

# EVERARD READ

## **MPUMELELO BUTHELEZI**

(b. 1994 Johannesburg, South Africa)

Mpumelelo Buthelezi is a South African photographer based in Johannesburg. Buthelezi's work finds itself at the intersection between documentation, storytelling and activism. He completed his Photojournalism and Documentary Photography certification at the Market Photo Workshop (Johannesburg) in 2017. In his practice, Buthelezi's work explores the themes of social activism and religion as well as the ways that people sustain themselves, as in the case of waste pickers.

Buthelezi was the 11th recipient of the Cassirer Welz Award (2021), which included an artist residency and a solo exhibition at Bag Factory in Johannesburg. He received the 2nd Heather B. Mattera photography scholarship to study in New York (2022). In 2021, Buthelezi was awarded the best photographer of the year at the North-West Media Awards. He was part of the TEXT ME curatorial programme of the Media Arts Festival in Leeuwarden, Netherlands (2022). Buthelezi has been on an artist residency with Sir Prof Zanele Muholi and Muholi Productions in KwaZulu-Natal, and also participated in Wendy Network's virtual residency, Arts Unchained (2021).

His work has been exhibited at the Kampala Photo Biennale in Uganda (2021, 2022); Transitions Rotterdam Foto Festival in the Netherlands (2019); Foto Schiedam Festival in the Netherlands (2019). His first solo exhibition took place at WeTilt Gallery in Italy (2019), followed by a solo at CULTVR LAB in Wales (2022). Buthelezi went on to exhibit his photographs at the Social Art Award in Germany 2019, and was the 2nd prize winner for Nikon Yellow competition in 2018.

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 Ukuzihlukanisa, Cubicle Series, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023 The Raw Lifestyle, Artsy Online Exclusive, Daor Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022 Ukuzihlukanisa, Cassirer Welz Award exhibition, Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa  
E'PLAZINI: A waste collector's home, Alliance Francaise, Soweto, South Africa; CULTVR Lab  
Catalyst 360, online exhibition, Wales, UK
- 2019 WeTilt Gallery, Italy

## **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2023 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Emergent group exhibition, The Gallery Art Bar, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Winter, Everard Read Cape Town, South Africa  
Reflections, Bag Factory Artists Studios, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022 AtWork, Moleskine Foundation in partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa  
Living Legacy, Market Photo Workshop, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Is this Hope? Kato Wong Gallery, London, UK
- 2021 Familiar Strangers, online exhibition, Vacant Museum
- 2020 TAF Paper, Turbine Art Fair, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Person & the Otherness of Nature, online exhibition, Pragmata Collective
- 2019 Urban Gaze, The Atrium, Johannesburg, South Africa

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## AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Young Contemporaries Bootcamp Artist Residency with Rele Gallery & Rele Arts Foundation, Nigeria  
Top 20 Shortlisted Royal Society London Awards
- 2022 Social Impact Award Winner
- 2021 Cassirer Welz Award Finalist  
Best Photographer (North West Media Awards)  
Top 25 artist recognition for the Abadali Arts Projects
- 2020 Johannesburg Arts Council Certificate of Recognition
- 2019 Top 100 Finalist of Thami Mnye Fine Arts  
Standard Bank Journalism Awards Finalist  
Social Art Award
- 2018 Nikon Yellow Photo Competition 2nd Prize winner  
Shortlisted Finalist for Vodacom Journalism Awards