

EVERARD READ

GARY STEPHENS

(b. 1962 Yuma, AZ, USA)

Born in 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. He moved to South Africa in 2008, and in 2009, completed a year-long residency at Greatmore Studios in Cape Town.

Stephens is best known for his monumental portraits which celebrate an urban, African sense of style and fashion, manifest in the cities and communities where he has, over the last 16 years, become a local. In recent years Stephens has shifted his muses to not only paying homage to the people of Southern Africa but to the landscapes too. His recent exhibitions reflect the duality of modern living; inspired both by the vibrancy of city living as well as the restorative quality that nature provides.

Now working at the height of his technical and creative confidence, Stephens continues to explore the visual impact of light and colour, seen in both his portraits and landscapes. His work reflects a sustained interest in patterns and visual rhythm, including geometric repetition, textile motifs and botanical forms.

Stephens' has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions. His work is in public and private collections in Africa, USA, 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

2026 *Sancta Botanica*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa

2025 *Twilight with Red Swallows*, Everard Read, London, UK

2024 *Tswalu – Muses of the Kalahari*, Everard Read Johannesburg, in association with Fireblade Aviation, South Africa,

2021 *Lambent Folds*, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, South Africa,

2020 *Local*, Everard Read Johannesburg, South Africa

2017 *Pleated*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2015 *Scarf*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2013 *Omenka Gallery*, Lagos, Nigeria, Networks and Voids, Modern Nigerian Hairstyles with Okhai Ojeikere

2012 *In Conversation*, Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Ankara Portraits, Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria

2011 *Braids and Caps*, Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa

2008 *New Work*, Yuma Art Centre Museum, Arizona, USA,

Studio Dimore, Florence, Italy

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- 2005 *Cactus and Sunflowers*, Yuma Art Centre Museum, Yuma, AZ, USA
Gallerie Franzke Art Meeting Point, Vienna , Austria
Arizona Meets Africa, Polissena , Prato (Florence), Italy
- 2004 *Giant Sunflowers*, BZF, Vellechi Spazio Culturale, Florence, Italy
- 2003 *Desert Fauve Landscapes*, Yuma Fine Arts Center, Yuma, AZ, USA
- 2002 *Spirit Vessels*, Momoyama Art Space , Florence, Italy
- 2000 Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, CA, USA
- 1995 *College of Marin*; Kentfield, CA, USA
- 1991 *Personal Icons*, Braunstein / Quay Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 1990 Elaine Horwitch Galleries, Palm Springs, CA, USA
Earthly Delights, Sun Gallery, Haward, CA, USA
The Whimsical Animal, Yuma Art Center; Yuma, AZ, USA
- 1989 *Heads*, Claudia Chapline Gallery; Stinson Beach, CA, USA
- 1987 *The Wild West Show*, Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, CA, USA
The Phoenix Gallery, San Francisco, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Southern Light*, Everard Read, London, UK
Summer Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2024 *Inner Sanctum*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2023 FNB Art Joburg, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022 *Winter*, Everard Read, London, UK
Summer, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2021 *Summer*, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020 *Staring Straight to the Future*, Everard Read Galleries, South Africa & UK
PINK, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Imago, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
TINY, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Journeys of the Mind, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
The Portrait Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018 *Botanical group exhibition*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2017 *Summer Exhibition*, Group show at Everard Read, London, UK
20th Year Anniversary Exhibition, Knysna Fine Arts, Knysna, South Africa
- 2016 *Opening Exhibition*, Everard Read London, UK
Summer Exhibition, Everard Read London, UK
- 2014 Omenka Gallery, Lagos, Nigeria, London 14, International Art Fair, Booth F9, UK
Artco Gallery, Aachen Germany. London 14, International Art Fair, Booth H4, UK



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- 2013 Everard Read Gallery, Sydney Contemporary13 art booth, Sydney, Australia,
Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg Art Fair, Sandton Civic Centre, South Africa
Trees, David Krut, Newlands, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012 Gallery Momo, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010 *The World of Cape Town Art*, Spanish Embassy, Cape Town, SA
- 2009 Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, South Africa
Portraits, UCA Gallery, Woodstock, South Africa
- 2006 *Summer Group Show*, L'Albero Celeste, San Gimignano, Italy
- 1998 *I. Wolk Gallery*, St. Helena, CA, USA
Mill Valley Sculpture Garden, Mill Valley, CA, USA
Ceramic Sculpture: A Fine Art View, Mendocino Art Centre, CA, USA
- 1997 *Bay Area Art*, Napa Valley College, CA, USA
- 1996 *Maps, Globes and Charts*, Irvine Fine Arts Centre; Irvine, CA, USA
- 1994 *A World of Maps*, Anchorage Museum of History & Art, Anchorage, Alaska, USA
- 1993 *Body Politic*, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, USA
Self Portraits: True Stories, Bolinas Museum, Pt. Reyes, CA, USA
Earth Day Juried Show, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA
- 1992 *Shrines*, Faulkirk Cultural Centre, San Rafael, CA, USA
- 1991 *8th Juried Exhibition*, LA Artcore, Los Angeles, *Contemporary Virgins of Guadalupe*, Downey Museum of Art, CA, USA
Biennial Exhibit, Dinnerware Artists' Cooperative, Tucson, AZ, USA
Anti-War Signs, Nelson Morales Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 1990 *Juried Exhibition*, Arpel Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
Living Artists Program, Bolinas Museum, Bolinas, CA, USA
The Reflected Image, Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Scottsdale, AZ, USA
True Blues, Arizona Art Commission Traveling Exhibition
Elaine Horwitch Galleries; Sedona, AZ, USA
- 1989 *San Francisco Art Commission Gallery*, San Francisco (Curator, Rene Yanez), USA
Animals, Casa Grande Art Museum, Casa Grande, AZ, USA
Introductions, San Francisco Art Dealers Association, San Francisco, CA, USA
- 1988 *New Landscapes*, Claudia Chapline Gallery, Stinson Beach, CA, USA
Southwest Christmas, Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, CA, USA
Yosemite Renaissance III, Yosemite Nat'l. Park, CA, USA
- 1987 Michael Ivey Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Virginia Breier Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1986 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Falkirk Center Annual Juried Show, San Rafael, CA, USA
- 1985 *Annual Exhibit*, Crocker-Kingsley Museum, Sacramento, CA, USA

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TEACHING/RESIDENCIES

- 2012 Printmaking lecture and workshop leader, Yaba Tech, Lagos, Nigeria
- 2008 Painting Residency, Greatmore Art Studios, Cape Town, SA
Guest lecture, Living Artist, Polytech University of Milan, Italy
- 1993 Studied traditional Balinese painting with native artists, Ubud, Bali, Indonesia
- 1990 Fairbanks, Alaska, "Animals, Myths & Monsters", Ceramics Workshop, USA
Juror, 64th Parallel Competition, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA
Exhibition, Residency, Public Lecture, and School Tours; Yuma Art Center, Yuma, AZ, USA

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
Honourable Mention, Marin County Fair, CA
- 1985 Honourable Mention Cash Award, Marin County Fair, California ,Invitational Exhibit Student Award, Sausalito Art Festival, California