



NEILL WRIGHT

THIS QUIET COMPANY

7 – 30 December 2023

EVERARD READ | CAPE TOWN



NEILL WRIGHT | THIS QUIET COMPANY

The current global situation is fraught with anxiety and distressing complexities and, as a result, I wanted the work at face value to be a complete escape from that. Although the works might at first glance appear to be devoid of all of these issues, however, the anxiety and vulnerability does still present itself.

While the foundational processes for the works are digital and rather controlled, I wanted to counter that by bringing my hand into the paintings through the process of collage. This also allowed for a sense of spontaneity and freedom within the confines of the stencils. This balance between freedom and control is essentially a very human endeavour – or rather battle – and I want the paintings to express that. The hand-cut stencils also present an awkwardness which I find interesting. While the paintings convey vulnerability and desire for control, the physical act of making the works is very meditative and therefore serves as an attempt to cope with this condition.

Flowers are such a vibrant expression of life, while simultaneously being incredibly fragile and ephemeral, which is in fact the nature of all existence. My intention for the sculptures was to be an expression of this. Although they are fallen flowers, they still take on vibrant, almost defiant, postures. Their beauty and brightness are still present, while the exposed wood hints at the inevitability of death. They almost become walking or stumbling *memento mori*.

Although the works deal with broad human conditions, our understanding of and attempt at coping with these conditions is very personal, which is why I titled the exhibition *This quiet company*.

COVER DETAIL

WILD WIND COMING, 2023

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

57.5 x 52.5 cm

R18 500

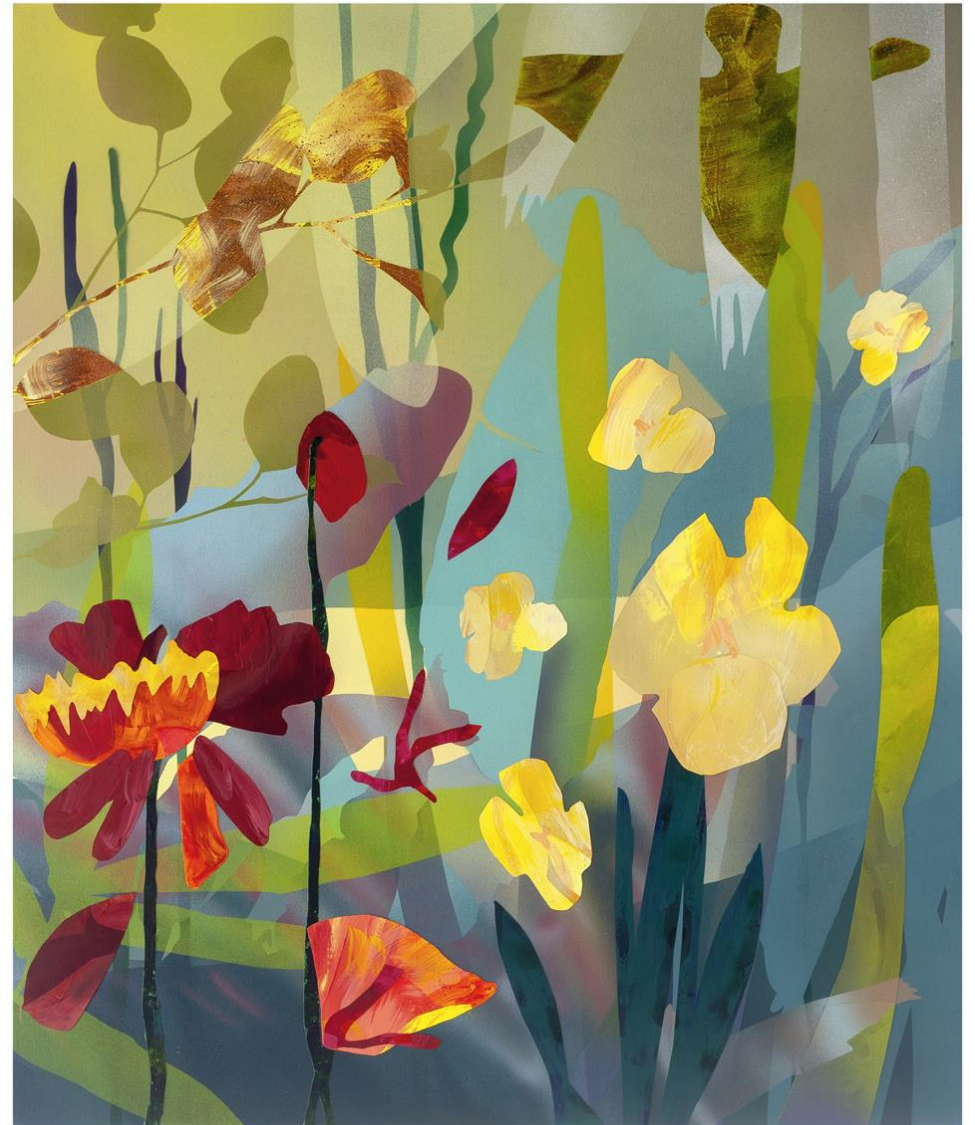
THIS PAGE

THIS QUIET COMPANY, 2023

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

132.5 x 112.5 cm

R63 000





FRONT ROW SEAT, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
122.5 x 122.5 cm
R63 000



BEREFT OF ALL SOCIAL CHARM, 2023
ACRYLIC ON OBECHE
76 x 54 x 53 cm
R75 000

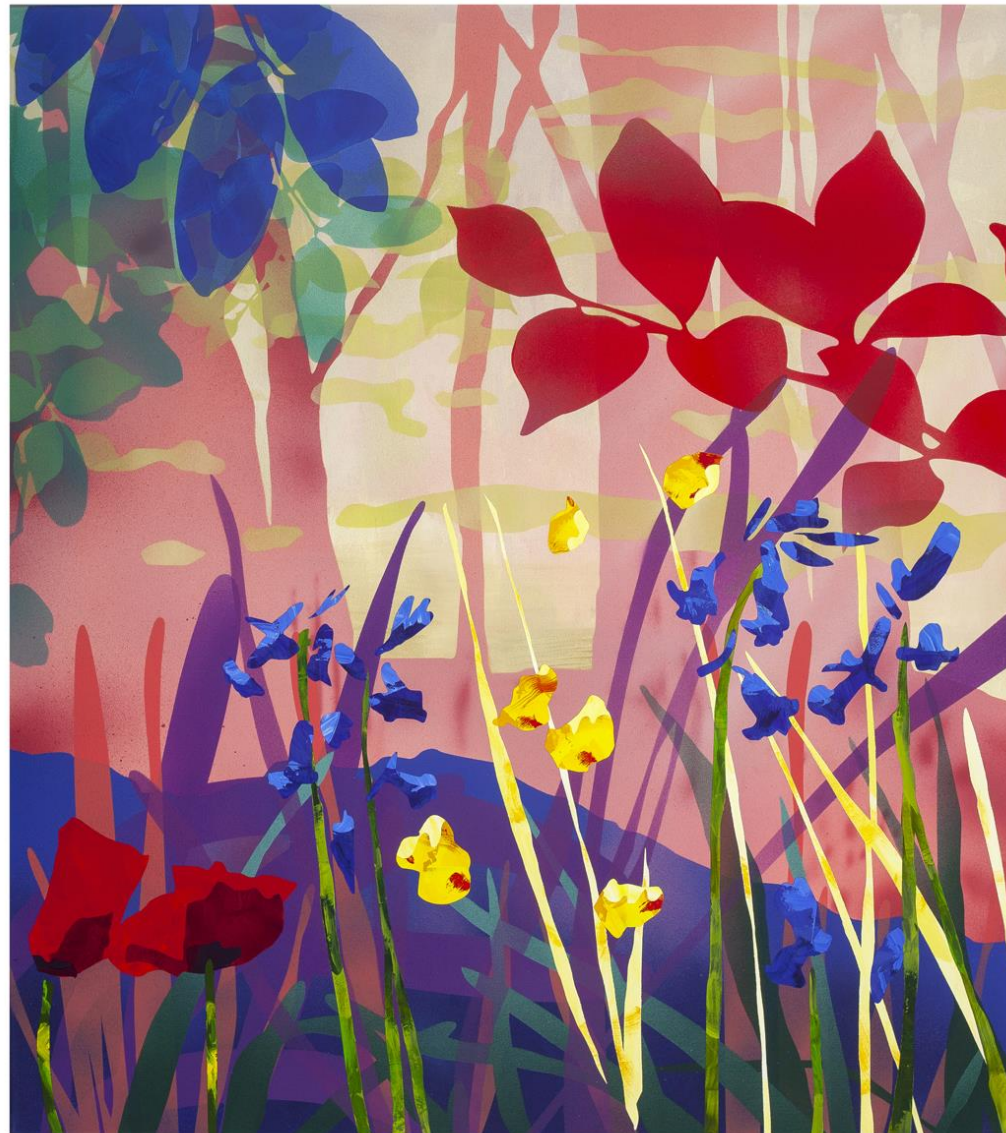






DON'T PANIC, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
142.5 x 118.5 cm
R68 000

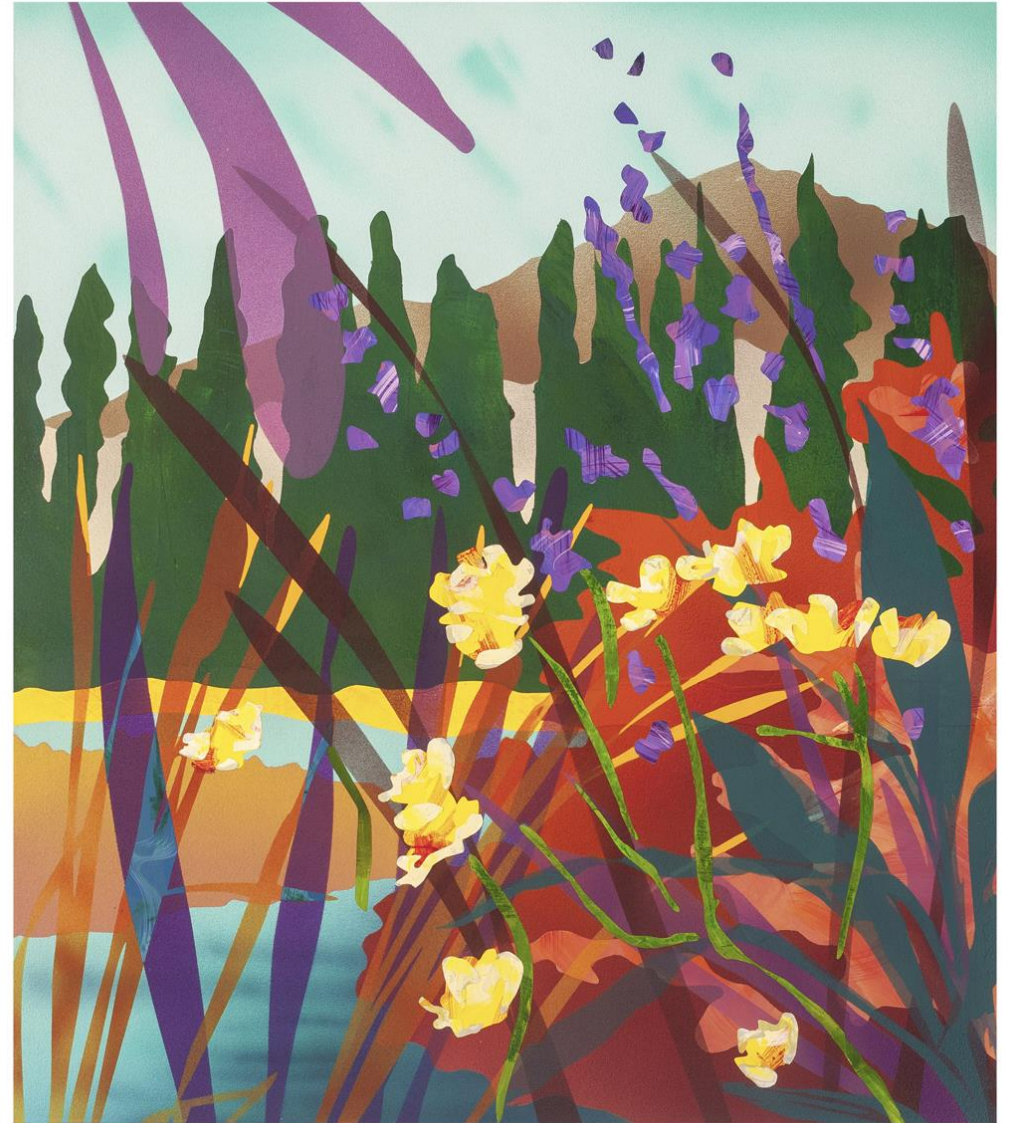
DREAMING OF ESCAPE, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
92.5 x 82.5 cm
R40 000





LIGHT THE DARK, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
122.5 x 122.5 cm
R63 000

PURPOSE DRIFT, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
72.5 x 64.5 cm
R24 000





SUPPORTING ACT, 2023
ACRYLIC ON OBECHE
57 x 64 x 61 cm
R68 000







SUNSHADE, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
153 x 131 cm
R78 000

WILD WIND COMING, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
57.5 x 52.5 cm
R18 500





WE'LL BE BIRDS, 2023
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
153 x 153 cm
R89 000





NEILL WRIGHT
(b. 1985, South Africa)

Neill Wright is a multidisciplinary artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He explores various mediums, such as sculpture, printmaking and painting, as modes of expression, drawing inspiration from a variety of sources within his lived experience.

The bold, multi-layered and colourful work speaks to a curiosity about and affection for the natural world while the geographically impossible mashups hint at the chaos of everyday life. Abstract and representational elements co-exist in a seductive yet menacing way suggestive of both the exultation and terror present in the unknown and un-explored.

In 2007 Wright graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Honours) at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, where he was co-awarded the Simon Gerson Prize for an outstanding body of work. In 2009 he graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art, majoring in printmaking. In 2013, Wright was named one of the ten emerging South African artists to watch by *The Times*, and he has exhibited in a number of group and solo exhibitions as well as at numerous South African and international art fairs. His work is housed in both corporate and private collections throughout the world.



SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 This Quiet Company, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 I Forget Where We Were, District Gallery, Cleveland, USA
- 2020 The Only Way Out Is Through, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
To Anywhere and Nowhere, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018 Blizzard Head, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2016 Wilderness, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 The Atrophy and the Ecstasy, Sulger-Buel Lovell, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 The Hilarity of Reality, Circa on Jellicoe, Johannesburg, South Africa
Spectacular but Empty, The Lovell Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011 Protect Your Roots, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Spring, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021 Spring Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2020 TINY2020, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
US, Everard Read, online exhibition, UK & South Africa
- 2019 Summer, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2017 Spectrum, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Off the wall: A group sculpture exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015 Bronze Steel Stone, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2014 Liberation un(masked), Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, UK
- 2013-14 Summer of Sculpture, Mount Nelson Hotel, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 Whack! Gallery In Toto, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 Summer Salon, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa
TLG Competition Winners, Lovell Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Winter Salon, Salon 91, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 Out Of Africa, Salon91, Cape Town, South Africa

EVERARD READ CAPE TOWN

7 – 30 December 2023

3 Portswood Road | Waterfront | 8001

Mon to Fri 09.00 – 17.00 | Sat 09.00 – 13.00

Closed Sundays and public holidays

ctgallery@everard.co.za | +27 21 418 4527

ER JOHANNESBURG | CAPE TOWN | LONDON | FRANSCHHOEK