

EVERARD READ

ANGUS TAYLOR

(b.1970 Pretoria, South Africa)

"You can only write poetry in a language you know." – Angus Taylor

Angus Taylor is known for his powerful, often monumental, sculptural works incorporating materials from his immediate environment – Belfast granite, red jasper and the orange earth found in Gauteng. Although he references traditional South African crafting techniques, his works are unmistakably contemporary. Taylor's craftsmanship, his bold and visionary approach, and his original use of materials have resulted in many ambitious public and private commissions around the world.

Taylor is a graduate of the University of Pretoria, which awarded him an Alumni Laureate in 2005. He currently teaches part-time at the University of Pretoria and served as advisor to the Tshwane University of Technology.

In 1997, Taylor established Dionysus Sculpture Works. This studio and workshop combine all aspects of sculpture production, from conceptualisation to clay modelling, from carving to casting. He produces his own and other prominent sculptors' work, including that of Deborah Bell, Norman Catherine and Sam Nhlengethwa. He also nurtures the talent of young and developing artists. In 2024 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by UNISA in South Africa.

In addition to numerous solo and group shows, Taylor is actively involved in producing large-scale commissions for national and local government, as well as for the private sector. These include the Solomon Mahlangu statue in Mamelodi; the statue of Chief Tshwane in front of the Pretoria City Hall; as well as the work commemorating South African anti-apartheid Afropop singer, Brenda Fassie, in Newtown, Johannesburg.

In establishing a recognisable presence in the world of public art over the past decades, Taylor has harnessed aspects of monumentality combined with a fresh reassessment of materials to create his own visual idiolect.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 The Weight of Wings, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
- 2023 Layers of Being, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2022 Dum Spiro (Whilst I Breathe), Tswalu Foundation residency exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2021 Quarried Consciousness, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2020 Immanence | Transcendence, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2017 In the middle of it, Everard Read, London, UK & Everard Read, Johannesburg & Cape Town, SA
- 2015 New Work, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, SA
- 2014 From Explicit to Implicit, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2011 Biography of Material, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2010 New Work, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Klont, Dialoog met Grond, Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, SA
- 2008 Momentary Permanence, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2006 Deduct, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg; North-West University, Potchefstroom; Gallery at Grande Provence, Franschhoek, SA

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- 2005 Recent Works, Artspace, Johannesburg, SA
- 2004 Solo Exhibition, Dorpstraat Gallery, Stellenbosch, SA
- 2003 Barefoot, Baggage Free, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Simon's Town; Mind's-i, Pretoria, SA
- 2000 Africana & Other Baggage, Gallery 88, Sasolburg, SA
- 1999 Africana & Other Baggage, Open Window Contemporary Gallery, Pretoria, SA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 The Armory Show, with Everard Read, New York, USA
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
WORDS, WORDS WORDS | Group Exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2025 10 Years | Summer Show, Everard Read, London, UK
Matter Matters | Artists & Their Media, Everard Read, London, UK
FNB Art Joburg, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2024 Winter 24/25, Everard Read Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Little Life, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Anton van Wouw Auction, Laerskool Anton van Wouw, Pretoria, SA
Inner Sight, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, SA
Inner Sanctum, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
The Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Summer, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Pangolin Auction, Pretoria, SA
RMB Latitudes Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2023 Art Auction, Anton van Wouw Trust, Pretoria, SA
25th Anniversary Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art, Knysna, SA
What I feel when I think about the Cosmos, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
RMB Latitudes Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2022 Spring, Everard Read, Franschhoek, SA
Things I'd like to remember, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Sculpture on the Cliffs, Hermanus FynArts Festival, Hermanus, SA
- 2021 Absolutely Fabulous, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
- 2020 Odyssey, Everard Read, SA & UK
SUMMER 2020, Everard Read, London, UK
The Portrait Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Staring Straight to the Future (in support of the Solidarity Fund), Everard Read, SA & UK
Bronze, Steel, Stone & Bone, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2019 Southern Aspect, Everard Read, London, UK
Masterpiece Art Fair, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2018 Opening exhibition, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, SA
- 2017 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Art Angels Africa Auction, London, UK
- 2016 Bronze, Steel & Stone, Everard Read, London, UK
A Place in Time, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, SA
- 2015 Bronze, Steel & Stone, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, with Everard Read, London, UK
FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA

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- Capital: Present, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, SA
- 2014 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
Summer Showcase, Tokara Estate, Stellenbosch, SA
- 2013 Summer of Sculpture II, Mount Nelson, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
Sculpt, William Humphreys Art Gallery, Kimberley, SA
After the Rainbow Nation, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, SA
FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
DSW, Pretoria Art Association, Pretoria, SA
- 2012 Summer of Sculpture, Mount Nelson, with Everard Read, Cape Town, SA
The Rainbow Nation, Lange Voorhout, Den Hague, Netherlands
The Winter show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2009 Great South African Nude Exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2008 FNB Joburg Art Fair, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, SA
- 2007 Africa, Cork Street Gallery, London, UK
- 2006 Creative Creatures, Aardklop Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, SA
Corpus Colossus, Gordart, Johannesburg, SA
- 2005 Funky Functional, Gordart Gallery, Melville, Johannesburg, SA
Porn Again, Merely Mortal Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
Absa L'Atelier National Art Award, Johannesburg, SA
Aardklop Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, SA
Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, SA
- 2004 Off the Record - On the Record, Gordart at the Thompson Gallery Johannesburg, SA
Art.co.za Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
Two Man Show, Wizards Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
- 2003 Dawid's Choice, Dorpstraat Gallery, Stellenbosch, SA
Opening Exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Simon's Town, SA
St. Valentine's, Mind's-i, Pretoria, SA
Gallery 88, Sasolburg, SA
Aardklop Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, SA
Gordart at the Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg, SA
- 2002 Drawing Conclusion, curated by Diane Victor, National Art Association, Johannesburg, SA
WAMI, Sasol Wax Award, Sasolburg, SA
A Show of Angels, Open Window Contemporary Gallery, Pretoria, SA

RESIDENCIES

- 2025 Cité des Arts, Paris, France
- 2021 Tswalu, Northern Cape, South Africa
- 2019 Cité des Arts, Paris, France
- 2013 Nirox Foundation and Sculpture Park, Cradle of Mankind, Gauteng (October)
- 2013 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France (July)

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Beelden aan Zee Museum, The Hague, Netherlands
Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
Rand Merchant Bank, South Africa

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Sasol, South Africa
University of Pretoria, South Africa
University of the Free State, South Africa
Norval Foundation, South Africa
Atterbury Head Office, South Africa
Tokara Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Saronsberg Wine Estate, Tulbagh, South Africa
Leeu Collection, South Africa & UK
Ellerman House, South Africa
Oliewenhuis Museum, South Africa
North-West University, Potchefstroom
Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa
The Marvelous Collection, South Africa
Tokara Wine Estate, South Africa
William Humphreys Art Gallery, South Africa
White Rabbit Collection, Sydney, Australia

SELECTED PUBLIC ART AND COMMISSIONS

- 2024 Reflective Resonance, Castle Walk, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2023 Quarried Consciousness, Belfast Granite, Atlanta, Texas, US
- 2021 Composite Nurse, Zuid Afrikaans Hospital, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2019 Holderstebolder, carved Belfast granite, steel & concrete, Delhi, India
Sculpture Commission for Shell House, Johannesburg, South Africa
Long ears over wheat ears, donkey ears ago, carved Belfast granite, bronze, steel & concrete, Hazendal Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 2018 Holderstebolder, carved Belfast granite, steel & concrete, Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
The universal child, cast bronze, patina, Belfast granite, red jasper, black banded chert, Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, Johannesburg, South Africa
Dink aan die kleure van ons klippe, The Club, Hazelwood, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2017 Reflective Resonance, cast bronze, patina, Belfast granite, Sydney, Australia.
Equestrian Evolution, carved Belfast granite, steel & concrete, Kyalami Square, Kyalami, South Africa
Dionysus, carved Belfast granite, steel & concrete, Tokara Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Reflective Resonance, cast bronze, patina, Belfast granite, Botswana
- 2016 Portrait of a pig, cast bronze and patina, Eskort Headquarters, Irene, South Africa
Homing the future, homing the past, cast bronze, steel, stainless steel, Corner Place, Pretoria, South Africa
Homage to the foundation on which everything is built, carved Belfast granite, steel & concrete, 1 on Mutual, Pretoria, South Africa
Entangled Head in Bronze III Sculpture Commission for Rand Merchant Bank, Sandton, South Africa
Conduit, Rammed earth and stone, Saronsberg Estate, Tulbagh, South Africa
- 2015 Three little pigs, cast concrete, bronze and patina, Stellenbosch Square, South Africa
Reflective Resonance, Cast bronze & Belfast Granite, Klein Dassenberg Wine Estate, Franschhoek, South Africa

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- Belated wake (floating heads), rammed earth, cement fondu, stone, Namibia
Longview, carved Belfast Granite, Gordons Bay, South Africa
- 2014 Lady on a donkey, Hoërskool Waterkloof, Pretoria
- 2013 Untitled, mixed media sculpture, Northcliff Square, Johannesburg.
Untitled, mixed media installation, Hatfield Growthpoint properties, Pretoria.
Untitled, mixed media installation, Cradlestone Mall, Krugersdorp.
Adam Kok III, Life size Bronze, Heritage project, Pretoria.
- 2012 Van hier tot daar, permanent slate installation, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein.
Pixley Ka Seme, Life size bronze, Heritage project, Bloemfontein.
Layers of mind, mixed media sculpture, OBZ Square, University of Cape Town.
Layers of mind and metal, permanent mixed media installation, Newcastle Mall, Newcastle.
Layers of Being, The Rainbow Nation, Contemporary South African Sculpture, Lange Voorhout
Museum Beelden aan zee, Den Haag
A crossing of tangible truths, Mixed media installation, Platinum square, Rustenburg
- 2011 Grounded, Ungrounded I and II, Bronze cast, Lynnwood Bridge, Pretoria
Grounded, Rammed Earth and Bronze cast, Eldo square, Eldoraigne, Pretoria
- 2010 The One Brother and the Dark Cloud, Cast bronze & stainless steel, Corner of Eastwood and
Park street (by Loftus Versfeld Stadium), Pretoria
Little Mamma Africa, permanent slate installation at Atteridgeville Super Stadium in
conjunction with Dionysus sculpture works
Homage to Hermes, permanent slate installation, Whistler, Vancouver, Canada
Homage to Hermes, permanent slate installation, Damme, Belgium
Homage to Hermes, permanent slate installation, Apple Mac Head Quarters, Johannesburg
Hier, a permanent slate installation at Ellerman House, Bantry Bay, Cape Town
Drift, a biodegradable installation for Aardklop, Potchefstroom Botanical Gardens
Adrift, granite head at Waterkloof Corner Shopping Centre, Pretoria
- 2009 Momentary Permanence, Belfast granite and bronze figures at Brooklyn bridge, Pretoria
- 2008 Centenary Sculptures, Granite and Bronze cast, Merensky Library walkway, University of
Pretoria
Three Granite Figures, Granite, University of Pretoria
- 2007 Co-presence (Apollonian-Dionysian), Steel and stainless steel cast, Irene Village Mall,
Centurion

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2012 to 2024 – Various school and university students studio visits and casting demonstrations
including: University of
Pretoria, Tshwane University of Technology, Open Window, St Mary's Diocesan School
for girls, Hoërskool FH Odendaal, St. Peters College, Pinnacle college, Hoerskool
Kempton Park, Southdowns Highschool, St John's Highschool, Waterkloof House
Preparoty school, Redford House School, Cornwall Hill College, Abbotts College
- 2024 Dionysus Sculpture works, Open day studios, Pretoria
- 2024 Student work experience, Joshua Maharaj
- 2024 Student work experience, Christiaan Beyers
- 2023 TUT Faculty of Arts, advisory committee
- 2023 Dionysus Sculpture works, Open day studios, Pretoria
- 2022 TUT Faculty of Arts, advisory committee
- 2021 University of Pretoria, Rammed earth project community park, Pretoria
- 2021 TUT Faculty of Arts, advisory committee

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- 2019 TUT Work integrated learning for four sculpture students
- 2019 Artist mentorship and internship, Dikeledi Maponya
- 2019 Artist mentorship and internship, Daron Tlamama
- 2019 Student work experience, Robert Taylor
- 2019 TUT Faculty of Arts, advisory committee
- 2018 Student work experience, Simone Vermaak
- 2017 Artist mentorship and internship, Brendon Erasmus
- 2016 Artist mentorship and internship, Navel Saekemela
- 2016 Artist mentorship and internship, Estian Gericke
- 2014 Cool Capital open studio, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2013 DSW Group Exhibition, Pretoria Art Association, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2011 Artist mentorship and internship, Simon Zitha
- 2008 University of Pretoria first year sculpture casting project, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- 2005 Primary school project, FF Ribeiro Primary School, Mamelodi, Pretoria
- 2005 Primary school project, Pfunzo Ndi Tshedza Primary School, Mamelodi, Pretoria

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 Hierdie Land, "kontinent van groot kapasiteit" published by Protea Boekhuis, Pretoria
- 2021 Mind through Materials, various chapters, published by Scheidegger & Spiess
- 2021 Willem Pretorius lewers Erens, published by Protea Boekhuis, Pretoria

AWARDS

- 2024 Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) in Art History, Unisa
- 2017 Helgaard Steyn Award for Sculpture
- 2010 Aardklop Festival Artist
- 2005 University of Pretoria, Alumni Laureate
- 1994 The Eduardo Villa best Sculpture Student, University of Pretoria
- 1994 1st Prize - PPC Young Sculptors Award

QUALIFICATIONS

- 2024 Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) in Art History, UNISA
- 1996 BA Fine Arts, University of Pretoria