

Brett Murray

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Biography

Brett Murray studied at the University of Cape Town where he was awarded his Master's of Fine Arts degree in 1988 with distinction. The title of his dissertation is 'A Group of Satirical Sculptures Examining Social and Political Paradoxes in the South African Context'. As an undergraduate he 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.

He has exhibited extensively in South Africa and abroad. From 1991 to 1994 he established the sculpture department at the University of Stellenbosch, where he curated the show 'Thirty Sculptors from the Western Cape' in 1992. In 1995 he curated, with Kevin Brand, 'Scurvy', at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town. That year he co-curated 'Junge Kunst Aus Zud Afrika' for the Hänel Gallery in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1999, Brett co-founded, with artists and cultural practitioners Lisa Brice, Kevin Brand, Bruce Gordon, Andrew Putter, Sue Williamson, Robert Weinek and Lizza Littlewort, 'Public Eye', a Section 27 company that manage and initiate art projects in the public arena with the aims to develop a greater profile for public art in Cape Town. They have initiated projects on Robben Island, worked with the cities health officials on aids awareness campaigns and initiated outdoor sculpture projects including 'The Spier Sculpture Biennale'. He curated 'Homeport' in 2001 which saw 15 artists create site specific text based works in Cape Town's waterfront precinct. Public Eye have interfaced with cultural funding bodies as consultants and hosted multi-media events across the city.

Murray was included on the Cuban Biennial of 1994, and subsequently his works were exhibited at the Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art in Germany. He was included on the group show, 'Springtime in Chile' at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santiago, Chile. He was also part of the travelling show 'Liberated Voices, Contemporary Art From South Africa' which opened at the Museum for African Art in New York in 1998. His work formed part of the shows 'Min(d)fields' at the Kunsthaus in Baselland, Switzerland in 2004 and 'The Geopolitics of Animation' at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo in Seville in Spain in 2007. He won the Cape Town Urban Art competition in 1998 that resulted in the public work 'Africa', a 3.5 metre bronze sculpture, being erected in Cape Town's city centre. He won, with Stefaans Samcuia, the commission to produce an 8 x 30 meter wall sculpture for the foyer of the Cape Town International Convention Centre in 2003. In 2007 he completed 'Specimens', a large wall sculpture for the University Of Cape Town's medical school campus. In 2011 he produced the public artwork 'Seeds' for The University of Bloemfontein and in 2013 he was commissioned to produce the 7 meter bronze 'Citizen' for the Auto & General Park in Johannesburg.

His solo shows include: 'White Boy Sings the Blues' at the Rembrandt Gallery in Johannesburg in 1996, 'I love Africa' at the Bell-Roberts Gallery in Cape Town in 2000, 'Us and Them' at the Axis Gallery in New York in 2003 and 'Sleep Sleep' at the Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg in 2006. His solo show, 'Crocodile Tears', was held at both the Cape Town and Johannesburg branches of The Goodman Gallery in 2007 and 2009. His recent show, 'Hail To The Thief', was first held at the Goodman Gallery in Cape Town in 2010, and then at the Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg in 2012. He was nominated as the Standard Bank Young Artist of the year in 2002.

Solo Exhibitions

2015 *Again and Again*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2012 *Hail to the Thief*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2010 *Hail to the Thief*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2009 *Crocodile Tears*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2008 *Crocodile Tears*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

2006 *Sleep Sleep*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2006 *Sleep Sleep*, João Ferreira Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2003 *Us and Them*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA

Goodman Gallery

- 2002 *White Like Me*, Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year Award exhibition, travelling to: National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
2002 King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
2002 Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
2002 Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2002 Johannes Stegman Art Gallery, Bloemfontein, South Africa
2002 South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2002 Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2001 *Hero*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2000 *I Love Africa*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2000 *I Love Africa*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1997 *Own*, Hänel Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *Own*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996 *Brett Murray: New Sculptures*, Gallery Frank Hänel, Frankfurt, Germany
1996 *White Boy Sings the Blues*, Rembrandt van Rijn Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

- 2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 *South African Pavilion at 56th Venice Biennale, What remains is tomorrow*, South Africa
- 2014 *Shield and Spear enjoys LA premiere*, Billy Wilder Theater, Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, USA
2014 *Pop Goes the Revolution*, New Church, Cape Town, South Africa
2014 *From Sitting to Selfie*, Standard Bank Gallery, South Africa
- 2013 *My Joburg*, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2013 *Art Palm Beach*, Dean Projects, Florida, USA
2013 *The Loom of the Land*, Michael Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2013 *Summer Show*, Casa Labia Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2012 Art Miami, Dean Projects, USA
2012 Art Basel Miami, Goodman Gallery, USA
2012 *Spring Show*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *Sensing the Subject* A selection of Piet Viljoen's art collection, The New Church. Curated by Penny Siopis, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *The Art of Banking: celebrating through collections*, Standard Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
2012 FIAC, Paris, France
2012 *Johannesburg Art Fair*, Goodman Gallery, South Africa
2012 *Our Fathers*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2012 *Recollect*, Southern Guild, The Woodstock Foundry, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2011 *Thinking Around*, Tokara, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2011 *Natural Selection: 1991-2011*, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2011 Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA
2011 *The Armoury Show*, New York, USA
- 2010 *In Other Words*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2010 *Spier Contemporary*, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2008 *Joburg Art Fair*, SA: The Goodman Gallery booth, Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 *The other Mainstream II: Selections from the Mikki and Stanley Weithorn Collection*, Arizona State University Art Museum, USA
- 2007 *Lift Off II*, Goodman Gallery Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
2007 *Cape 07' Biennale*, Cape Town, South Africa
2007 *Turbulence*, HANGAR-7, Salzburg, Austria
2007 *The Geopolitics of Animation*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Seville, Spain

Goodman Gallery

- 2006 *Art Basel Miami*, The Goodman Gallery booth, USA
- 2005 *Art Basel*, Basel, The Goodman Gallery booth, Switzerland
2005 Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2005 *Imprints*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
- 2004 *Post Pop*, Moja Modern, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004 *Min(e)dfields*, Kunsthau Basseland, Switzerland
2004 *Identity*, Fortis Circus Theatre, Scheveningen, Holland, Netherlands
2004 *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*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2003 *Absolutely/Perhaps*, Simon Mee Fine Arts, London, UK
2003 *Mettle and Paint*, Mettle Headquarters, Johannesburg, South Africa
2003 *Retreks*, Video projections, Fotografins Haus, Stockholm, Sweden
2003 *Space Repurposed*, Red Bull Music Academy, Cape Town, South Africa
2003 *Art City, Cell-C*, Johannesburg, South Africa
2003 *Picnic*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2002 *I.D./Ology*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
2002 *Con/Text*, Axis Gallery, New York, USA
2002 *Broadcast Quality: The Art of Big Brother*, SABC TV, South Africa
- 2001 *World Wide Video Festival*, Amsterdam, Holland, Netherlands
2001 *Body: Rest and Motion*, Oudtshoorn Festival, South Africa
- 2000 *Cast*, Bronze Age Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2000 *Retreks: How the other half...*, Animated Video Projection, Johannesburg, South Africa
2000 *Collaboration*, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2000 *Returning The Gaze*, Cape Town One City Festival, South Africa
- 1999 *Visit*, Natal Society of the Arts, Durban, South Africa
1999 *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Museum for African Art, New York, USA
1999 *New Worlds: Contemporary Art from Australia, Canada and South Africa* Canada House, London, UK
- 1997 *Fin de Siecle*, Lyons, France
1997 *Cologne Art Fair*, Gallery Frank Hänel booth, Germany
1997 *30 Minutes*, Robben Island Museum, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *District Six Public Sculpture Project*, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *Smokkel*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale Fringe, South Africa
- 1996 *New Sculptures*, Gallery Frank Hänel, Frankfurt, Germany
1996 *Anima-L: Der Mensch im Tier – Das tier im Mensch*, Eislingen Kunstverein, Cologne Art Fair, Gallery Frank Hänel booth, Germany
1996 *Groundswell*, Mermaid Theatre, London, UK
- 1995 *The Laager*, Johannesburg Biennale, South Africa
1995 *Scurvy*, The Castle, Cape Town, South Africa
1995 *Venice Biennale*, in Malcome Payne's installation, Italy*
1995 *Spring time in Chili*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santiago, Chile
1995 *Junge Kunst Aus Zud Afrika*, Gallerie Frank Haenel, Frankfurt, Germany
1995 *Panoramas of Passage: Changing Landscapes – South Africa*, Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 1994 *Banquet*, Standard Bank Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994 *5th Cuban Biennale*, Wilfredo Lam Museum, Havana, Cuba
1994 *Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art*, Aachen, Germany
1994 *Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Deutsche Aerospace Gallery, Otobrun, Germany

Awards and Merits

- 2010 Finalist, Spier Contemporaries

Goodman Gallery

2007 Finalist, Spier Contemporaries

2002 Winner, collaboration with the late Stefaans Samcuia, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Public Art Competition

1998 Winner, Cape Town Urban Art Foundation, Sculpture Competition

1992 Finalist, Cape Town Urban Art Foundation, Sculpture Competition

1992 Finalist, Waterfront Sculpture Competition, Cape Town

Academic Record and Residencies

Academic Record:

1985-1989 Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree and Masters in Fine Arts Degree (Sculpture), University of Cape Town, SA

1992-1995 Established and lectured in the Sculpture Department at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Residencies:

2009 Ampersand Foundation, New York

Collections

Davis Museum & Cultural Center, Wellesley College, MA

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

Johannesburg Art Gallery

Durban Art Museum

Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

University of Cape Town

University of South Africa, Pretoria

Sandton Municipality, Johannesburg

BHP Billiton Collection, Johannesburg

MTN Collection, Johannesburg

Sasol Collection, Johannesburg

South African Breweries, Johannesburg

South African Broadcasting Corporation, Johannesburg

The South African Reserve Bank, Johannesburg

Vodacom Collection, Cape Town

Commissions

2009 'Cloth', collaboration with Freciano Ndala, Nobu Restaurant, One&Only, V&A Waterfront

2007 Specimens, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

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2005 Yesterday Tomorrow, Houses of Parliament, Cape Town.

1994 Aids Memorial, Company Gardens, Cape Town.

Selected Articles and Reviews

2012 Steven Dubin, 'Liza Essers, Gallery Owner, On The Show that Scandalized South Africa', Art In America, United States

2012 Chris Thurman, *Chris Thurman: As in Hamlet, Zuma Betrays Himself in his Moral Outrage*, Business Day, South Africa

2012 Charl Blignaut, *Diddy Buys a Brett Murray*, City Press, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012 Charl Blignaut, *White Noise*, City Press, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012 Robyn Dixon, 'South African President Zuma, Gallery Settle Case Over Painting', Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles

2012 Phillip De Wet, 'Appeal Tribunal Shreds Classification of 'The Spear'', Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012 Phillip De Wet, 'The Film and Publications Board Has Overstepped the Mark', Mail & Guardian, Johannesburg, South Africa

2012 David Smith, *Censors Repeal 'Over 16' Rating for Jacob Zuma Penis Painting*, The Guardian, United Kingdom

2012 David Smith, *Jacob Zuma Painting The Spear Still Exposed to View Despite ANC Rally*, The Guardian, United Kingdom

2012 Todd Pitcock, *The Naked Truth About Art In South Africa*, Wall Street Journal, New York City

Publications

2011 Mario Pissaro (editor), *Visual Century: South African Art In Context 1907 – 2007*, University of Cape Town

2011 Alex Dodd, *Art South Africa*, Vol 09, Issue 3, South Africa

2010 *Spier Contemporary* Catalogue

2010 *Signature Pieces: The Standard Bank Corporate Art Collection*

2010 Private Edition, Issue 9

2010 *Golden Arrow – A Moment Magazine*, South African Fever, 2010

2009 Standard Bank Young Artist Awards: 25 Years, Standard Bank

2009 Sue Williamson, *South African Art Now*

2009 *Sources: Contemporary Sculpture in the Landscape*, (catalogue) Nirox Foundation

2009 Art South Africa, Vol. 07, Issue 4, Cover and review

2009 *Crocodile Tears*, (catalogue), Goodman Editions

2008 *The other Mainstream II: Selections from the Mikki and Stanley Weithorn Collection*, Arizona State University Art Museum

2007 *The Geopolitics of Animation*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo, Seville, Spain

2005 Brett Murray: *Plasticien, Les carnets de La Creation*, Double Storey Publishers

2004 *The ID of South African Artists*, Sharlene Kahn (catalogue)

2004 Sophie Perryer (editor), *10 Years, 100 Artists: Art in a Democratic South Africa*, Struik Publishers and Bell-Roberts Publishing

2004 *Sculpture*, International Sculpture Center, December, 2004, Vol. 23, no10

2003 *Space Repurposed*, Red Bull Music Academy, Cape Town, (catalogue)

2003 *Art City*, Cell-C, Johannesburg, Catalogue

2002 *Broadcast Quality: The Art of Big Brother*, SABC TV, South Africa, (catalogue)

2002 Art South Africa, Vol. 1, Issue 1, (essay)

2002 *Sculpture*, International Sculpture Center, June Vol, 21 No. 5, (article)

2002 *KKNK2002*, Oudtshoorn, South Africa, (catalogue)

2001 World Wide Video Festival, Amsterdam, (catalogue)

2001 Sasol Collection, Johannesburg, (catalogue)

2001 KKNK Visual Art Catalogue, Oudtshoorn

Goodman Gallery

- 2000 *White Like Me*, Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year, (catalogue)
2000 Brett Murray, Bell-Roberts Publishers, (catalogue)
2000 Collaboration, Bell-Roberts Contemporary, (catalogue)
2000 Zayd Minty *Returning The Gaze*, Cape Town One City Festival, (catalogue)
- 1999 Frank Herreman (editor), *Liberated Voices: Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Museum for African Art, Prestel, New York, (catalogue)
- 1997 Kendell Geers (editor), *Contemporary South African Art*, The Gencor Collection, Johannesburg, (catalogue)
1997 Sue Williamson (editor), *Thirty Minutes*, Robben Island Museum, (catalogue)
1997 *District Six Public Sculpture Project*, (catalogue)
- 1996 *Groundswell*, Mermaid Theatre London, (catalogue)
1996 Anima-L Der Mensch im Tier – Das tier im Mensch, Eislingen Kunstverein, Germany, (catalogue)
1996 Sue Williamson and Ashraf Jamal, *Art in South Africa: the Future Present*, David Phillip Publishers, Cape Town.
1996 Elizabeth Rankin, *Images of Metal*, Witswatersrand University Press.
1996 Cuban Biennale, Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art, Aachen, Germany, (catalogue)
1996 *Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Deutsche Aerospace Gallery, Otobrun, Germany, (catalogue)
- 1994 *Revue Noire*, South Africa.
- 1992 Merle Huntley, *Art in Outline: An Introduction to South African Art*, (Oxford University Press)
1992 *GIF, Book of original prints*, Artists' Press and Fig Gallery.
1992 *Art Now*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, (catalogue)
- 1991 *A.D.A.*, Cape Town Edition.
- 1989 Sue Williamson, *Resistance Art in South Africa*, David Phillips Publishers