

**PRESS RELEASE:** *For immediate release, October 2016*

**Everard Read | CIRCA Gallery presents Colbert Mashile at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London**

Everard Read | CIRCA Gallery will present an exhibition of new work by South African artist Colbert Mashile at 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair at Somerset House, London, 6-9 October 2016.

The exhibition entitled *Man in the Arena*, includes 10 new works in charcoal, pastel and ink on paper which reflect a confluence of narratives influenced by western art conventions on the one hand, and traditional African society, ritual and culture on the other.

The works are rich in symbolism and encompass layers of socio-political and cultural commentary. Mashile incorporates neoclassical themes and juxtaposes these with deceptively familiar objects from the artist's everyday life. These are carefully chosen and charged with meaning, giving equal materiality to both western and African aesthetics. In so doing, he creates contemporary vanitas drawings which give a fabulistic voice to his own story, perspective and place in the world.

Born in South Africa in 1972, Colbert Mashile has developed a unique iconographical language within South African art, often dealing with the mystical, mythological and archaic elements of traditional African culture and its legacy in present-day life. Mashile draws on his own experiences and memory in an intuitive process, creating vivid and arresting imagery and recalling both Surrealism and the satirical Pop art of artists such as Phillip Guston or, more recently, George Condo.

Mashile's work has been exhibited in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa, the UK and USA and is held in private and corporate collections in South Africa and internationally.

For more information, please contact:

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**About Everard Read CIRCA London**

The Everard Read | CIRCA group of galleries **was established in South Africa in 1913**, making it South Africa's oldest commercial gallery. The group has flagship galleries in Johannesburg and Cape Town and CIRCA London opened in March 2016.

The galleries present modern and contemporary art from Southern Africa. Although contemporary artists from the UK, Europe and the USA are also exhibited, Everard Read | CIRCA retains at its core, an impressive stable of South African artists. **The galleries each present a year-round programme of solo and group exhibitions, advise both public and private collectors around the world and have an ongoing commitment to nurturing South African talent.**

CIRCA London is located at 80 Fulham Road, London SW3 6HR and is open weekdays, 10am – 6pm and Saturdays, 12pm – 4pm. [www.circagallerylondon.com](http://www.circagallerylondon.com)

### **About Cobert Mashile**

#### **b. 1972, South Africa**

Colbert Mashile is an artist who has developed a unique iconographical language within South African art, often dealing with the mystical, mythological and archaic elements of traditional African culture and its legacy in present-day life.

Mashile's early work dealt primarily with the traumatic, cruel and highly controversial circumcision rituals practised widely upon young black initiates of both sexes, in different guises, as ceremonial, tribal, coming-of age rites of passage. These practices are criticized and condemned locally and internationally as cruel and inhumane, especially in terms of their long-term psychological impact.

Mashile draws on his own experiences and memory in an autonomous and intuitive process, creating vivid and intricate imagery, recalling both Surrealism and the satirical Pop art of artists such as Phillip Guston or more recently, George Condo.

Mashile's work has been exhibited in France, Italy, the Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa, the UK and USA and is held in private and corporate collections in South Africa and internationally.

### **Solo Exhibitions**

#### **2016**

Solo exhibition at CIRCA Gallery, Johannesburg

**2015**

*Beast of Burden* NIROX Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa

*S'Ka Motho (Just Like Man)* SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

**2013**

Messages from our Ancestors Art Eye Gallery, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2006**

Mmawaka Montedi AVA, Cape Town, South Africa

**2004**

Tsa Bagale ,Gallery On The Square, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

**2016**

CIRCA Gallery Opening Exhibition, London UK

**2015**

*FNB Jo-burg Art Fair*, Everard Read Gallery Booth, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2006**

*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Alliance Francaise, Paris, France

*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Musee des Arts Derniers, Paris, France

*New Painting*, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa

*New Painting*, Unisa Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa

*DAK' ART*, Dakar, Senegal

*New Painting*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2005**

*Brett Kebble Awards Exhibiton*

*ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Johannesburg Sasol New Signatures Competition Exhibition*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa

*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Migrations Culturelles, Bordeaux , France

*Les arts de la Coexistence?* Médiathèque, Biarritz, France

*Florence Biennale*, Florence, Italy

**2004**

*Brett Kebble Awards Exhibiton*

*ABSA L'Atelier Competition Exhibition*, Absa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*A Decade of Democracy: Witnessing South Africa: 2004 -2005*, Boston, Smithsonian, Gibbs Museum, Detroit USA (Traveling Show)

*The ID of South African Artists*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

*A Decade of Democracy: South African Art 1994 -2004* from the Permanent Collection, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

*Making Waves* (A selection of works from the SABC art collection) Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Negotiated Identities - Black Bodies* , Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2003**

*Circumcised/ Circumscribed*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA

*Show Me Home*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*A New Collection*, Gallery On The Square, Sandton, South Africa

**2002**

*Insider/Outsider*, Art on Paper Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Klein Karoo National Arts Festival*, Oudshoorn, South Africa

**2001**

Museum Africa Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Art Space Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2000**

ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

*Malangatana in South Africa*, Sandton Civic Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Bill Ainslie Art Gallery, South Africa

*Klein Karoo National Arts Festival*, Oudshoorn, South Africa

**1998 & 1999**

Martienssen, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

**1994**

JHB Art Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Awards**

**2000**

ABSA l'Atelier Merit Prize

**1999**

Certificate of First Class: Painting IV, Johannesburg Art Foundation

**1998**

Certificate of Merit: Outstanding Results in Drawing & Design III

**1992-1994**

Certificate in Art Foundation Course

**1989**

Tladishi High School Matric

**Selected Public and Private Collections**

3M

African Life

BHP Billiton (Gencor) Daniel Erasmus Attorneys Durban Art Gallery

De Beers

E. Oppenheimer & Sons Johannesburg Art Gallery IBM