

EVERARD READ

FRANSCHHOEK

BIOGRAPHY

GARY STEPHENS

(b. 1962 Yuma, AZ, USA)

WORK:

Monumental in scale, Gary Stephens portraits pay homage to the African traditions of hair-braiding, hats, headscarves and contemporary urban style. The drawings capturing a view from behind, focus on the iconic power of a subject's hair or hat instead of their specific facial features. Stephens portrays women in head scarves or men wearing caps to focus attention on the power of these "everyday" symbols of African life. He documents the sense of style and attention people put into how present themselves in a contemporary African setting. From a visual perspective, he is constantly drawn to patterns and visual rhythms, such as geometric repetitions, textile patterns, or botanical shapes. He is attracted to non-verbal, hypnotic visual experiences and chooses his subjects for their stripes and textures. He creates patterns underneath the images that randomly break through and energize the image.

BIOGRAPHY:

Born on the Mexican border town of Yuma, Arizona, Gary Stephens studied painting and drawing at the University of Arizona and the San Francisco Art Institute. For the past thirty years, he has worked as an artist and travelled extensively in Latin America, Asia, Europe and Africa for inspiration. In 1998, he moved to Florence, Italy, where he lived and worked for ten years refining his drawing style. In 2009, he did a year long residency at Greatmore Studios in Cape Town. Since 2008, Stephens has been living and working in South Africa – where his work began on a series of monumental portraits of his artist friends and their African sense of style and dress. He combines his interests in optical effects, stripes, fractured images, with his love of pattern and mark-making and uses the portrait and cityscape to explore both his visual interests and to engage with the beauty of the African continent. Stephens' work is in public and private collections in the US, Europe and the Middle East.

EDUCATION:

1980-82

University of Arizona, Tucson, USA

1983-84

San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, USA

1985-86

College of Marin, Kentfield, Ca, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2013

Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, Networks and Voids, Modern Nigerian Hairstyles with Okhai Ojeikere

2012

Gallery Momo, In Conversation, Johannesburg, SA

Omenka Gallery, The Ankara Portraits, Lagos, Nigeria

2011

Gallery Momo, Braids and Caps, Johannesburg, SA

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2008

Yuma Art Center Museum, Arizona, USA, "NewWork"
Studio Dimore , Florence, Italy,

2005

Yuma Art Center Museum, Yuma, Az "Cactus and Sunflowers"
Gallerie Franzke Art Meeting Point, Vienna , Austria
Polissena , Prato (Florence), Italy " Arizona Meets Africa"

2004

BZF, Vellechi Spazio Culturale, Florence, Italy "Giant Sunflowers"

2003

Yuma Fine Arts Center, Yuma, Az, "Desert Fauve Landscapes"

2002

Momoyama Art space , Florence, Italy "Spirit Vessels"

2000

Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, Ca

1995

College of Marin; Kentfield, Ca

1991

Braunstein / Quay Gallery, San Francisco,Ca, "Personal Icons"

1990

Elaine Horwitch Galleries, Palm Springs, Ca
Sun Gallery, Haward, Ca "Earthly Delights"
Yuma Art Center; Yuma, Az, "The Whimsical Animal"

1989

Claudia Chapline Gallery; Stinson Beach, Ca, "Heads"

1987

Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, Ca, " The Wild West Show"
The Phoenix Gallery, San Francisco,

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2014

Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, London 14, International Art Fair, Booth F
Artco Gallery, Aachen Germany. London 14, International Art Fair, Booth H4

2013

Everard Read Gallery, Sydney Australia, Sydney Contemporary13 art booth
Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg Art Fair, Sandton Civic Center,
David Krut, Trees, Newlands, Capetown, SA

2012

Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, SA, Gallery artists exhibit.

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2010

Spanish Embassy, The World of Cape Town Art, Cape Town, S A

2009

Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, South Africa, members show

UCA Gallery, Woodstock, South Africa "Portraits"

2006

L'Albero Celeste, San Gimignano, Italy, "Summer Group Show"

1998

Wolk Gallery, St. Helena, Ca

Mill Valley Sculpture Garden, Mill Valley, Ca

Mendocino Art Center, Ca, "Ceramic Sculpture: A Fine Art View"

1997

Napa Valley College, Ca, "Bay Area Art"

1996

Irvine Fine Arts Center; Irvine, Ca "Maps, Globes and Charts"

1994

Anchorage Museum of History & Art, Anchorage, Ak "A World of Maps"

1993

San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, "Body Politic"

Bolinas Museum, Pt. Reyes, Ca "Self Portraits: True Stories"

University of Arizona, Tucson, Az , "Earth Day Juried Show"

1992

Faulkirk Cultural Center, San Rafael, Ca, "Shrines" (Cash Award)

1991

LA Artcore, Los Angeles, Ca, "8th Juried Exhibition"

Downey Museum of Art, Ca, "Contemporary Virgins of Guadalupe"

Dinnerware Artists' Cooperative, Tucson, AZ, "Biennial Exhibit"

Nelson Morales Gallery, San Francisco, Ca, "Anti War Signs"

1990

Arpel Gallery, Santa Barbara, Ca "Juried Exhibition"

Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, Ca, "Living Artists Program"

Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Scottsdale, Az, "The Reflected Image"

Arizona Art Commission Traveling Exhibition, "True Blues"

Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Sedona, Az

1989

San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, San Francisco (Curator, Rene Yanez)

Casa Grande Art Museum, Casa Grande, Az, "Animals"

San Francisco Art Dealers Association, San Francisco, Ca "Introductions"

1988

Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, Ca, "New Landscapes"

Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, Ca, "Southwest Christmas"

Yosemite Nat'l. Park, Ca, "Yosemite Renaissance III"

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1987

Michael Ivey Gallery, Los Angeles
Virginia Breier Gallery, San Francisco

1986

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery, San Francisco
Falkirk Center Annual Juried Show, San Rafael, Ca

1985

Crocker-Kingsley Museum, Sacramento, Ca, "Annual Exhibit"

TEACHING/RESIDENCIES:

2012

Printmaking lecture and workshop leader, Yaba Tech, Lagos Nigeria

2008

Painting Residency, Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, S A
Guest lecture, Living Artist, Polytech University of Milan, Italy

1993

Studied traditional Balinese painting with native artists, Ubud, Bali

1990

Fairbanks, Alaska, "Animals, Myths & Monsters", Ceramics Workshop
Juror, 64th Parallel Competition, Fairbanks, Alaska
Exhibition, Residency, Public Lecture, and
School Tours; Yuma Art Center, Yuma, Az

AWARDS:

1994

Grant Recipient, Crafts Category, Marin Arts Council

1993

Best of Class (Drawing), Marin County Fair, Ca

1991

Best of Class (Mixed Media), Marin County Fair, Ca (Jurors: Wayne Thiebaud, Ruth Braunstein)

1986

Grand Prize, "Spirit of Agriculture" Contest, MALT, Marin, Ca, Honorable Mention, Marin County Fair, Ca

1985

Honorable Mention Cash Award, Marin County Fair, Ca ,Invitational Exhibit Student Award, Sausalito Art Festival, Ca

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Ysware Griot, Arts and Culture blog May 5, 2013 "the Magic of Gary Stephens and the Everyday"
Omenka Gallery -Gary Stephens, The Ankara Portraits, exhibition catalog 2012 Lagos, Nigeria
Mary Ekah -Thisday, The Saturday Newspaper, Lagos Nigeria Oct 20th,2012
"African Urban Lifestyle from the Brush of an American"
Tajudeen Sowole -Africanartswithtaj, Nigerian art blog, October 2012
Ankara Portraits
Robyn Sassen - Sunday Times Review, Johannesburg June 5th, 2011
"Making Haircuts the Headline Act"
Sue Grant Marshall -The Arch, Johannesburg Winter 2011 "Streets Ahead, Hair as Braided Art Form"
JoAnne Locktov - The Art of Mosaic Design, Rockport Press, 1998
Torri Minton - San Francisco Chronicle, "Too-Human Angel", Sept. 22, 1994
Pascale Le Draoulec- Marin Independent Journal, "Suggestive Art Pulled", Sept. 20, 1994
Margaret Regan- Tucson Weekly, " the Best of The West", June 12, 1991
Jennifer Crohn- San Francisco Bay Guardian, "Art Against War", March 13, 1991
Tyson Underwood- Pacific Sun, "Colorful Ceramic Animal Fantasies", June 8, 1990
Anna McClain- In Marin, "No Attitude, Gary Stephens Paints Happy", June, 1990
Michele Cohen- Yuma Daily Sun, "Yuma Bred Artist Tickles Visual Pallet", January 11,1990
Phyllis Bragdon- Marin Independent Journal, "Falkirk Annual", Sept. 5, 1989
David Mitchell- Point Reyes Light, "Sparsely Sage and Timely", June 29, 1989
Jim Scanlon- Coastal Post, "Socko Stinson Art Show", June 26, 1989
Jennifer Merin- Los Angeles Times, "Sedona: Art Scene", June ,1988
David Hale- Fresno Metropolitan Art Report, "Yosemite Renaissance III", Summer, 1988

COLLECTIONS (SELECTED LIST):

James Makamba, London UK
Dumisane Phakate, Johannesburg SA
Mpho Diale, Johannesburg SA
Malungelo Zilimbola, Johannesburg SA
Acha Leke, Johannesburg SA
Rand Merchant Bank, Johannesburg, SA
Kgomoetso Monnakgotla, Johannesburg SA
Bowman Gilfillan, Johannesburg, SA
Oakland Museum, Ca, USA
Chip Conley, Joie di Vive Hotels, Ca USA
Carlos Santana, Phoenix Hotel, San Francisco, USA
Commodore Hotel, San Francisco, USA
Casa Del Mar, Stinson Beach, Ca, USA
Qasr Al Sarab Hotel, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Roberto & Eva Cavalli, Florence Italy
Guido Ciompi, architetto, Florence Italy
Pietro Marani, Curator, Milan, Italy
Roselyne C. Swig, Artsource, San Francisco USA
Joan Shain, Art Options, San Francisco, USA
Sina Hotels, Venice, Italy