

BRETT MURRAY

Brood



BRETT MURRAY

Brood

15 October – 6 November 2025

ER | 10 YEARS



BRETT MURRAY | *Brood*

Everard Read London presents an exhibition of bronze and marble sculptures by acclaimed South African artist, Brett Murray, on the eve of a major survey of his sculpture at the Norval Foundation, Cape Town, opening December 2025.

This body of work traces its origins to the start of this decade and the artist's experience of the global pandemic. It marks what writer, Noah Swinney, describes as 'an idiomatic shift in Murray's work from polemics to elegy; a transition from what the artist has called, an accusatory position to one that is more compassionate and empathetic'.*

The sculptural forms that Murray created while at home with his family during lockdown, became two deeply personal exhibitions called *Limbo*, which opened in 2021 and 2022, in London and Cape Town respectively. Murray's sculptures in these shows embodied the value of family and friendship and the lived experience that, in fraught and frightening moments, our brood and brethren take precedence.

This theme extended into a related body of sculptures and reliefs for Murray's 2024 Johannesburg exhibition, aptly titled, *Brood* – a reference to both family and the posture of fretting. In a world mired in conflict, uncertainty and political tumult, Murray continues to reflect and express our collective need to seek solace and safety and find

sanctuary in the humans to whom we are closest. 'These works are not argumentative, they're meditative,' observed art critic Graham Wood.** 'They're not subversive, they're introspective. They're not about intellect, they're about emotion. They're not about politics, they're about relationships.'

For his London exhibition, Murray continues this intimate exploration through the creatures that emerged during the bewildering time of the global pandemic, and which continue to feel acutely relevant in a time of war and global turmoil. For some of his silent, animal avatars, the world seems to weigh heavily as they gaze heavenwards with trepidation, searching for answers. Others are brooding and subdued.

Huddled together or clinging to one another, many of Murray's sculptures convey a poignant tenderness and vulnerability. These symbols of the family unit – together, touching, protected, and protecting – strike a universal chord. While some works evoke pathos, others stoke unease and allude to an inherent violence. The hopeful is countered with gaping holes that speak to the loss and hurt that are an integral part of all human experience.

* Noah Swinney, Brett Murray, *Brood: The Lost Object & The Animal Series*, to be published in 2026

** Graham Wood, *Financial Mail* (South Africa), 15–21 February 2024



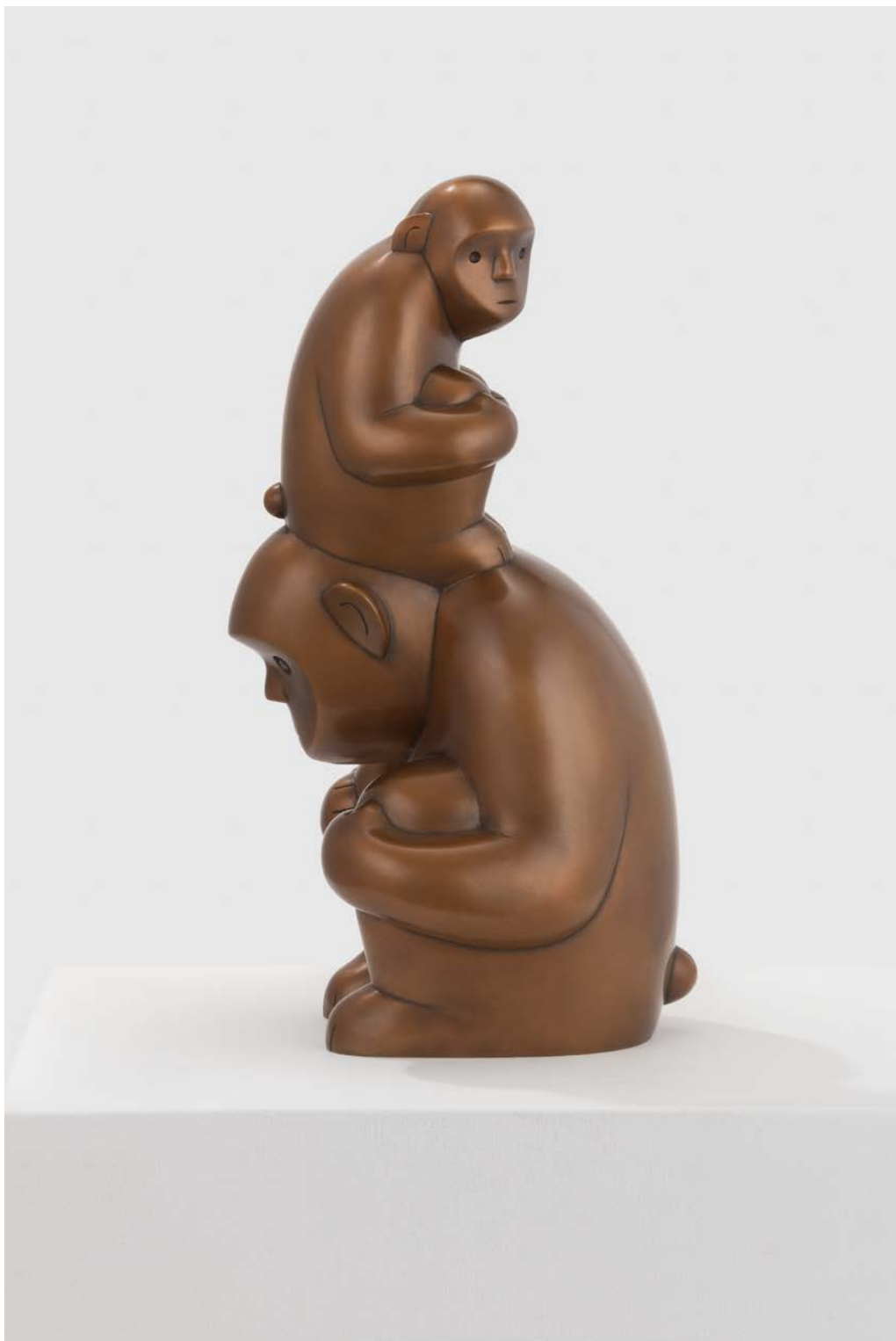


Protect

Carrara marble, edition of 6

40 x 25.3 x 27.6 cm





Heed

bronze, edition of 6

45 x 21 x 22 cm





Witness

Carrara marble, edition of 6

40 x 20 x 21.2 cm





Hope

Bardiglio and Carrara marble, edition of 5

55 x 47.5 x 42.4 cm





Boiled Frog

French red marble, edition of 6

32 x 33 x 27 cm





Monument to a Genocide
Carrara marble, edition of 6
12 x 20 x 21 cm





Loom
bronze, edition of 6
55 x 25 x 32 cm





Witnesses

bronze, edition of 6

40 x 27 x 50 cm





Son

bronze, edition of 6

34 x 18.7 x 24.8 cm





Innocence
bronze, edition of 6
30 x 21 x 25 cm



Death of Innocence
bronze, edition of 6
30 x 21 x 25 cm





Father

bronze, edition of 6

45 x 27 x 31 cm





The Great Unknown
bronze, edition of 6
35 x 25 x 27 cm





Effigy

bronze, edition of 6

23 x 21.5 x 22 cm



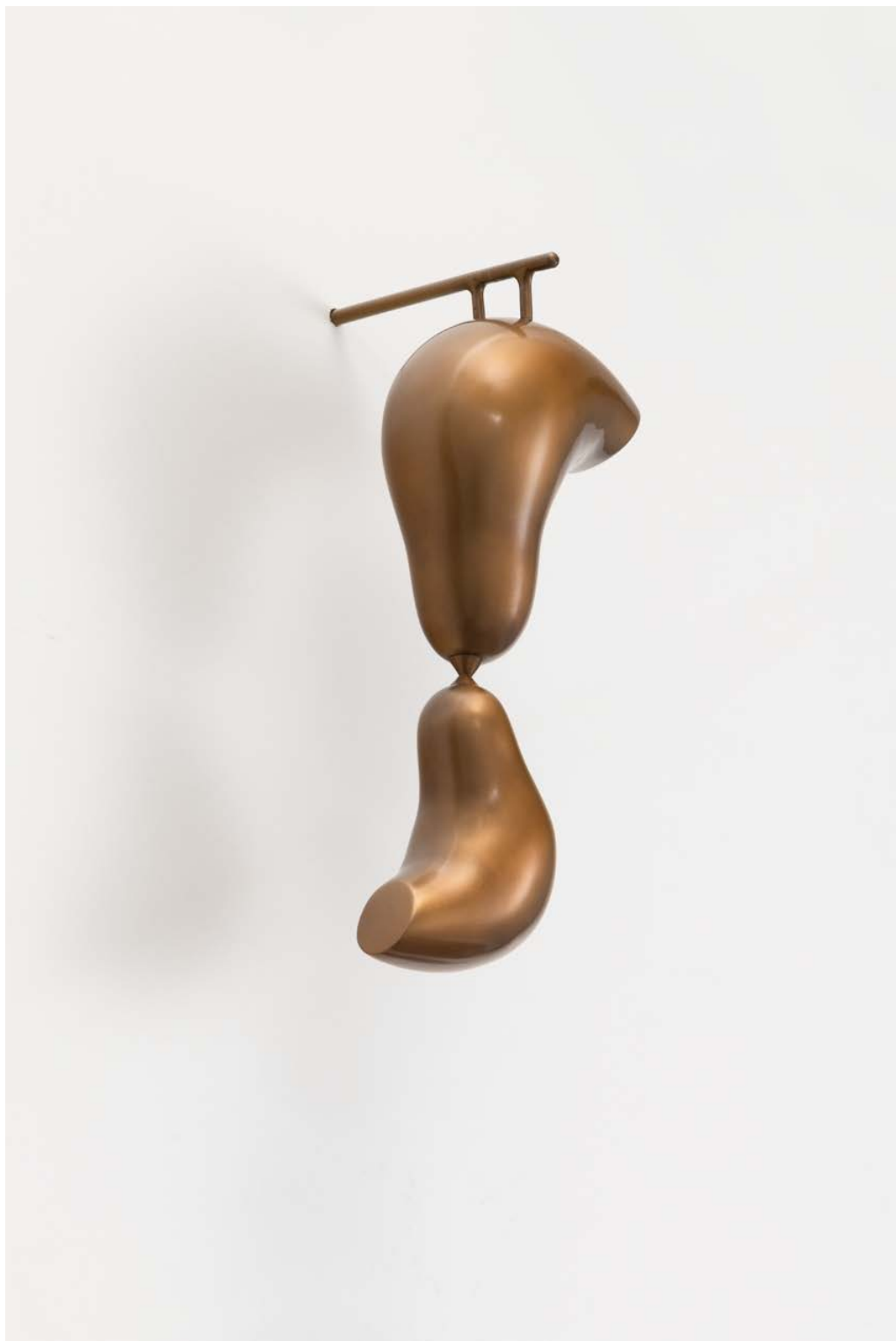


Comfort

bronze, edition of 6

38 x 70 x 62 cm





Love in the Time of War I

bronze, edition of 6

35 x 17 x 16.5 cm





Peace
bronze, edition of 6
20 x 20 x 17 cm





Dwell II

Perspex, wood & gold

120 x 90 x 4 cm





One Day

marble and gold leaf, edition of 3

56 x 110 x 4 cm





BRETT MURRAY

b.1961 Pretoria, South Africa

Brett Murray is a South African artist known primarily for his satirically incisive sculptures and *The Spear*, a wildly infamous portrait of the nation's former president, Jacob Zuma.

His work functions as an introspective stock-take on the artist's positionality within the social climate of South Africa at a particular moment, with which he aims to entertain. 'In reflecting on what is unfolding,' Murray comments, 'I hope to articulate a very personal understanding and an idiosyncratic psychological sense of place, and begin to describe who I am with this anomalous vision. Paradoxically, through this critique and comic exposure, I actually begin to define a preferred ideal in which I would like to live.'

Murray has a Master's degree in Fine Art from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town (1989) and was the winner of the Standard Bank Young Artist Award in 2002. He is one of the country's most popular visual artists, using recognisable media images with the addition of a subversive and bitterly funny twist.

Spanning bronze, steel, plastics, print, video and marble, Murray's work grapples with the wars of cultures, the clash between Afro- and Eurocentrism, the old and the new South Africas, identity politics and the ways in which political discussions have been shaped for the worse by social media.



SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025–2026** *Wild Life* (upcoming), Norval Foundation, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2024** *Brood*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2022** *Limbo*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *Limbo*, Everard Read, London, UK
Hide, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Hide*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Again Again*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2015** *Again Again*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *Hail to The Thief II*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2010** *Hail to The Thief*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** *Crocodile Tears II*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007** *Crocodile Tears*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2003** *Us and Them*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
- 2002** *Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Award exhibition, White Like Me:* National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
Johannes Stegmann Art Gallery, Bloemfontein, South Africa
South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2001** *Hero*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2000** *I love Africa*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town & Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997** *Own*, Hänel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa and The Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 1996** *Brett Murray: New Sculptures*, Gallery Frank Hänel, Frankfurt, Germany
White Boy Sings the Blues, Rembrandt van Rijn Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1989** *Satirical Sculptures*, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** *EXPO CHICAGO*, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2024** *Inner Sanctum*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
EXPO Chicago | We, the People, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
- 2023** *What I Feel When I Think About The Cosmos*, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
110 Year Anniversary Exhibition, Everard Read, London, UK
FNB Art Joburg, with Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
If you look hard enough, you can see our future, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2022** *Spring*, group show, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2021** *Spring Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
In Conversation, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair online, with Everard Read, South Africa
Myths, Martyrs, Monsters & Masterpieces, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2020** *Staring Straight to the Future*, online exhibition, Everard Read, UK & South Africa
Masterpiece online, with Everard Read, London, UK

- Arco Lisbon online*, with Everard Read, South Africa
The Portrait Show, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Staring Straight to the Future, Everard Read South Africa & UK
- 2019** *IncarNations*, Bo Zar, Brussels, Belgium
CONTEXT Art Miami, with Everard Read, Miami, USA
Southern Aspect, Everard Read, London, UK
Signature Works of a Century, Javett Art Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
Ampersand Foundation – 21 Years Celebration, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2018** *Investec Cape Town Art Fair*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Investec Cape Town Art Fair*, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
FNB Johannesburg Art Fair, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
Bronze, Steel & Stone II, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2016** *FNB Joburg Art Fair*, Everard Read, Johannesburg, South Africa
New Revolutions, Goodman Gallery Cape Town & Johannesburg, South Africa
Graphica, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa
The Armory Show, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2015** *56th International Art Exhibition -la Biennale di Venezia*, South African Pavilion, Italy
Slow Violence, Stellenbosch University Art Gallery, South Africa
- 2014** *Cape Town Art Fair*, Goodman Gallery, South Africa
Design Days Dubai, Southern Guild, UAE
My Joburg, Kunsthalle Lipsiusbau, Dresden, Germany
- 2013** *C-16: A Group Exhibition*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
My Joburg, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
Art Basel- Hong Kong, Goodman Gallery, China
Collectable South African Design', Collective.1 Design Fair, New York, USA
- Cloud 9*, Dean Projects, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Design Days Dubai, Southern Guild, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Editions, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
et.al, Nirox Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa
Heavy Metal, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa
The Armory Show, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA
Art Palm Beach, Dean Projects, Florida, USA
The Loom of the Land, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Summer Show, Casa Labia Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012** *Art Miami*, Dean Projects, USA
Art Basel Miami, Goodman Gallery, USA
Spring Show, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Sensing the Subject, a selection of Piet Viljoen's art collection, curated by Penny Siopis, New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
The Art of Banking: celebrating through collections', Standard Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
FIAC, Paris, France
Johannesburg Art Fair, Goodman Gallery, South Africa
Our Fathers, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Recollect, Southern Guild, The Woodstock Foundry, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011** *Impressions From South Africa, 1965 to Now*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Thinking Around, Tokara, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Art Basel Miami, Goodman Gallery, USA
A Natural Selection: 1991–2011, The AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Southern Guild 2011, Johannesburg Art Fair, South Africa
Persona, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
The Johannesburg Art Fair, Goodman Gallery, South Africa

Editions, Goodman Gallery Projects, Arts On Main, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Armory Show, Goodman Gallery, New York, USA

- 2010** *Art Basel Miami*, Goodman Gallery, USA
The Lie of the Land: Representations of the South African Landscape, Iziko Michaelis Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
Divisions: Aspects of South African Art 1948–2010, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
In Other Words, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Halakasha, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Winter Show, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Twenty – South African Sculpture of the Last Two Decades, Nirox Sculpture Park, Gauteng, South Africa
1910 to 2010: From Pierneef to Guguletive, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Spier Contemporary, Cape Town City Hall, South Africa
- 2009** *The Marks We Make*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Strengths and Convictions: The life and times of the South African Peace Prize Laureates, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Dada South? Exploring Dada legacies in South African art 1960 to the present, curated by Roger van Wyk and Kathryn Smith, Iziko SA National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Registration, Joao Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Forward March, Spier, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Words!, AVA, Cape Town, South Africa
Life Less Ordinary, Djanogly Art Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park, Nottingham, UK
The Other Mainstream II, Selections from the Collection of Mikki and Stanley Weithorn

Arizona State University Art Museum
Johannesburg Art Fair, The Goodman Gallery, South Africa
Nirox Foundation Outdoor Sculpture, Gauteng, South Africa

- 2008** *Johannesburg Art Fair*, with Goodman Gallery, South Africa
- 2007** *Lift Off II*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
Cape 07, Biennale, Cape Town, South Africa
Turbulence, HANGAR-7, Salzburg, Austria
The Geopolitics of Animation, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Seville, Spain
- 2006** *Art Basel Miami*, The Goodman Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2005** *Art Basel*, Basel, Switzerland: The Goodman Gallery booth, South Africa
Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Imprints, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
- 2004** *Post Pop*, Moja Modern, Johannesburg, South Africa
Min(e)dfields, Kunsthau Baselland, Switzerland
Identity, Fortis Circus Theatre, Scheveningen, Holland
A Decade of Democracy, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2003** *Literally and Figuratively: Text and Image in South African Contemporary Art*, Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa
Absolutely/Perhaps, Simon Mee Fine Arts, London, UK
Mettle and Paint, Mettle Headquarters, Johannesburg, South Africa
Retreks, Video projections, Fotografins Hus, Stockholm, Sweden
Space Repurposed, Red Bull Music Academy, Cape Town, South Africa
Art City, Cell-C, Johannesburg, South Africa
'Picnic', Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2002** *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, curated by Frank Herreman, University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona, USA



- I.D./Ology*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
Con/Text, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
Broadcast Quality: The Art of Big Brother, SABC TV, South Africa
- 2001** *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, curated by Frank Herreman, Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Centre for Visual Arts at Stanford University, California, USA
World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Body: Rest and Motion, Oudtshoorn Festival, South Africa
- 2000** *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, curated by Frank Herreman, The Austin Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, USA
Cast, Bronze Age Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Retreks: How the other half ..., Animated Video Projection, Johannesburg, South Africa
Collaboration, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
Returning The Gaze, Cape Town One City Festival, South Africa
- 1999** *Visit*, Natal Society of the Arts, Durban, South Africa
Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa, Museum for African Art, New York, USA
New Worlds: Contemporary Art from Australia, Canada and South Africa, Canada House, London, UK; *Edmonton Art Gallery*, Edmonton, Canada; Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia
P.T.O – Public monuments reconsidered, various locations, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1997** *Goodman Gallery*, Johannesburg, re-launch, South Africa
Fin de Siecle, Lyons, France
Cologne Art Fair, with Gallery Frank Hänel, Germany
30 Minutes, Robben Island Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
District Six Public Sculpture Project, Cape Town, South Africa
Smokkel, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale Fringe, South Africa
- 1996** *Vita Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
New Sculptures, Gallery Frank Hänel, Frankfurt, Germany
Anima-L: Der Mensch im Tier - Das tier im Mensch, Eislingen Kunstverein, Germany
Cologne Art Fair, with Gallery Frank Hänel, Germany
Groundswell, Mermaid Theatre, London, UK
- 1995** *The Laager*, Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa
Scurvy, The Castle, Cape Town, South Africa
The Scurvy Show, Newtown Galleries, Johannesburg, South Africa
Venice Biennale, Malcolm Payne's installation, Venice, Italy
Spring time in Chile, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago, Chile
Junge Kunst Aus Zud Afrika, Galerie Frank Haenel, Frankfurt, Germany
Panoramas of Passage: Changing Landscapes – South Africa, Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa
Frankfurt Art Fair, Gallery Haenel, Germany
Cologne Art Fair, with Gallery Frank Hänel, Germany
- 1994** *Banquet*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
5th Cuban Biennale, Wilfredo Lam Museum, Havana, Cuba
Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Aachen, Germany
Contemporary Art from South Africa, Deutsche Aerospace Gallery, Otobrun, Germany
Exit, Metlife Association Of Art, Cape Town, South Africa
Staff Exhibition, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 1993** *Vita Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
Volkscas Competition, Metlife Association Of Arts, Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa
Aids, Metlife Association of Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
Limits Of Liberty, Wits Theatre, Weekly Mail Anti-Censorship Exhibition, Johannesburg, South Africa

- 1992** *Volkskas Competition*, Metlife Association Of Arts, Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa
Staff Exhibition, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
Other Visibilities, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
 Curator of '40 *Sculptors From The Western Cape*', Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- 1991** *Passages and Transitions*, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
B and B with Barend De Wet, Association of Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1990** *Vita Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
- 1988** *Art and Militarism*, Michaelis Gallery, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- 1986** *About Time: Towards a People's Culture Cultural Festival*, University of Cape Town, SA. Banned by the Apartheid State
Art For Peace, Baxter Theatre, Cape Town, South Africa
- 1985** *Group Show for the opening of 'Gallant House' club and art centre*, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1984** *Aches and Pains*, Market Theatre Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

- Iziko, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
- Durban Art Gallery, South Africa
- Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
- University of Bloemfontein, South Africa
- Sandton Municipality, Johannesburg, South Africa
- DirectAxis Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
- BHP Billiton Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- MTN Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Sasol Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- South African Breweries, Johannesburg, South Africa
- South African Broadcasting Corporation, Johannesburg, South Africa
- The South African Reserve Bank, Johannesburg
- Vodacom Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
- Nando's Art Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Sindika Dokolo African Collection of Contemporary Art, Luanda, Angola
- Red Bull, Salzburg, Austria
- Collection of Mikki and Stanley Weithorn, USA
- The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, USA
- The New Church Museum, Cape Town, South Africa

PRIZES AND AWARDS

As an undergraduate, Murray won Irma Stern Scholarships in both 1981 and 1982. He won the Simon Garson Prize for the most promising student in 1982 and was awarded the Michaelis Prize in 1983. As a postgraduate student, he received a Human Sciences Research Council bursary, a University of Cape Town Research Scholarship, the Jules Kramer Grant and an Irma Stern Scholarship.

Established in 1913 | Modern and contemporary art from South Africa

Everard Read London | 80 Fulham Road | London SW3 6HR
+44 (0)20 7590 9991 | info@everardlondon.com | www.everardlondon.com

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10 am – 6 pm
Friday 10 am – 5 pm | Saturdays 12 pm – 4 pm

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS
Michael Hall

ER | 100 YEARS

