

EVERARD READ

BETH DIANE ARMSTRONG

(b. 1985 Nelspruit, South Africa)

"Sculpture, for me, is a space to explore the feeling of one's body in relation to an object. Functional objects quite obviously explore this relationship. What is functional or non-functional is debatable especially in this strange-expanding-spacescape of life. I believe there should always be room for the obvious and non-obvious in all things. I am always looking. I read mathematical, philosophical, scientific and medical books that go over my head. Seeking the big, grand, rushing feeling of grasping-and-not-grasping. Pushing always into the unknown. Whatever I am looking for, a fascination with density and looseness is the lens through which I see the world. It's about how I physically and mentally feel on this earth: things are intense and then blunt, real and then unreal, meaningful and then meaningless. I am in this dynamic tension with my materials too. There is a give and take, a push and pull, an expansion and contraction – a density and looseness to working with steel. It takes a lot as it is a very demanding material: it's heavy; it's hot; it's hard; it behaves unpredictably; it exhausts me. But it gives me so much back, in its permanence and reliability."

Beth Diane Armstrong 2017

Currently living and working in Johannesburg, Armstrong was born in South Africa in 1985. In 2010 she completed, with distinction, her Masters of Fine Arts at Rhodes University. Rhodes bought her BFA exhibition, *Hibernation*, for their permanent collection. Armstrong has exhibited several solo shows, participated in a number of group shows and projects locally and internationally, as well as being included in various private and public collections. Some highlighted commissions include the completion of a large permanent public artwork, *Flag*, in Oostvoorne, in the Netherlands (commissioned by the Kern Kunst Westvoorne Foundation), a large commissioned sculpture at the Design Miami/Basel Fair in Basel, Switzerland and Design Miami, Florida, and her *Page* for the National English Literary Museum, a 10-ton outdoor sculpture in Makhanda, South Africa. 2016 saw her launch the NELM *Page* outdoor commission in Makhanda and also partake in the Yorkshire Sculpture exhibition *A Place in Time*, hosted at the NIROX Sculpture Park at the Cradle of Human Kind. Armstrong was awarded the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist Award for Visual Arts in South Africa for 2017.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018** *in perpetuum*, Everard Read, Cape Town; NWU Gallery, Potchefstroom; Oliewenhuis Museum; NMM Art Museum, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
- 2017** *in perpetuum*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg; National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2011** *Towards an architecture of loss*, iArt, Cape Town, South Africa
To skip the last step, iArt Gallery Wembley Project Space, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** *Hippocampus*, iArt Gallery, Cape Town; Monument, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2007** *Hibernation*, Gallery in the Round, Makhanda, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020** *TINY2020*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018** *Summer*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Not a single story, co-curated by Elizabeth Millqvist & Mattias Givel, in association with the Wanås Foundation – Wanås Kons at NIROX Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016** *Pastoral Abstraction*, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa



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Opening Exhibition, CIRCA Gallery, London, UK
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
A PLACE IN TIME (in association with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park UK), curated by Helen Pheby, NIROX Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 2014** *Design Miami*, SouthernGuild, Miami, Florida, USA
The Benediction of Shade II, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
FNB Joburg Art Fair, David Krut Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
Design Miami/Basel, Southern Guild, Basel, Switzerland
NIROX Winter Show, NIROX Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa
Turbine Art Fair, David Krut Projects, Turbine Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa
Joburg Joburg, Rooftop in Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, South Africa
Guild, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013** *Southern Guild 2013 Collection*, MOAD, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Benediction of Shade, David Krut Projects, Cape Town, South Africa
After the Rainbow Nation, NIROX Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012** *Material/Representation*, BRUNDYN + GONSALVES, Cape Town, South Africa
FNB Joburg Art Fair, BRUNDYN + GONSALVES, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Summer in the City*, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
NOVUS, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Make A Difference Foundation Exhibition, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
The Mechanics and Mysteries of Perception, iArt Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Johannesburg Art Fair, iArt Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008** *Absa L'atelier Competition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007** *Absa L'atelier Competition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Fourth Year Student Show, Fine Art Building, Makhanda, South Africa
Untitled, Salem House, Salem, South Africa
- 2006** National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2005** National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2004** National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa

RESIDENCIES

- 2013** NIROX Sculpture Park, NIROX Foundation, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

National English Literary Museum Makhanda, South Africa
Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa
Standard Bank of Southern Africa

COMMISSIONS/AWARDS

- 2017** Standard Bank Young Artist Award – Visual Arts
- 2016** *Page*, outdoor sculpture, NELM, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2015** NELM *Page* outdoor sculpture, Makhanda, South Africa
- 2014** Flagpole Sculpture Commission for Kern Kunst Westvoorne Foundation, the Netherlands
- 2011** 3 sculptures for Prescient Investment Management Group's first major advertising campaign, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010** Not all is Black and White, All for World Foundation, FIFA World Cup Initiative
Academic Honours
- 2008** Purvis Fine Art Prize



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CONFERENCES

2009 'Locating Space: An Investigation into Two and Three Dimensions in Art Practice', Rhodes University Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Conference

PUBLICATIONS

2010 'Hippocampus: Seahorse; brain-structure; spatial map, concept'. Master's Thesis, Rhodes University