

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

**Everard Read London presents**  
**Shany Van den Berg: *Dream Pond***  
**18 October – 9 November**

Everard Read London is pleased to present *Dream Pond*, an exhibition of paintings and drawings by South African artist, Shany Van den Berg.

Van den Berg's practice centres on contemporary portraiture and figurative work, with an underlying theme of womanhood. Her ethereal oil paintings evoke the mood and texture of Old Master paintings, conveying emotions, moods and ideas through meticulous attention to detail, an extraordinary facility with paint and subtle symbolism.

A sense of layering pervades Van den Berg's works, in the imagery itself and through her painterly process. Surfaces are built up with subtle layering, shadows are imbued with texture and skins exude an almost viscous sheen. Although unmistakably feminine, some of Van den Berg's forms evoke a sense of animalism through their attenuated bone structure, and an underlying sexuality pervades many of the forms. They suggest recognition, confirmation and the bittersweet knowledge of love, loss and letting go.

For this first solo exhibition at Everard Read London, Van den Berg has created a body of work inspired by water as a life force. Developed over the course of the past year, these works reflect the artist's journey of self-discovery through the seasonal cycles. At their heart are the water lilies, rising up from muddy waters; a powerful metaphor for rebirth.

Van den Berg's paintings have a sensual and ethereal quality, but they also evoke a sense of calm and a quiet strength. They reveal a woman deeply attuned to the beauty and power of nature and a profound gratitude for the gifts that the natural world offers us. With their petals, floating foliage and shimmering reflections, these works are permeated by an overwhelming sense of new life.

Van den Berg observes, "As the seasons changed, I watched the last of the lilies and their green pads gradually grow smaller and become dormant. This left an emptiness in the ponds, but an abundance of reflections on the liquid surface; the nearby oak tree whose skeletal fingers reached out over the water ... as well as my own face. "

Van den Berg has worked as a full-time artist for almost thirty years. Her practice includes painting on board, linen and found objects, drawing, sculpture, site specific installations, mixed media, three-dimensional work as well as poetry and music. This is her sixth solo exhibition with Everard Read Galleries.

For more information, please contact: info@everardlondon.com, +44 (0)207 590 9991

## About Everard Read London

The Everard Read | CIRCA group of galleries was established in South Africa in 1913, making it Africa's oldest commercial gallery. Everard Read London opened in 2016 and the group also has galleries in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Franschhoek.

Everard Read presents modern and contemporary art from southern Africa. Although contemporary artists from the UK, Europe and the USA are also exhibited, Everard Read retains at its core, an impressive stable of South African artists. The galleries each present a year-round programme of solo and group exhibitions, advise both public and private collectors around the world and have an ongoing commitment to nurturing South African talent.

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 Shany Van den Berg

### (b. 1958 Riversdale, South Africa)

Shany van den Berg's multifaceted practice is centred around the notions of identity in contemporary portraiture and figurative work as well as sculpture and conceptual collage-based objects that complete a diverse and often performative artistic practice. Underpinning her work are the ever-present themes of matriarchy, womanhood and the passage of time for humanity.

Van den Berg's ethereal oil paintings evoke the mood and texture of Old Master paintings, conveying complex emotions, moods and ideas through exacting attention to detail, an extraordinary facility with paint, and subtle symbolism. Repetition across surfaces are built up in swathes, layered onto the board, linen and found objects. Shadows are imbued with texture and 'skins' that exude an almost viscous evocative sheen. Forms can conjure a sense of animalism through their attenuated bone structure, and an underlying but subtle sexuality pervades many of the forms.

Unmistakably feminine, many narratives suggest recognition, confirmation and the bitter-sweet knowledge of love, loss and letting go. Her portraiture is most often of women whose features morph into a composite of the artist and her loved ones, serving as portals to narratives of love, sacrifice, and ultimately transcendence.

Van den Berg's work also explores and interrogates the critical contemporary themes of identity, family and connectedness to the world around us through multimedia expressions of drawings, paintings, collages and sculptural forms. There she reconstitutes her stream of consciousness - as both fable and history. This binds together as a layered 'map' - both of her interior solitary landscapes and of more universal concerns - the passing of time as we all journey through life. This poignantly serves to remind us that we are alone but also inescapably part of one human race.

Van den Berg has worked as a full-time artist for almost thirty years, initially as a ceramicist. Her practice includes painting, drawing, sculpture, site specific installations, mixed media, three-dimensional work as well as poetry, performance, video and music.

Van den Berg's work is represented in private collections in the UK, South Africa, Europe and the USA.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2019

*Dream Pond*

Everard Read Gallery , London.UK

2018

*Fluisteringe vanaf 'n Leliepoel/ Whispers from a Lily Pond*

Everard Read, Franschhoek , South Africa

2017

*( In )filtration of Time*

Everard Read | CIRCA Gallery ,Cape Town , South Africa

2015

AL (L) EEN

Grande Provence Gallery, Franschhoek , South Africa

2012

Hinterland

Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2011

Siel van my Vel

Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2010

In gesprek met (1)

IS Art at Le Quartier Francias Gallery, Franschhoek , South Africa

2009

Halfmens / Heelmens

Red, Black & White at Pier Rabe, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2008

In gesprek met (2)

Smellick & Stokking Gallery,Den Haag, Netherlands

2007

(H)erken, ken, en...

Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2006

Dwaaltuin

Grande Provence Gallery , Franschhoek , South Africa

2005

Die Fees Gees

Vrede en Lust Wine Estate, Paarl, South Africa

2003

Construction Site

Lime Line Design, Cape Town, South Africa

2001

n Vlug in Tyd

Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

1999

My shadow, my echo, and me

Bang the Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

## **Awards:**

2019

Sanlam Portrait Top 40 Finalist 'Leah se Water' Rust-en-Vrede Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2016

BP Portrait Finalist, 'SELF' Portrait Gallery, London

2016

BP Travel Award Shortlisted Finalist, Portrait Gallery, London

2010

BP Award Portrait Finalist, 'Bloedlyn/Bloodline Sannie en Leah', Portrait Gallery, London

2009

BP Award Portrait Finalist, 'Dit is ek Gladys' Portrait Gallery London

2005

Sasol New Signatures Finalist, 'Weefdrade' Pretoria, South Africa

1990

Corobrick Ceramic Competition Finalist, Cape Town, South Africa

## **Art Residencies:**

2013

Fellowship to The Ampersand Foundation in New York USA

2007

Art Exchange Hubei Institute of Art in Wuhan Central China and Everard Read, Cape Town, SA

2004

Community Arts Workshop where 10 artists from diverse walks of life exploring the first 10 years of democracy through individual and collaborative artworks

Everard Read , Castle of Goodhope in Cape Town, South Africa

1998

One of 12 artists, 6 from South Africa and 6 from Germany working together in Lauenberg Germany.

## **Selected Group Shows:**

2019

Selected Artists , Knysna Fine Art Gallery ,Knysna, South Africa

The Ampersand Foundation / 21 Year Celebration Exhibition/ A Vision of Jack Ginsberg, UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, SA

Winter Everard Read, Cape Town, SA

Southern Aspect, Everard Read London, UK

2017

Investec Cape Town Art Fair, Everard Read Booth, CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa

Winter, Everard Read I CIRCA, Cape Town, South Africa

People and Portraiture, CIRCA, Cape Town, South Africa Summer Everard Read , London, UK

Winter Everard Read , London, UK

2016

Summer Everard Read , Cape Town, South Africa

Everard Read I CIRCA Gallery Opening Group Exhibition London, UK

Summer, Everard Read, Franschoek, South Africa

Art Patron MAD Leadership Foundation

Celebrating a Century of Geography in South Africa, Stellenbosch University Museum, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2015

Fear & Loss –Industrial Karoo Group installation, Pretoria Art Museum, South Africa

100 Years Die Burger Artscape Group Exhibition Cape Town, South Africa

Summer Sculpture Garden Group Exhibition Mount Nelson Hotel Gardens, Everard Read, Cape Town , South Africa

Homage , Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Winter , Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2014

Fear & Loss- Industrial Karoo Group Exhibition, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa

2013

100, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

Universal Suffering Group Exhibition Anglo-Boer War Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa Femenity Group

Exhibition curated by Eva Maria Roer, President and CEO of DT&SHOP Germany

Cape Town Re-Imagined, Suidoosterfees, Cape Town, South Africa

2012

A Summer of Sculpture, Group exhibition, Mount Nelson Hotel Gardens, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town  
, , South Africa

Small Works, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2010

Collaboration with Mogalakwena Art and Craft in Limpopo for Waterkloof Biodynamic Wine estate

2009

The Great South African Nude , Everard Read Gallery , Johannesburg, South Africa

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

2008

Confluence / a two-woman exhibition between China and South Africa , Everard Read Gallery , Cape  
Town , , South Africa

Art Fair Utrecht, Netherlands

2000

A Celebration of Art and Technology, Hewlett Packard Project, Group Exhibition and Auction in support of  
Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Johannesburg, South Africa