

EVERARD READ

DYLAN LEWIS (b. 1964 Johannesburg, South Africa)



DYLAN LEWIS, LEOAPRD CHASING BUSHBUCK MAQUETTE (S379), Ed. 2/15, BRONZE, 114 x 70 x 100 cm

BIOGRAPHY AND WORK

Dylan Lewis is Africa's most internationally renowned living figurative sculptor. Collectively Lewis' bronzes of felines form perhaps the most powerful commentary on nature and wilderness that has been made by any artist of this era. His cats are far more profound works of art than mere contemporary animalia bronzes. Indeed, they fully interrogate the lithe, almost boneless, grace of these apex predators – creatures that impart by their very presence a palpable tension to any true wilderness.

Lewis' cats are imbued with a unique dense energy by this artist who, through a lifetime of immersing himself in pristine natural environments, somehow contrives to elevate his sculpture into a homage not only to the singular animals but indeed to their ancient lineages. Lewis' bronzes fully capture the essence of an organism perfectly adapted to its habitat – the bodily expression of DNA adapting to eons of inexorable environmental change. In the presence of his art, it does not take long to be affected by the rare brilliance and self-confident virtuosity honed by decades of work both in nature and his studio.

Whilst his cat sculptures have attracted collectors' attention, Lewis has gradually shifted vision and focus onto the human figure. Elements of humanity began to be hinted at in some early sculptures in the artists development. A

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growing body of recent work featuring highly charged emotional and erotic human forms now dominate much of this fascinating sculptor's artistic output.

Lewis' sculpture has been avidly collected internationally for decades and this has resulted in two auctions at Christies being wholly dedicated Lewis' bronzes. The last Christies sale in 2018 achieved a 100% sale result.

Dylan Lewis lives in Stellenbosch, South Africa. He has developed a unique sculpture garden where some of his most celebrated bronzes may be viewed by appointment within the natural environment that intellectually nourishes their maker.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Apex, 2021 Everard Read, Cape Town, Franschhoek, London and CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2020 CHTHONIOS, CIRCA Gallery, Cape Town
- 2017 Off the wall; A Group Sculpture Show, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg
- 2015 Cape Town Art Fair, featured artist, Everard Read Cape Town
- 2014 *A Small Collection of Cats* Everard Read Cape Town and Johannesburg
Recent Cat Bronzes, John Martin Gallery, London, UK.
- 2013 ARTLONDON13, Everard Read, Johannesburg Booth, London, UK.
WWF- Everard Read Johannesburg
- 2012 *'Summer of Sculpture'*, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town (Mount Nelson Hotel)
Delhi Art Fair
Untamed - Berkley Square, London in association with Christies South Kensington
- 2011 *'Recent Works'*, Everard Read Cape Town & Johannesburg
Solo auction, Christie's, London
'20 Stellenbosch', group exhibition, Stellenbosch
- 2010 *'Untamed'*, Everard Read, Cape Town (at Oude Bank in Stellenbosch) and Kirstenbosch Gardens
- 2009 Solo auction, Christie's, London
'Shape Shifting', Everard Read, Cape Town & Johannesburg
- 2007 Everard Read, Cape Town (at L'Ormarins in Franschhoek)
Everard Read, Johannesburg
- 2006 ART LONDON6 Everard Read, Johannesburg Booth, London, UK.

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- 2004 ART LONDON4 Everard Read, Johannesburg Booth, London, UK.
- 2003 One man exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town
ART LONDON3 Everard Read, Johannesburg Booth, London, UK.
- 2001 One man exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, The Clocktower Precinct
ARTLONDON2 Everard Read, Johannesburg
Everard Read, solo exhibition, Johannesburg
- 2000 ARTLONDON1 Everard Read, Johannesburg Booth, London, UK.
Toronto International Art & Antiques Fair in association with Miriam Shiell
Fine Art, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto
Dallas International Pavilion
Dallas International Art & Antiques Fair in association with Miriam Shiell
Fine Art, Dallas International Pavilion

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Afrox
Anglovaal
Deutsche Morgan Grenfell
Eskom
Fedlife
First National Bank
HRH The Duke of York
Harvard Capital Management Worldwide
Nissan South Africa
Mr A Oppenheimer, Mr N Oppenheimer
Mr CD Palmer-Tomkinson
Mr J Rupert
Mr B Sangster
Old Mutual Plc
President Nelson Mandela

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President George Bush USA

Sir Dennis Thatcher

Sir Richard Brooks

Sir Richard Storey

The Earl of Derby