

# EVERARD READ

## **LIONEL SMIT**

(b.1982 Pretoria, South Africa)

Lionel Smit is best known for his contemporary portraits both on monumental canvases and in sculpture. Each of his works offer us an entry point into the variety and richness that lies beneath every face we encounter in life. Abstract lines and swathes of colour establish the grounds for a figure to emerge.

In recent years, he has expanded his sculptural repertoire, creating bodies as well as faces. Smit uses intensely saturated patinas - Brilliant streaks of blue and green enrich the grooves of an ear, while the natural shadow of an eyelid is intensified by the deepening of rich black patinas. This style echos his paintings. The patination, focused enthusiasm for surface gradations and brushstroke-like quality of his sculptures showcases how he consistently pushes the envelope.

Smit's figures remain highly charged with the emotive and gestural energy of his creative process. His making remains adaptive, inventive, and physically engaging. Through this he has achieved success all over the world including sell-out exhibitions in London and Hong Kong.

Lionel Smit has exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London where he received the Viewer's Choice Award, and was selected as the 'face' of the BP Portrait Award 2013 for all campaigns. He was awarded the Ministerial Award from the Department of Culture for Visual Art. A highlight of his career was the publication of one of his paintings on the cover of Christie's Auction Catalogue. In June 2016, Smit, in collaboration with Cynthia-Reeves Gallery, installed a public art installation, *Morphous*, in Union Square, New York.

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2025 In Studio, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2024 Encounter, Kube / Uitstalling Gallery, Ghent, Belgium  
Formed, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Irreversible, Everard Read, London
- 2023 Exposure, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Veil, KUBE Gallery / Uitstalling Art Gallery, Genk  
Reflection of Self sculpture, Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, Legacy Museum, Alabama
- 2022 Interlude, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Pendulum, Uitstalling Gallery, Ghent, Belgium  
Collide, M Contemporary, Darlinghurst  
Morphous sculpture permanent public installation at Kennedy Plaza, Rhode Island
- 2021 Prelude, Everard Read, London, UK  
Discrepancies, Uitstalling Gallery, Ghent, Belgium
- 2020 Suspended, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
Reposition, Uitstalling Gallery, Ghent, Belgium  
Verso, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2019 Destructure, Everard Read, London, United Kingdom  
Manipulated Image, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 Obscura, Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA  
Divide, Art|Life Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2017 State, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Emerge, M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia  
Faces of Identity, Everard Read, London, UK



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- 2016 Premise, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
New Work, Rook & Raven Special Project Space at Armory Art Fair, New York City, USA  
Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland  
Morphous, installation in Union Square, New York, USA  
Echo, Cynthia-Reeves Gallery, Massachusetts, USA  
Trace, Rook & Raven, New York, USA
- 2015 FNB Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read booth, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Close/Perspective, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Origins, Rook & Raven, London, UK  
Recurrence, M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia  
Obscura, Everard Read Cape Town, South Africa  
Accumulation of Disorder installation, Independent Art Projects, MASS MoCA Campus, USA
- 2014 Morphous, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Cumulus, Rook & Raven, London, UK  
Conronym, Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2013 Art Miami Fair, featured artist, Cynthia Reeves, Miami, USA  
IS Sculpture, IsArt, Tokara, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
Strata Art Fair, Saatchi Gallery, Rook & Raven, London, UK  
Fragmented, Rook & Raven, London, UK  
100 Accumulation, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Wonder Works Exhibition, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2012 Compendium, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa  
Strata, Rook and Raven, London, UK
- 2011 Surface, Artspace, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 Submerge, 34FineArt, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009 Relate, Grande Provence, Franschhoek, South Africa

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 10 Years | Summer Show, Everard Read, London, UK  
Matter Matters | Artists & Their Media, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2024 Inner Sanctum, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
110 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Everard Read, London  
Winter 24/25, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About the Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Spring, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa  
3D in 22: South African Contemporary Sculpture, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2021 Art Düsseldorf, Uitstalling Gallery, Germany
- 2020 Staring Straight to the Future, online exhibition, Everard Read, UK & South Africa  
Masterpiece online, with Everard Read, London, UK  
The Portrait Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Pink, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019 Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Art Central Fair, M Contemporary, Hong Kong  
Context Art Miami, with Everard Read, Miami, USA  
ArtXLAGos, with Everard Read, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2018 Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Sydney Contemporary, with M Contemporary, Sydney, Australia
- 2017 Exposed, Helen Day Art Center, Vermont, USA  
Art Miami, Cynthia-Reeves Gallery, Miami, USA  
Art Central, M Contemporary, Hong Kong



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- 2016 Opening Gallery Exhibition, Everard Read London, UK  
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read booth, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 Bronze, Steel & Stone, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
FNB Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Art Miami Fair Featured Artist, Cynthia Reeves Gallery, USA
- 2014 Summer Season, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa  
Art Taipei, Cat Street Gallery, Taiwan  
Fugitive Identity, Cynthia Reeves, USA
- 2013 BP Portrait Award Exhibition, Viewer's Choice Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK  
Metal Work Public sculpture, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2012 Accumulation of Disorder, University of Stellenbosch Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa  
Winter, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Robert Bowman Gallery, India Art Fair, India  
Joburg Art Fair, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 34FineArt, ArtMonaco '11, Monaco  
MOMAC, Group Exhibition, Roberta Moore Fine Art, England
- 2010 Out of the Office, Kunstmuseum Bochum, Germany  
Cynthia Reeves Projects, Art Miami, USA  
We are not Witches, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- 2009 F.A.C.E.T., Charity Auction, Christie's, London, UK

## **PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS**

- 2023 Freedom Monument Sculpture Park, Legacy Museum, Alabama
- 2022 Kennedy Plaza, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2018 Grounds for Sculpture, New Jersey
- 2018 Sasol Head Quarters, Sandton, Johannesburg
- 2017 Exposed, Helen Day Art Center, Vermont
- 2017 Influx, Cynthia-Reeves, Rhode Island
- 2016 Union Square, New York

## **AWARDS**

- 2013 Visitors' Choice Award, PB Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London, UK  
Ministerial Award from Department of Culture for Visual Art, South Africa
- 2009 Merit Award, Vuleka, Sanlam Art Competition, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 Achievement Award, Pro Arte School of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2000 First prize in the MTN Art Colours Awards of Gauteng, South Africa
- 1999 Best painting student Pro Arte School of Arts, Pretoria, South Africa

## **SELECTED CORPORATE COLLECTIONS**

- Delaire Graff Wine Estate, South Africa
- Ellerman Contemporary, South Africa
- European Investment Bank, South Africa
- Grainvest Futures, South Africa
- Johannesburg City Council, South Africa
- Johann Jacobs Museum, South Africa
- Laurence Graff Collection, South Africa
- Parkdev, South Africa
- Rand Merchant Bank, South Africa
- Saronsberg Wine Estate, South Africa

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South African Embassy, Nigeria  
Standard Chartered Bank, South Africa