

Jeremy Wafer



Biography

Jeremy Wafer (b. 1953, Durban, South Africa) works across sculpture, photography, video and drawing, exploring the politics and poetics of place. Rooted in South Africa's social, cultural and political geography, his work engages issues of land and territory, particularly themes of location, dislocation, possession and dispossession.

Wafer studied at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (B.A Fine Art, 1979) and at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (B.A. Hons. in Art History 1980, M.A. Fine Art 1987 and PhD, 2017). He has taught in the Fine Art Department of the Technikon Natal, Durban, and at the School of Arts of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, where he was appointed Professor of Fine Art in 2011.

Solo exhibitions include: *Material Immaterial*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (2023); *Arc*, Goodman Gallery, London (2022); *Index*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town (2017); Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (2014); *Structure: Avenues and barriers of Power*, a retrospective at KZNSA Gallery, Durban (2009).

Group exhibitions include: *Centre of Gravity*, The Old Soap Works, Bristol (2020); *Ampersand*, University of Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg (2019); *Everywhere but Here*, Cite International des Arts, Paris (2017); *What remains is Tomorrow*, The Pavilion of South Africa at the 56th Biennale di Venezia, Venice (2015); *Witness*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2014); *Views of Africa*, Smithsonian National Museum of Air and Space, Washington DC. (2013); and *20: Two Decades of South African Sculpture*, NIROX Foundation, the Cradle of Humankind, (2010).

Wafer's work features in the following public collections: the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC; South African National Gallery in Cape Town and the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Wafer lives and works between London and Johannesburg.

Artist Statement

"While my work has come from a deep involvement in a South African context I am continually interested in exploring issues that extend outwards from this personal and geographic centre. My work could be seen as traversing a South-North axis in which the global languages of contemporary art are intersected with the particularities of a local geography and history. I have been particularly interested in exploring, in the context of the South and its relation to the North, common issues of colonial legacies, the tensions between centres and margins, the layering of indigenous and settler cultures, and the effects of a shifting world economy on cultural practice. My work has since 1994 engaged with a practice which integrates and responds to aspects of African sculpture in the context of a broadly post minimalist sculptural idiom."

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017** *Index*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *Strata*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *Survey*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Structure*, KZNSA and Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 2009** *Paradise*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007** *Jeremy Wafer – Recent Work*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006** *Geography*, Sasol Art Awards Winner, Sasol Gallery Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2005** *Tropic*, Square Space Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004** *Measure*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003** *Artfirst Gallery*, London, UK
- 2002** *FNB Vita Art Awards*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2002** *Survey*, Sasol Museum, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2002** *Survey*, Durban Art Museum, Durban, South Africa
- 2001** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *Jeremy Wafer* Artfirst Gallery, London, UK
- 1999** *Jeremy Wafer* The Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1998** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996** *Cheltenham College of Art*, Cheltenham, UK
- 1993** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2019 *Ampersand* UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2019 *Paint it Black*, Aardklop Festival, South Africa (Upcoming)
2019 *Tribute*, KKNK festival, Pretoria, South Africa
2018 *Of Sovereignty and Safety*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 *Everywhere But Here*, Jeremy Wafer & Andreas Schneider, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
2016 *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Edge of Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *South African Pavilion at 56th Venice Biennale, What remains is tomorrow*, Venice, Italy
2013 *Witness*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia
2009 *Sources: Contemporary Sculpture in the Landscape*, NIROX Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 *2nd Joburg Art Fair*, Johannesburg, South Africa (Goodman Gallery booth)
2008 *1st Joburg Art Fair*, Johannesburg, South Africa (Goodman Gallery booth)
2008 *Spier Contemporary*, Cape Town, South Africa
2008 Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2007 *Spier Contemporary*, Spier, Cape Town, South Africa,
2007 Bank Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2006 *Body of Evidence*, The National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
2006 *Group exhibition: Brande International Artists Workshop*, Brande, Denmark
2006 *Sasol Art Awards* (1st prize winner), Sasol Gallery Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
2005 *In the Making: Material and Process*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2004 *Tangentia*, international site specific art project in Cato Manor, Durban, South Africa
2004 *The Brett Kebble Art Awards* (Merit Award), Cape Town, South Africa
2004 *Insights*, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
2003 *Topographies*, joint exhibition with Sandile Zulu, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2002 *FNB Vita Art Awards* (Finalist) Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2001 *Open Circuit*, NSA gallery, Durban, South Africa
2000 *Xoe 2 site specific*, Nieu Bethesda and Grahamstown Festival, South Africa
Suitcase, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2000 *A.R.E.A.*, Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland
2000 *Outpost*, Association of Arts Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2000 *Unplugged 5*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1999 *blank – architecture*, apartheid and after, Netherlands Institute of Architecture, Rotterdam, Netherlands (travelling in Europe and South Africa)
1998 *30 S 30 E*, Lipschitz Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *Unplugged 2*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *Jeremy Wafer*, Bronwen Findlay NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
1997 *Printmaking in a Transforming South Africa*, Grahamstown Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
1997 *Photosynthesis: Contemporary South African Photography*, Grahamstown Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
1997 *The Johannesburg Biennale*, Newtown Cultural Precinct, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *The New Delhi Triennale*, New Delhi, India
1996 *Earth and Everything*, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK (travelling UK)
1996 *Ground Swell*, Mermaid Theatre, London, UK
1996 *Hitchhiker*, Generator Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Edwards*, Munyai, Wafer, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Barry, Allen, Wafer*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Natal Artists*, Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
1995 *Panoramas of Passage*, (travelling) Meridian Foundation, Washington, USA
1994 *Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Galerie d'Esplanade, Paris, France
1994 *Places of Power*, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994 *Images of Metal*, Grahamstown Festival (touring), South Africa
1994 *Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1993 *Critics Choice*, ICA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1991 *Il Sud del Mondo*, Galleria Civica del Arte, Masala, Italy
1991 *The Cape Triennale*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1989 *Volkskas Awards Exhibition* (Merit Award), South African Association of Arts Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
1987 *The Standard Bank National Drawing Competition*, Grahamstown Festival, South Africa

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2016 Full Professor, Wits School of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004-2015 Associate Professor, Wits School of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
2002-2003 Department of Fine Art, Technikon Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
1983-2002 Department of Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa
1996 Department of Fine Art, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Cheltenham, UK

Conference and Workshop Participation

2008 Invitation to International Artists Workshop, Manaus and Sao Paulo, Brazil
1997 South African representative on the New Delhi Triennale, New Delhi, India
 International Artists' Workshop, Garhi Studios, New Delhi, India

Awards and Merits

2007 The Sasol Wax Art Award, Johannesburg, South Africa
1989 The Volkskas Bank Merit Award, South Africa
1987 The Standard Bank National Drawing Prize, South Africa

Academic Record and Residencies

Residencies:

- 2017** Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
- 2008** Fellowship at the Ampersand Foundation, New York, USA
- 2006** Brande International Artist's Workshop, Denmark
- 2005** RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia as part of the South Project
- 2001** Fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Centre, Umbria, Italy
- 1999** Thami Mnyeli Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1990** Cité des Arts, Paris, France. Postgraduate:
- 1987** M.A. Fine Art, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Undergraduate:
- 1980** B.A. (Honours) History of Art, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1979** B.A. Fine Art, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Collections

- The Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, America
- The Library of Congress, Washington, USA
- Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
- Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Natal Technikon Collection, Durban, South Africa
- MTN Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- South 32 Collection (Formerly BHP-Billiton Collection), Johannesburg, South Africa
- Didata Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
- BoE Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
- Standard Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Reserve Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Nando's Art Collection, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa

Commissions

- 2009** Sculpture for the One and Only Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009** Sculpture for the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa
- 2009** Sculpture for the new football stadium, Durban, South Africa 2004* Sculpture for the Arrabella Estate, Knysna, South Africa
- 2003** Sculpture for the Arrabella Sheraton Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2001** Design of a memorial wall for the Gugu Dlamini Park, Durban, South Africa
- 2000** Sculpture, Metal and Glass for the Dorothy Nyembe Community Centre, Cato Crest, Durban, South Africa
- 1999 – 2001** Metal gates and Glass for the Diakonia Centre, Durban, South Africa
- 1997** Sculpture and Glass for the Poynton Chapel, Koinonia, Botha's Hill, South Africa in collaboration with Sarkin and Jain Architects

Selected Articles and Reviews

- 2003** Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer and Sandile Zulu*, www.artthrob.co.za, August
- 2002** Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer at the Sasol Art Museum*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
- 2000** Smith, K. *Life Sciences: Jeremy Wafer*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
- 1996** Enwezor, O. *FNB Vita Art Now*, Frieze, Issue 30, September, p. 84

Publications

Books

- 2004** Perryer, S (ed) *10 years, 100 Artists: Art in a Democratic South Africa*. Bell-Roberts Publishing in association with Stuik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2003** Stevenson, M and Rosholt, A, *Moving in Time and Space: Shifts between abstraction and representation in post war South African Art*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2001** Frost, L, *Jeremy Wafer, Taxi-003*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1997** Geers, K (ed). *Contemporary South Africa Art*. The Gencor Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 1997** Hobbs, P. and Rankin, E, *Printmaking in a transforming South Africa*. David Phillip, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 1996** Williamson, S. and Jamal, A, *the future present* in Phillip, D. *Art in South Africa: the future present* Cape Town, South Africa.
- 1994** Rankin, E, *Images of Metal Johannesburg*, Wits University Press, Johannesburg South Africa.
- 1994** Journais, J-Y, *Un Art Contemporain d'Afrique du Sud* Paris, Editions Plume, Paris, France.
- 1991** Strano, C, *Il Sud del Mondo: l'altra arte contemporanea* Milan, Mazzotta, Italy.
- 1990** Williamson, S, *Resistance Art in South Africa*, David Phillip Publishers and Catholic Institute for International Relations, Cape Town, South Africa. Catalogues

2004 The Brett Kebble Art Awards, Barret L, Marulelo, Cape Town, South Africa

2002 *Tumuli: Conversations with Jeremy Wafer*, Jeremy Wafer: Survey, Sasol Art Museum, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2002 *The Scheme of Things*, FNB Vita Art Prize, Goodman Gallery Editions, Johannesburg, South Africa

1997 *Trade Routes: History and Geography*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, 1997, Johannesburg, South Africa