SA

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Private and public collections in Austria, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK, China, Korea, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan and USA

1690 Art Collection
X Museum
AIR101
Bella Kesoyan Collection
Collection of Alvin Hall
Droege Art Collection
Infamous Collection
Laurent Germain Collection
Mennuni Collection
Mika Minetti Collection
No Hero Museum
one.
Privatsammlung Weiden
Ravasi Silva Collection
Sammlung Detlev Blenk
Sammlung GOLDZAKK.ART
Sammlung Hildebrand / G2 Kunsthalle,
Leipzig Sammlung
Kaufmann Sammlung
Michael Mronz
The Blavy Collection
The Daniel Malarkey Collection
The Homestead Collection, Norval Foundation
The Robert Runtak Collection
Vilsmeier-Linhares Collection
ZEITZ MOCAA