

# EVERARD READ

## **HENK SERFONTEIN**

(b. 1971)

Henk Serfontein is an award winning South-African artist. His work has received widespread acclaim and he was the winner of numerous art competitions, including the prestigious New Signatures and Kanna Awards. He holds a degree in Fine Art and has lectured on tertiary level. He has also published widely. He regularly contributes articles on art and popular culture to the online publication, *Vrye Weekblad*.

Henk Serfontein came to prominence with his hyperreal paintings of nightscapes, featuring the marginal, transitory spaces of South Africa. His abstracts explored similar themes and psychological spaces, questioning the space between European tradition and adventurous, unrestrained African aesthetic as he excavates his own identity: not quite African, not quite European. A deep, enduring attachment to the landscape pervades as an intersection of identity, culture and history.

In Henk Serfontein's charcoal drawings he investigates the fragile, the intimate and the ethereal. In his plant portraits, *Fragile Flora*, he captures with his microscopic eye, indigenous plants with exposed roots in minute detail. Nature is rendered ethereal and glowing with inner light. These are portraits in the full sense of the word. The sitter is treated with gravitas, dignity and grace, imbued with compassion and curiosity. The work is submerged in the poetry of light and shadow but his vision is acute and goes beyond the photo realistic. It zooms in on the underlying chaos and astonishing beauty. Every mark and every erasure acts as a poetic investigation.

Henk Serfontein holds a degree in Fine Art (*cum laude*) from the Tshwane University of Technology (1997) and studied at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France (1997-1999). He has lectured art at a tertiary level, adjudicated national art competitions and is an accomplished curator of exhibitions.

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2025 Die Stomme Aarde, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival Artist, Oudtshoorn, SA
- 2020 A Walking Shadow, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
- 2011 Urban Tension, Galeria Alex Telese, Barcelona, Spain
- 2009 Travelling the Margins, Ilse French Fine Art Consultancy, Johannesburg, SA
- 2002 Memorabilia, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 1997 Labyrinthe de mémoire et mythe, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France
- 1996 Labyrinth of Remains, Karen McKerron Art Gallery, Johannesburg, SA

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2025 Diepe Grond (Attaqualand), curated by Liza Grobler, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, SA
- 2024 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
- 2023 What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2019 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
- 2018 Spring Exhibition, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
- 1995 Henk Serfontein: Winner of The Reginald Turvey Painting Competition, Karen McKerron Art Gallery, Johannesburg, SA

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## AWARDS

- 2025 Kanna Award for Best Visual Arts Exhibition, for Die Stomme Aarde, KKNK, SA  
Herrie Prize for Innovation (Kanna Awards), for Aardmoeder (in collaboration with Hannah Loewenthal), KKNK, SA
- 2011 Official invited resident artist at the Piramidon Centre of Contemporary Art, Barcelona Spain
- 2010 Finalist in the International Guasch Coranty Painting Award, Barcelona, Spain
- 1996 Official representative of South Africa at the Sixth International Cairo Biennale, Egypt with fellow artists Trevor Makhoba, Keith Dietrich and Gordon Froud
- 1995 Winner of the SASOL New Signatures Art Competition
- 1994 Merit Award, ABSA L'Atelier Art Competition  
Winner of The Reginald Turvey Painting Competition
- 1992 Winner of the Dr. I.F. Anderson award for most outstanding final year student, Tshwane University  
Presented with Silver Rectors Medal for outstanding academic achievement, Tshwane University

## PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Pretoria Art Museum, University of Pretoria, Tshwane University, HOLLARD, British American Tobacco, GENCOR, ABSA Bank, SPIER, Nando's UK, Rand Merchant Bank, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

ABSA Banking Group, GENCOR, SASOL, Rand Merchant Bank, Pretoria Art Museum, Tshwane University, British American Tobacco, Webber Wentzel, SPIER, Nando's United Kingdom. Private collections in South Africa, London, New York, Chicago, Berlin, Tokyo, Ireland, Amsterdam and Paris