

**PRESS RELEASE:** *For immediate release, January 2019*

**BARBARA WILDENBOER**

***FOLLY***

8 – 30 March 2019

Everard Read London is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by South African artist, Barbara Wildenboer. Using the medium of collage to powerful effect, Wildenboer's solo exhibition comprises highly textured and sculptural works that serve as contemporary vanitas within the context of the Anthropocene. The title of her first London exhibition, *FOLLY*, derives from the work of Hieronymus Bosch and his depiction of human foolishness and madness.

Through her practice, Wildenboer reflects on how humankind is affected by globalisation, economic upheavals, scarcity, pollution and manmade disasters. She explores both beauty and excess, and the magnitude of the mystery and vastness of the cosmos contrasted against the comparable insignificance of humans. She interrogates the fragility of the symbiotic relationship between man and ecology and engages with the concept of the toxic sublime - the "tensions arising from visual representations of environmental contamination." \*

Using images in her collages as metaphors for the themes and preoccupations that frame her work, Wildenboer makes reference to the interconnectedness of all living things by creating visual simulations of nature that seek to convey a sense of wonder at the complicated beauty of patterns in the universe. She also alludes to the relationship between chaos and order and the sublime beauty of fractal geometry. At a young age, Wildenboer became aware of the concept of mathematics as a language and especially as the language of nature; a way to understand the universe, time, energy and matter.

Wildenboer exploits collage at luxurious scales; a microscopic image is scaled up or down and reintroduced through a variety of media, whilst exploring a range of subject matters. Collages are photographed, cut out and a new collage is created and absorbed into her visual language.

Wildenboer also creates delicately-cut altered books which often contain maps, atlases and scientific subject matter, sometimes using images from the book as central elements to her pieces.

Wildenboer has exhibited in group exhibitions and art fairs internationally. This is her first solo exhibition with Everard Read London and her third solo show with the Everard Read group.

For more information, please contact: [info@everardlondon.com](mailto:info@everardlondon.com), +44 207 590 9991

-ENDS-

*\* Jennifer Peeples, Toxic Sublime: Imaging Contaminated Landscapes, November 2011*

*Imaging toxicity is no simple task as many pollutants are invisible and sites of contamination are concealed. Contemporary artists who attempt this challenge are often criticized because the beauty of their images obfuscates the health and environmental risk of the polluted sites they photograph.*



Photocredit: Leah Hawker

ER JOHANNESBURG | CAPE TOWN | LONDON | FRANSCHHOEK

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Registered in England and Wales: 9642502 | VAT Registration number: 219 7990 61

## About Everard Read London

Everard Read was established in South Africa in 1913, making it Africa's oldest commercial gallery. Everard Read London opened in 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 has galleries in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Franschhoek and London.

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

## About Barbara Wildenboer

**(b. 1973, Pretoria, South Africa)**

Barbara Wildenboer uses a combination of analogue and digital processes to create sculptural artworks that primarily consist of collage, photo and paper-construction as well as digitally-animated photographic sculpture.

Wildenboer also creates delicately-cut altered books which often contain maps, atlases and scientific subject matter, sometimes using images from the book as central elements to her pieces. Imagery and words become components of the larger designs, as she crafts new visual narratives from the raw material.

Through her practice Wildenboer creates contemporary surrealist landscapes that provide commentary on the human condition and our negligence with respect to our natural environment. Wildenboer has participated in several group exhibitions and art fairs both nationally and internationally, including South Africa, San Francisco, Washington, London, Dubai, Sydney and Hong Kong.

Several of her collage works are permanently displayed at Linthwaite House in Britain's Lake District as part of the Leeu Hotel Group's collection.

In 2011 Wildenboer received the Public Choice Prize the Sovereign African Arts Award. She has been awarded several international residencies such as the Unesco-Aschberg residency (Jordan, 2006), the Al Mahatta residency (Palestine, 2009) and the Red De Residencias Artisticas Local (Bogota, Colombia, 2011), the Rimbun Dahan artist residency (Penang, Malaysia, 2013), L'Atelier Sur Seine (Fontainebleau, France 2016).

Wildenboer obtained a Masters in Fine Art with distinction from the Michaelis School of Art at the University of Cape Town in 2007. Prior to this she completed a BA (Ed) with majors in English literature, Psychology and Pedagogics at the University of Pretoria in 1996 followed by a Bachelor of Visual Arts from UNISA.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

**2017**

The Invisible Gardener, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

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**2016**

Mythematics, M-Contemporary, Sydney, Australia

**2015**

Something Rather Than Nothing, The Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong

**2014**

The Lotus Eaters, The Reservoir Gallery, Oliewenhuis, Bloemfontein, South Africa

William Humphreys Museum, Kimberley, South Africa

North West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

**2013**

Disjecta Membra, Amelia Johnson Contemporary, Hong Kong

**2012**

Canaries in the Coalmine, ErdmannContemporary, Cape Town and Aardklop, Potchefstroom, South Africa

**2011**

Library of the Infinitesimally Small and Unimaginably Large, ErdmannContemporary, Cape Town, South Africa

**2008**

Present Absence/Absent Presence, ErdmannContemporary, Cape Town

Vanitas, AVA, Cape Town

**2006**

Everyday Alchemy, Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan

**2004**

Rites of Passage, AVA, Cape Town

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

**2017**

Summer Exhibition, Group show at Everard Read, London, UK

Cut Up /Cut Out, travelling Museum Exhibition, Bellevue Arts Museum, WA (June 30 - Oct. 20, 2017)

Huntsville Museum of Art, AL (Nov. 19 - Feb. 11, 2018),

Pensacola Museum of Art, FL (March 2 - June 17, 2018)

Ellen Noël Art Museum, Odessa, TX (July 19 - Oct. 14, 2018)

Foosaner Art Museum, Melbourne, FL (Nov. 10 - Feb. 3, 2019)

Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI (Mar. 2 - May 26, 2019).

Booknesses: South African Artists' Books - FADA Gallery; part of the BOOKNESSESS COLLOQUIEM held at the University of Johannesburg.

By the Book, Kaller Fine Arts, Washington DC

Reality Check, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

## 2016

This is Not a Book, The San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, California, USA  
Surface and Subtext, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town  
nano, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town  
The Art of the Book, The Seager Gray Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
Lush, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch

## 2016/2015

Map of the New Art – Imago Mundi – Luciano Benetton Collection, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore, Venezia, Italy and New York

## 2015

Ten years of Artists Books, A collection of artists' books curated for the Brooklyn Public Library, New York.  
Picture & Paper, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town  
The Spiritual in the Material, Lizamore and Associates Gallery, Johannesburg  
The Art of the Book, The Seager Gray Gallery, San Francisco, USA  
The Artist as Author, Klein Karoo National Arts Festival, Oudshoorn, Karoo  
Empire, Everard Read, Cape Town

## 2014

Butterflies in my Stomach, XVA Gallery, Al Fahidi, DUBAI  
Capital: Contemporary, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa  
The Art of the Book, The Seager Gray Gallery, San Francisco, USA

## 2013

Crossing the Divide Erdmann Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa  
Wonder Works, The Space, HONG KONG

## 2012

Conversations, Sydney, AUSTRALIA  
Clover Aardklop Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa

## 2011

Implemented Environments, Brundyn & Gonsalves, Cape Town, South Africa

## 2010

The Mysteries and Mechanics of Perception, iArt, Cape Town, South Africa  
Es(Cape), Pretoria Kunsvereniging, Pretoria, South Africa  
Return to the Land, Klein Karoo Kunstefees, Oudshoorn, South Africa  
Matters Conceptually(part I and II), ErdmannContemporary, Cape Town, South Africa  
Reading between the lines, US Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

## 2009

3d Riwaq Biennale, Birzeit, Palestine

## 2008-2009

Construct: Beyond the Documentary Photograph (Travelling exhibition) Unisa Gallery, Pretoria, KZN  
Gallery, Durban, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Gallery, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown Art Festival

(Main show), Grahamstown, Goethe Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa

**2008**

Print 08: Myth, Memory and the Archive, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Woodstock, South Africa

**2007**

Greenhouse, Bell-Roberts Gallery, Lourensford estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa

**SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION and other projects**

2016: Collaboration with 50ty50ty prints <http://www.fiftyfifty.co.za/>

2015: DEKOR-Z Collaborative site specific installation with Liza Grobler

2013: Chance Favours the Connected Mind Collaborative installation with Liza Grobler

2009: Mother Tongue. Site specific installation Riwaq Biennale, Birzeit, Palestine

2008: Public Memorial for Olive Schreiner, Kalk Bay

2006: Epitaph, (Collaboration with Sima Zereikat), Darat al Funun, Amman, Jordan

2004: SPIER SCULPTURE BIENALE, Spier Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

**AWARDS and RESIDENCIES**

2016: L'Air Arts Residency, at L'Atelier sur Seine, Fontainebleau, France

2013: Rimbun Dahan residency (Penang, Malaysia, 2013)

2011: Public Vote Prize, Sovereign African Arts Award (<http://www.sovereignartfoundation.com/art-prizes/african/index.php>)

2011: Awarded the Red De Residencias Artísticas Local at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, (Bogotá, Colombia) to be undertaken during the course of the year.

2009: Al Mahatta residency (Palestine)

2006: Unesco-Aschberg residency (Jordan)

2006: MacIver Scholarship

2005/6: KW Johnstone Scholarship

2005/6: Jules Kramer Award

2005/6: Harry Crossley Scholarship

2002: Overall winner: Vuleka, ArtB, Bellville

2002: Best work in another medium, Vuleka, ArtB, Bellville

2000: Merit award: M-WEB NEW SIGNATURES, ArtB, Bellville