

EVERARD READ

CAPE TOWN | JOHANNESBURG
FRANSCHHOEK | LONDON

CIRCA

PRESS RELEASE: *For immediate release, 20 February 2017*

Everard Read London presents

BEEZY BAILEY | *Light Beyond the Dark*

23 March – 21 April 2018

“Everyone should own a Beezy Bailey” - David Bowie

Everard Read London is delighted to present an exhibition of new painting and sculpture by acclaimed South African artist, Beezy Bailey.

This solo exhibition embraces the entire spectrum of Bailey’s creative output which has developed over his thirty-five-year career, including sculpture, paintings and prints and follows Bailey’s most recent solo exhibition in 2016 - the inaugural exhibition of one of Everard Read Cape Town’s new gallery space, CIRCA.

Bailey aspires to create art as a balm for a mad world – a corrective for our most lamentable human qualities, including a planet brutalized by extremes of wealth and poverty, environmental ignorance and negligence. Many of his works emanate from his abiding concern with the Anthropocene, the present epoch characterized as the time in which the collective activities of Homo sapiens began to substantially alter the earth’s surface, atmosphere, oceans, and systems of ecological recycling.

Bailey has a history of close collaboration with other artists, including David Bowie, Brian Eno and Dave Matthews. In Brian Eno’s words: “Beezy makes his art out of joy and laughter (and sometimes out of terror). He is somebody to whom art comes easily and who doesn't feel guilty about it, who

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revels in his gift and has confidence in it - like a chef gleefully throwing ingredients in by the handful without ever measuring them. He cooks up new worlds, tiny and huge, peopled by bird-women, snake-men, lizard children, and animated vegetables, bursting with bright new music. He makes African jazz in paint, garish as the midday sun, dark as the deepest night."

Often Bailey's works are accompanied by poems, such as *1000 Year Dance Cure*, in which he exhorts the world to dance a new dance, to abandon that which does not serve us, and to embrace each other in our humanity, and the earth in her service to us. The sources of his imagery are elusive. In his own words: 'frozen dreams, images and legends enter from my subconscious, the realm of my imagination. I act as a conduit for visual messages greater than I am.'

Richard Cork, art historian, editor, critic and exhibition curator, who is writing an **essay for** the first monograph of Bailey's work, spanning thirty-five years of artistic endeavour to be published by CIRCA Press in October 2018, says of Bailey, "Looking back over Beezy Bailey's restlessly inventive career, we soon become fascinated by its defiant unpredictability. At every turn his work is filled with surprises, and united above all by a fundamental urge to challenge the status quo."

Over the past three decades, Bailey has exhibited extensively in South Africa and around the world. He was part of the official program at the Venice Biennale in 2015 and in 2011 the Chenshia Museum in Wuhan, China staged a retrospective exhibition.

Everard Read has represented Bailey for almost 15 years. This is his 11th solo exhibition with Everard Read.

-Ends-

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About Everard Read London

Everard Read was established in South Africa in 1913, making it Africa's oldest commercial gallery. Everard Read London opened its doors on Fulham Road, Chelsea in March 2016 and presents modern and contemporary art from southern Africa. The gallery also shows contemporary work by exceptional artists from around the world.

Everard Read | CIRCA has galleries in Johannesburg, Cape Town, London and Franschhoek.

About Beezy Bailey

b. 1962, Johannesburg, South Africa)

Beezy Bailey is a South African artist who works in a wide range of media including painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking and ceramics.

Over a 30-year career, Bailey has exhibited in South Africa and around the world. He was part of the official program at the Venice Biennale in 2015 and in 2011 he held a solo exhibition at the Chenshia Museum in Wuhan, China. Bailey has a history of close collaboration with other artists, most notably David Bowie, Brian Eno and Dave Matthews.

Bailey's work is represented in important art collections around the world, including the David Bowie Collection, the Getty Family Collection as well as the Oppenheimer Collection. Bailey's work is also in the permanent collections of Sasol, Standard Bank, Investec Bank, the Kunsthaus Museum in Germany and the South African National Gallery.

I am often asked: what does that ship, or car, or high heel shoe mean? I am not an illustrator; I release the images that appear before me. Like Picasso, I say that it is not for me to explain the contents of my work; this is for the viewer to do. Each of my works is a frozen dream. Images and legends enter from my subconscious, the world of my imagination. I am a conduit of visual messages greater than me, at best a messenger from God, at worst a Fallen Angel. - Beezy Bailey

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Selected Exhibitions:

2017

Bronze, Steel and Stone, Everard Read Gallery, London, UK

Summer Exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, London, UK

People and Portraiture, CIRCA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2016

Opening Exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, London, UK

1000 Year Dance Cure, inaugural exhibition, CIRCA Gallery Cape Town

Winter Collection, Group show, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

The sound of Creation: Sound Paintings by Beezy Bailey and Brian Eno, 56th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice Italy

2014

Landscapes with a Twist, solo exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Itica Pritica, Beezy Bailey and Dave Mathews, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2013

As it is in Heaven, solo exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

Itica Pritica, two-man show with Dave Matthews, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, USA

2012

As It Is in Heaven, solo exhibition, CIRCA on Jellicoe, Johannesburg, South Africa

Winter Show, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

10,000 Trees Landscape, greening project for the Cape Flats, South Africa

2011

Icon-Iconoclast, solo exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa

15th Anniversary, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2009

Dancing Christ, solo exhibition, Spring Art Tour, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

Sex Power Money, group exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

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2008

Being blown backward into the future, solo exhibition, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa

2007

Fallen Angels & Other Dreams, solo exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

Zwelethu Mthethwa / Beezy Bailey collaboration work acquired by the Kunsthall, Vienna

A collection of 45 retrospective paintings were acquired by the Ojai Valley Museum in California, USA

2005

Private viewing, studio, Cape Town, South Africa

Solo exhibition, Everard Read Johannesburg, South Africa

2005/4

Collaboration with Zwelethu Mthethwa, Prague Biennale, Czech Republic

2004

Solo exhibition, Everard Read Johannesburg, South Africa

Solo exhibition, Knysna Fine Art, South Africa

2002

Brian Eno and Joyce Ntobe project (collaboration Beezy Bailey & Zwelethu Mthethwa).

Curated the "Art for Aids orphans" auction for November 2002

Photographic collaboration with Zwelethu Mthethwa

Vanessa Branston commission - statues and mural in the UK

Ongoing exhibition of graphic works and watercolours at the Art Factory and Shop.

2000

Back to the Drawing Board, Pa Kua Gallery, Cape Town.

1999

Abakwetha - Farmer, Warrior, Statesman, Intervention, Parliament, Cape Town Part of a public sculpture festival to commemorate Heritage Day. The bronze statue of Boer War General Louis Botha outside Parliament was converted into a Xhosa initiate -wearing a traditional blanket and hat, face painted with white clay. The statue's transformation received extensive international press and

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television coverage.

Learning to Fly Again, Beezy Bailey Art Factory, Cape Town, South Africa

Lee Ping Zing, Performance at Womad Music Festival, Benoni, South Africa

1998

Solo exhibition, Beezy Bailey Art Factory, Cape Town

Fabric of the People, Street Fashion Show, Beezy Bailey Art Factory, Cape Town, South Africa

Beezy Bailey Art Factory and Shop, Opening in Cape Town, South Africa

Group Exhibition, Augsburg, Germany

Driftscapes, Hänel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

1997

District Six Sculpture Festival, District Six, Cape Town, South Africa

1996

Through the Looking Glass, Jibby Beane Gallery, London, UK

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Beezy Bailey

As it is in Heaven

Oil on canvas

180 x 250 cm

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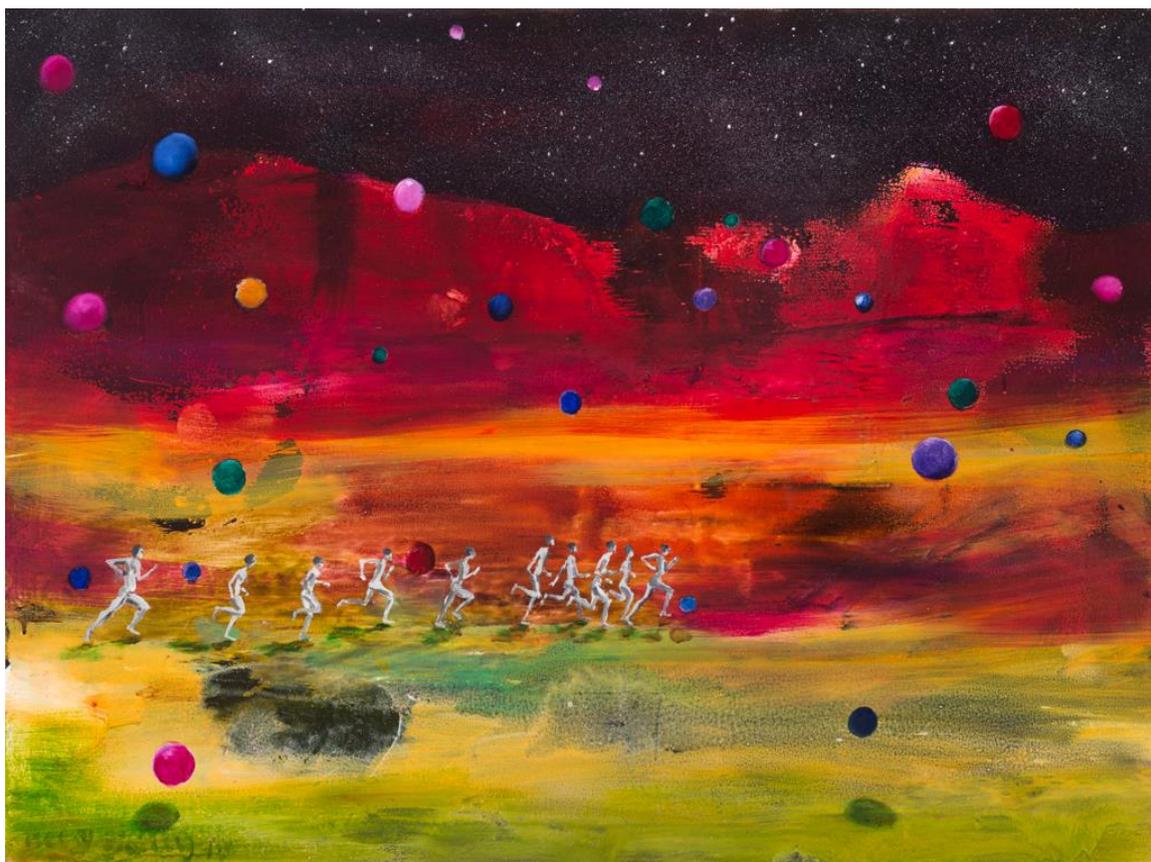


Beezy Bailey
Snow on Pluto
Oil on canvas
180 x 250 cm

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Beezy Bailey
Rainbow Race
Oil on canvas
90 x 120 cm