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Everard Read London Presents

SUMMER 2020

17 July – 26 August 2020

BEEZY BAILEY KIRSTEN BEETS EMALIE BINGHAM NIC BLADEN GUY FERRER
TERESA KUTALA FIRMINO CHONAT GETZ DYLAN LEWIS DENBY MEYER NIGEL MULLINS
BRETT MURRAY DANIEL NAUDE BLESSING NGOBENI ALESSANDRO PAPETTI TANYA POOLE
CARYN SCRIMGEOUR LADY SKOLLIE LIONEL SMIT ANGUS TAYLOR ANDRZEJ URBANSKI

Everard Read London presents its annual SUMMER exhibition of new paintings and sculpture by 20 artists, largely from South Africa and the diaspora, but also from England, France and Italy.

The exhibition represents a range of practices and includes work by established artists at the peak of their powers, as well as younger artists beginning to make their mark.

Most works have been made during the global lockdown imposed in response to the pandemic. While the routine and rhythm of life has changed for many people, days of isolation are the preserve of artists most of the time. Even so, many artists have reflected on the silent skies and heightened stillness around them and the consoling swell of birdsong.

The exhibition includes two new bronzes by acclaimed sculptor **Dylan Lewis**. These works emerged out of a seven-year period of inspired productivity and emotional turbulence for the artist. An embodiment of the tensions and complexities of human relationships, these sculptures venture from visceral abstraction and frank eroticism, to bold exuberance and wholesale embracing of the human figure. Lewis has imbued these works with a markedly different energy from his earlier work.

We introduce the work of Johannesburg-based **Teresa Kutala Firmino**, whose seemingly playful works are rich in symbolism and metaphor and explore complex issues of identity, cultural heritage and history. Firmino had a sell-out solo presentation at the Cape Town International Art Fair earlier this year.

In **Lionel Smit's** portrait, swathes of ochre, rust, and mud-brown call to mind the red earth and clay soil of Africa, while his sculpture of a female bust evokes an ancient artefact, weathered and worn by time.

Rich in symbolism and characterised by highly textured surfaces, **Guy Ferrer's** work is deeply concerned with the numinous and his paintings included in this exhibition appear to vibrate with cosmic energy.

Caryn Scrimgeour's immaculate aerial-view paintings of table settings are puzzles, much like our identities, made up of fragments that are freighted with memories and experience. They are vanitas paintings for our age, alluding to the fragility and transitory nature of our lives.

South Africa's foremost botanical sculptor, **Nic Bladen's** delicate botanical sculptures immortalise indigenous floral species from the southern tip of Africa and, in this show, he shines a spotlight on the majestic protea family.

We present two new paintings by **Beezy Bailey** which, as the artist so often does, conjure up new worlds populated with bird-people, suspended orbs of energy and swathes of sweeping brushstrokes in rose-pink, shades of purple, blue and gold.

Blessing Ngobeni, this year's recipient of South Africa's most prestigious award for young artists (The Standard Bank Young Artist Award) presents two works on paper that draw attention to the social injustices that persist in post-apartheid South Africa.

Award-winning, South African sculptor, **Angus Taylor**, presents a meditative bronze bust emerging powerfully from layers of granite which echo the strata of ancient rock found in the earth's crust.

Chonat Getz' sculpture explores the age-old horse and rider tradition with a lively rendering, in bronze, of an acrobatic figure on horseback.

Lady Skollie's still life with flowers evokes van Gogh's sunflowers. Hers is not only a black, feminist reimagining of a renowned still life, but also an ode to a local farmworker and countryman who lost his life in a senseless killing.

Nigel Mullins has been painting statues for some time and the small works on paper in this show are inspired by Romanesque bas reliefs and gargoyles he saw at local churches near the small village in western France that he now calls home.

Alessandro Papetti's most recognizable works are sweeping, cinematic paintings of industrial archaeology, urban landscapes, portraits and nude studies. The small paintings in this exhibition evoke a preternatural presence and are representations of thoughts, memory and dreams. The Giacometti biographer, James Lord, described the artist's "perspective and supernatural sense of space" in a critical essay on Papetti's work in 1995.

Denby Meyer's beach studies find the humanity in everyday moments, capturing the likeness, posture, and energy of her subjects with the eye of quiet and careful observer.

Described as "the dark prince of South African pop (art)", **Brett Murray** is one of South Africa's leading artists, whose sculptural works - mostly in bronze, steel and, more recently, marble - respond to his urge to expose the absurdities of the powerful through satire and take aim at the culture wars, the clash between Afrocentrism and Eurocentrism, and the old and the new South Africas.

Tanya Poole uses ink and watercolour to create her delicate moth portraits with their gossamer wings in pastels shades and diaphanous white.

Andrzej Urbanski's is known for his immaculate, hard-edged, abstract paintings and this shaped canvas, with its kaleidoscopic shards of colour, demonstrates a breath-taking precision that belies its painstaking, handmade nature.

Daniel Naude records moments of stillness with his photographic portraits of animals, plants and, in this exhibition, a feral dog captured in a semi-desert landscape in South Africa.

Emalie Bingham's hand-drawn abstractions spill over with her trademark cryptographic scribbles and jittery lines, their shapes morphing and intertwining to suggest the interconnectedness of all things.

Showing at Everard Read London for the first time, Cape Town-based artist, **Kirsten Beets** captures the dreamy haze and sorbet palette of summer with her oil paintings.

All artist biographies can be found on our website – www.everardlondon.com

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

About Everard Read London

Everard Read galleries are specialists in contemporary art from South Africa and the diaspora.

Established in 1913 in Johannesburg, we are Africa's oldest and one of its largest commercial art galleries with gallery spaces in London, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Franschhoek.

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.

South African artists are part of the global conversation. We seek to make their voices heard.

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

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