

EVERARD READ

CAPE TOWN

VELAPHI MZIMBA

(b. 1959, Soweto, South Africa)

Born in Soweto outside Johannesburg in September 1959, Velaphi Mzimba's colourful paintings reflect the vibrancy and rapidly evolving environment of South Africa's black townships. Although he was deeply involved in the struggle for liberation against apartheid, his work shows no hint of anger or pain. Instead his paintings have an infectious optimism that warms all viewers. This richness of spirit combined with an extraordinary technical virtuosity has no doubt led to the success that he has experienced over the last few years.

Mzimba's huge faces, young boys with heads made out of squashed cans and complex mixed media landscapes grace many public, corporate and private collections worldwide. This success is not built upon clever marketing or the vagaries of fashion. Mzimba's work constantly surprises and challenges his followers. Huge brooding and richly painted portraits of proud tribesman and women are painstakingly painted in his studio. These monumental works which drain his energies are interspersed with impish playful works that are often created from a myriad of seemingly unconnected found objects. Somehow in Mzimba's hands they are joined together to form intelligent and wonderfully decorative comments on everyday life in South Africa.

Having turned his hand to sculpting, Mzimba brings the same fascination with the wholesomeness of the everyday. His one-man show in Cape Town of his first bronzes was an exciting departure for the artist, the development of which we have watched with growing intrigue.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2016** *Opening Gallery Exhibition, Group Show, CIRCA Gallery, London, UK*
2014 *Solo exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
People and Places, group exhibition, Imibala Gallery in association with Everard Read, South Africa
2013 *100, group show, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
Possessed, group show, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *Winter Exhibition, group show, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
2010 *Khumalo, Mzimba, Dyaloyi, three man exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
One man exhibition, Everard Read Johannesburg, South Africa
View from the South, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2006 *One Man Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
Solo Exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Recent Works, Solo Exhibition in London, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, South Africa
2005 *Solo Exhibition, Sculpture, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa*
2004 *One Man Exhibition - Paintings Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa*
2002 *Solo Show, Everard Read Cape Town, South Africa*
2000 *ArtLondon, Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, London, UK*
1999 *Participated in ArtLondon Fair, Chelsea Barracks, London, UK*
One Man Exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *African Spirits, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa*
One Man Exhibition, LFK Gallery, Hong Kong
1994 *Unity from Diversity, Solo Exhibition, Natalie Knight Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa*
Group Show, Knight Galleries International at the World Trade Centre, Toronto, "Windows on the New South Africa". Sponsored by SAA
1993 *The Spirit of Africa, One Man show at the Natalie Knight Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa*
Cultural diversity, Group Show, Natalie Knight Gallery Johannesburg, South Africa
South African Art Group Show, World Trade Centre in Toronto curated by the Knight Galleries International

THE EVERARD READ GALLERY (PTY) LTD • REG No 96/04344/07
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DIRECTORS: • MARK READ • CHARLES SHIELDS

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- 1992 *Group Exhibition*, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1990 *African Encounters*, Knight Galleries, International in Toronto, Canada
1987 *Solo Exhibition*, Windhoek, Namibia
1984 First One-man international show in Groomsport, Northern Ireland
1981 First one-man show at the Carlton Hotel, "South African Art"

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fort Hare University, African Museum Sanlam, Sancorp, EMI, Anglo American,
Hunt Lascaris S.Africa, Merrill Lynch S. Africa, J.C.I. S. Africa., Alexander Forbes.

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS

USA, Canada, Munich, Australia, UK, Japan, Geneva, South Africa, The Dallas Museum, Frankfurt, Germany

PUBLICATIONS

"Images of man" S.A. Artist Diary

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