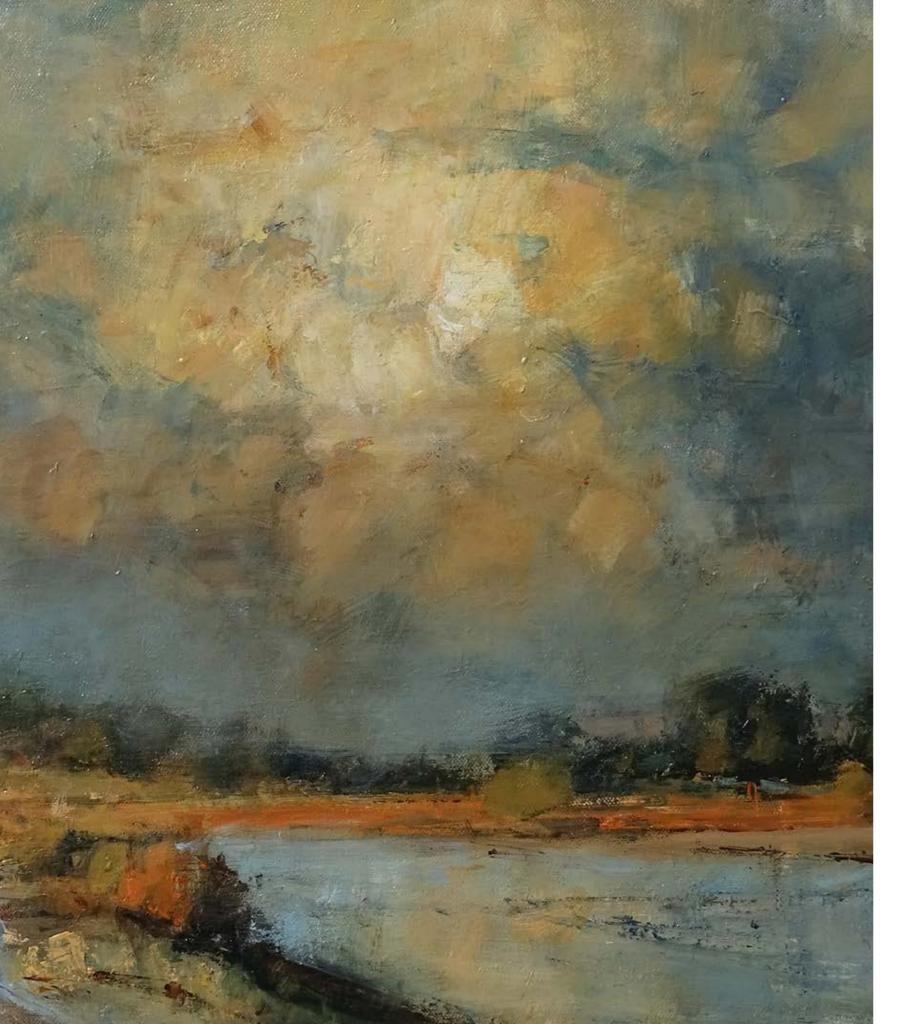




New Landscapes

14 September – 1 October 2022



#### **WALTER VOIGT** | New Landscapes

Everard Read London presents its first exhibition of new landscape paintings by South African artist, Walter Voigt. Born in Johannesburg in 1971, Voigt grew up in the mountainous Lowveld Escarpment region near Nelspruit in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

The son of artist parents, Voigt's technical ability, coupled with an abiding passion for sky and landscape, enables him to evoke the elements of light, space, air and movement. His landscapes involve broad, energetic strokes and his work has a vigorous, scratchy, linear architecture, achieved with a palette knife and oil bar, in addition to a brush, which adds variety and expression to the mark making process.

Voigt's paintings invite contemplation and act as visual meditations on colour, light and form. They embody a deep knowledge, love and reverence for the natural world.

'Observations of light falling onto a beautiful landscape or filtering through cloud ... it is this combined with elements of light, space, air and movement which move me emotionally. For me there is a passionate love affair between earth and sky. A spiritual residue encapsulating the place.'

— Walter Voigt

Below is a conversation that Everard Read London Gallery Director Georgie Shields had with the artist, in late July, about his new landscape paintings, conceived and realised on the southern tip of Africa.

GS: The painting of landscape is clearly a deep and abiding passion of yours. What's your earliest memory of observing a landscape and attempting to depict it in paint?

WV: My connection with the landscape began very early on and I would spend much of my childhood outdoors, immersing myself in nature. With this developing passion, my eyes were drawn more towards the horizon and the way the sky would meet the earth, bathing itself in a fusion of subtle tints and tones. It was all about the light. So I began painting landscapes, using acrylics at first but quickly moved onto oils due to their flexibility of use and an infinity of tonal variation.

Your parents are both acclaimed artists – Harold Voigt and Leigh Voigt. Was it inevitable that you too became an artist? What were the early years like and how would you characterise their influence on your own evolution as an artist.

I wouldn't say it was inevitable. But it certainly played a big role. Both my parents were in advertising and were very good at illustration. I followed a similar path after leaving school. I suppose I was a bit like a tributary forming its way down an uneven hillside, finding paths of least resistance and ultimately ending up flowing into a mainstream. Watching both parents evolve and being present in their art process has certainly rubbed off on me.

### Tell us about the places you've chosen to paint for this London exhibition and why.

These new works are of places which have resonated with me for a long time. Kruger National Park, Mapungubwe National Park, and recently Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. There is a timelessness about these regions. A raw beauty. They are biomes of eternity.

## Please describe your practice – whether you paint en plein air or typically work from sketches and photographs in the studio.

As much as I believe painting *en plein air* helps dramatically when observing colours and tones, it isn't always practical when working on large canvases and working out in the field in a wild animal reserve, so I take a large number of photographs when visiting these areas and immerse myself for as long as I can in the landscape. The studio is where it all comes together.

### Tell us about some of the enduring influences on your work, whether they be people, places, experiences or a combination of all of these.

I try to capture a sense of the place. The experience of timelessness and natural beauty. It is a combination of elements that inspires me. Not only in a visual sense but a combination of all the senses.

## How do you feel when a collection of new paintings leaves your studio and goes out into the world? Is it liberating, heart-breaking, just part of the process?

Relieved and fulfilled at the same time. Knowing that I have put my energy into what I love and releasing it out into the world is a feeling that's hard to describe, but it is certainly not a heart-breaking one. I put a lot of myself into the work but never feel that I cannot part with it. The next painting is around the corner and so the motivation and inspiration grows.

## What do you hope viewers will feel when seeing your exhibition and what do you hope might stay with them afterwards?

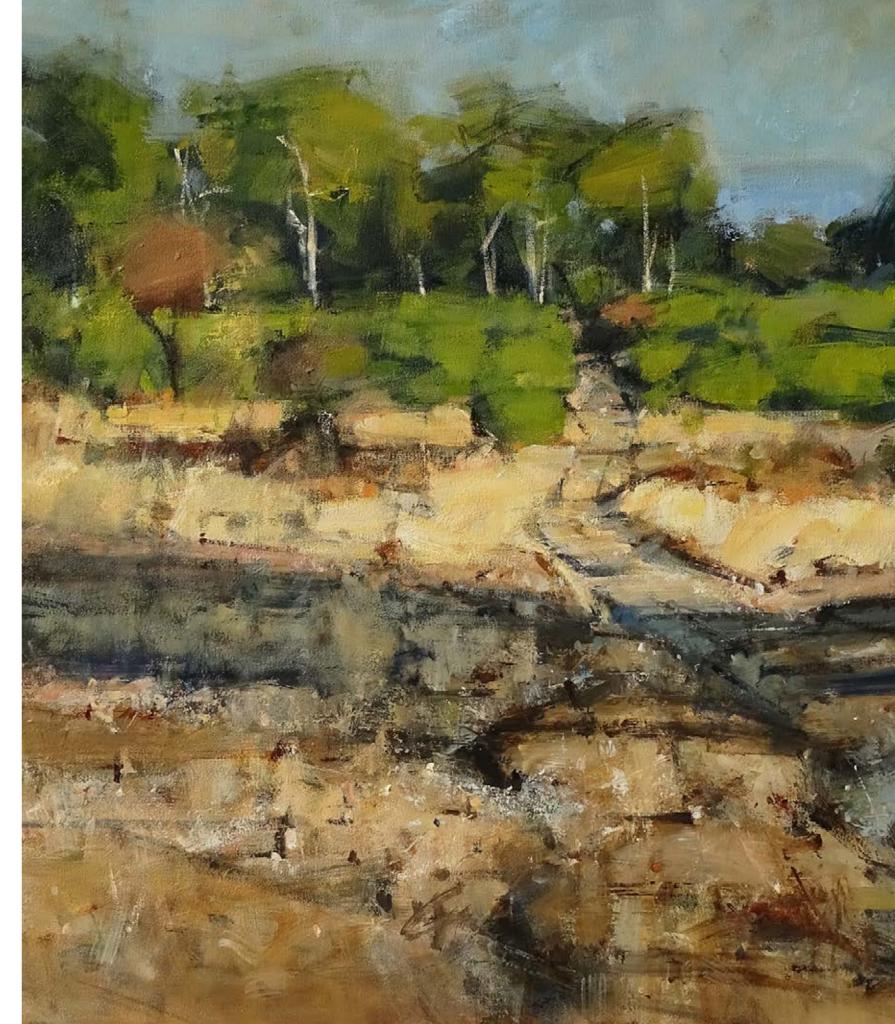
A sense of awe, joy and wonder.

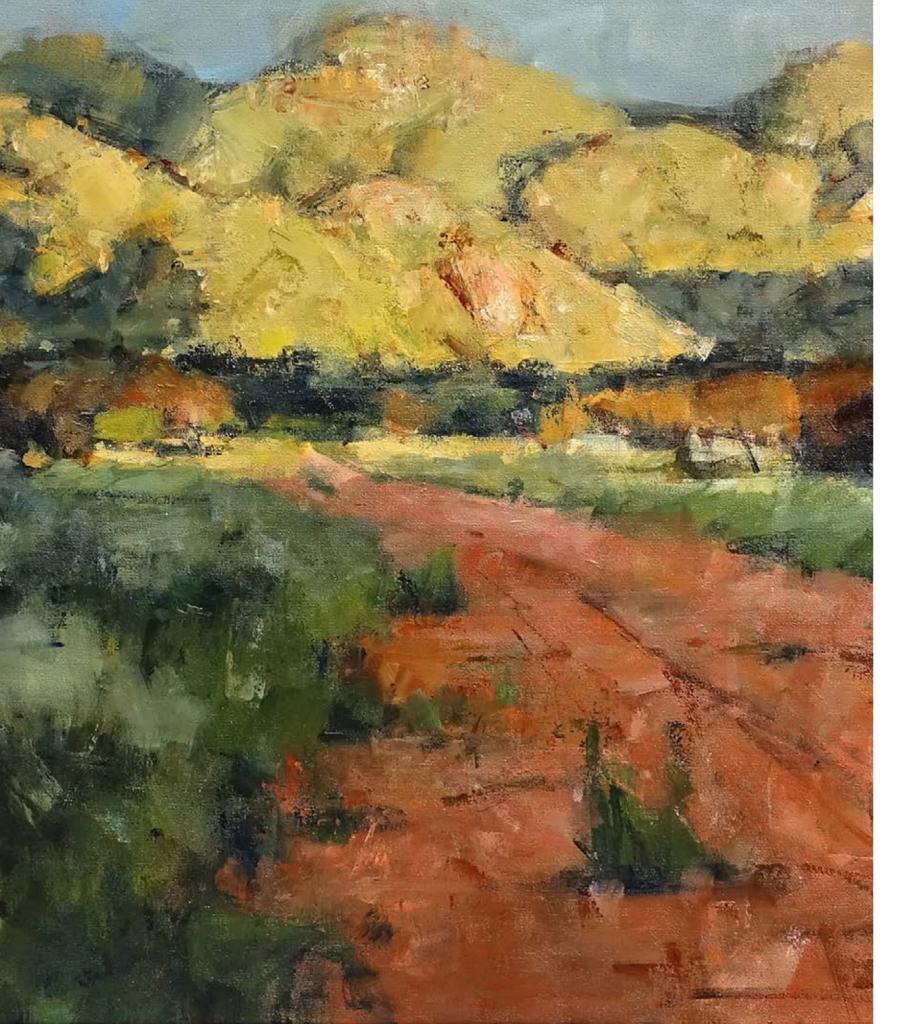


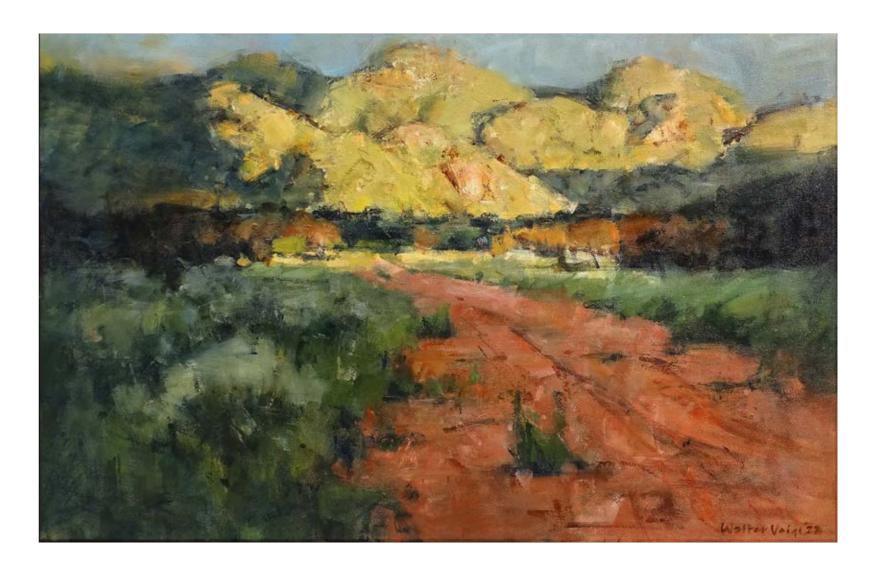




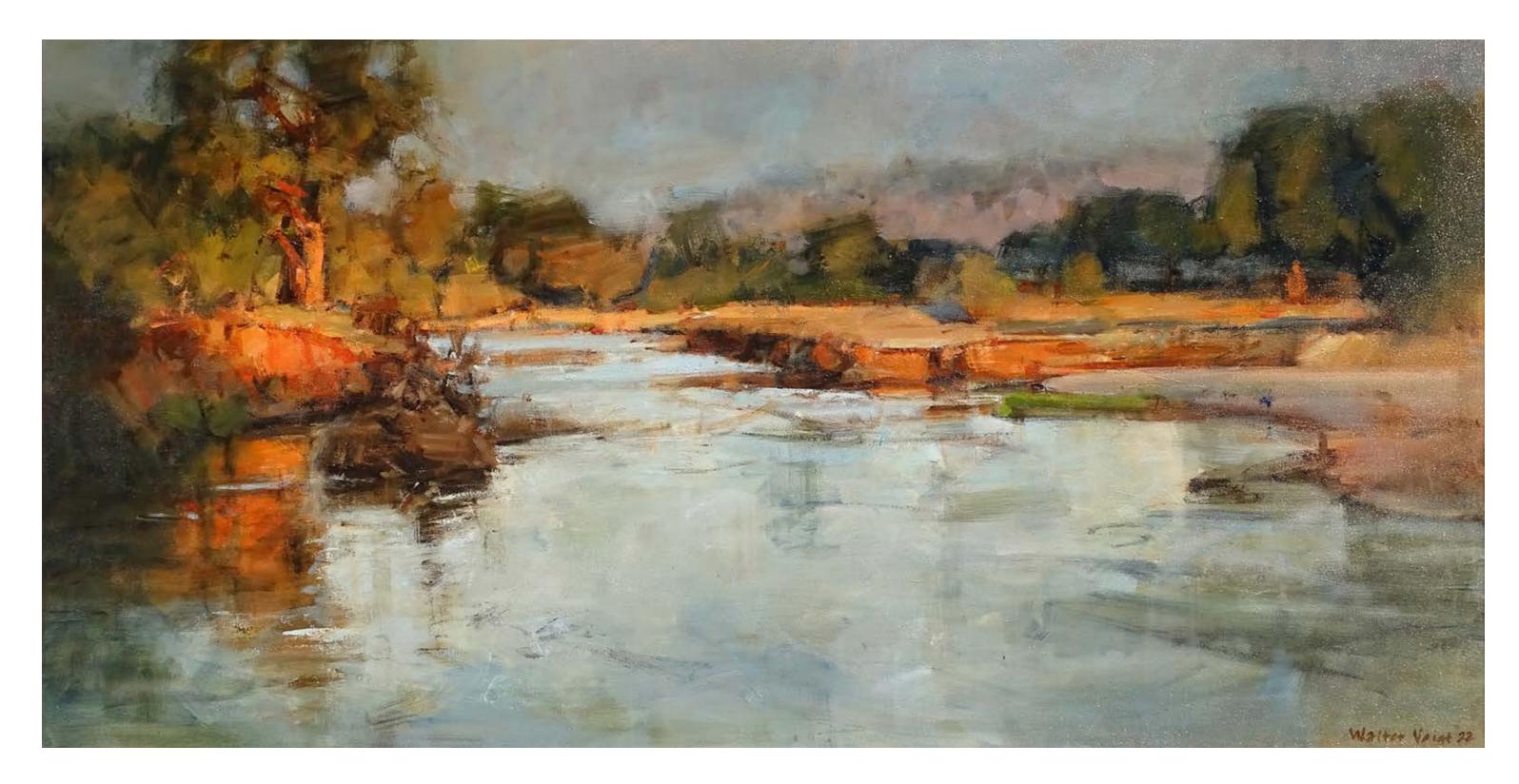
Road to Limpopo, Northern Kruger oil on canvas 80 x 130 cm 31 <sup>3</sup>/8 x 51 <sup>1</sup>/8 in.







Setting Sunlight on the Korannaberg, Tswalu oil on canvas
70 x 110 cm
27 1/2 x 43 1/4 in.



Luvuvhu River at Dusk oil on canvas 80 x 160 cm 31 <sup>3</sup>/8 x 63 in.



Mapungubwe Landscape with Baobab Tree oil on canvas 70 x 160 cm 27 1/2 x 63 in.

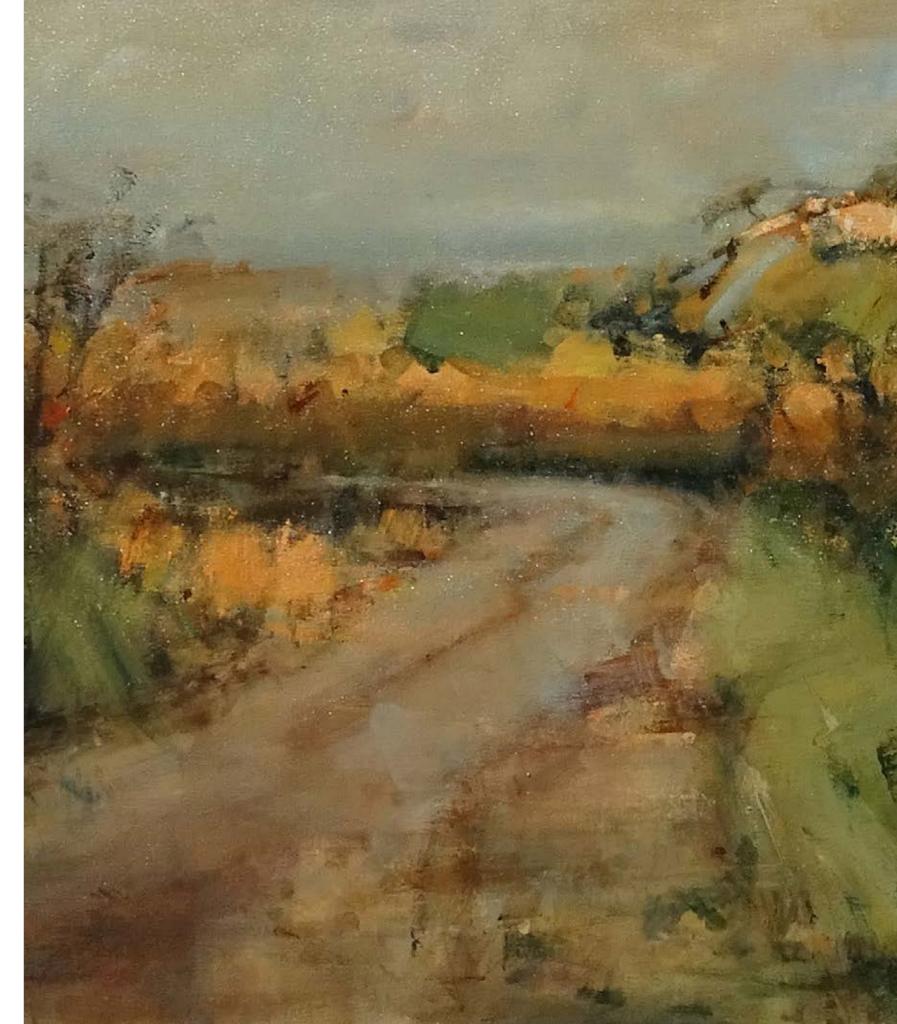


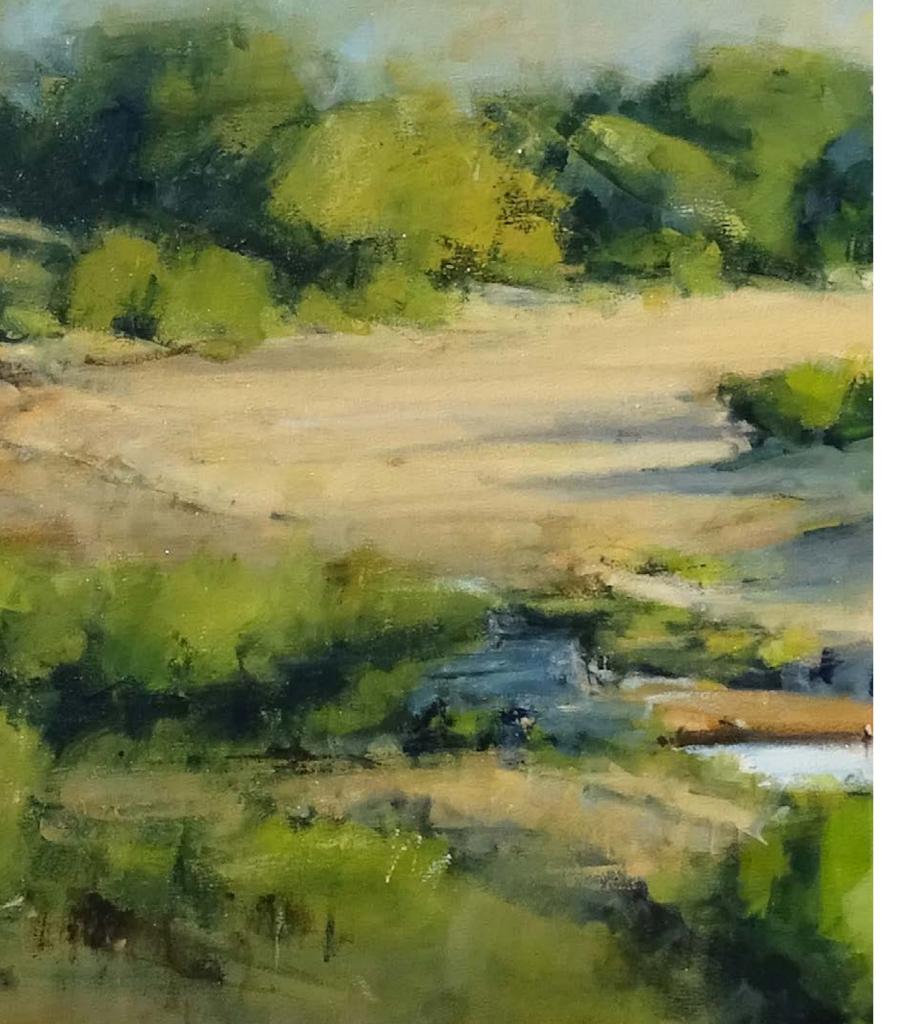
Mapungubwe Sunrise with Baobab Tree, Limpopo oil on canvas 70 x 160 cm 27 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 63 in.





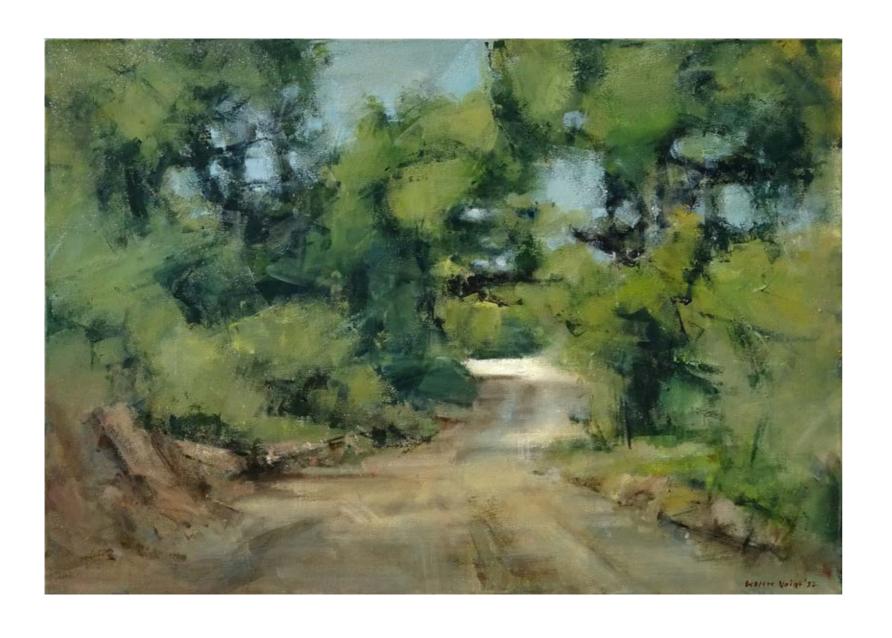
Landscape with Granite Boulder, Southern Kruger oil on canvas
70 x 130 cm
27 1/2 x 51 1/8 in.



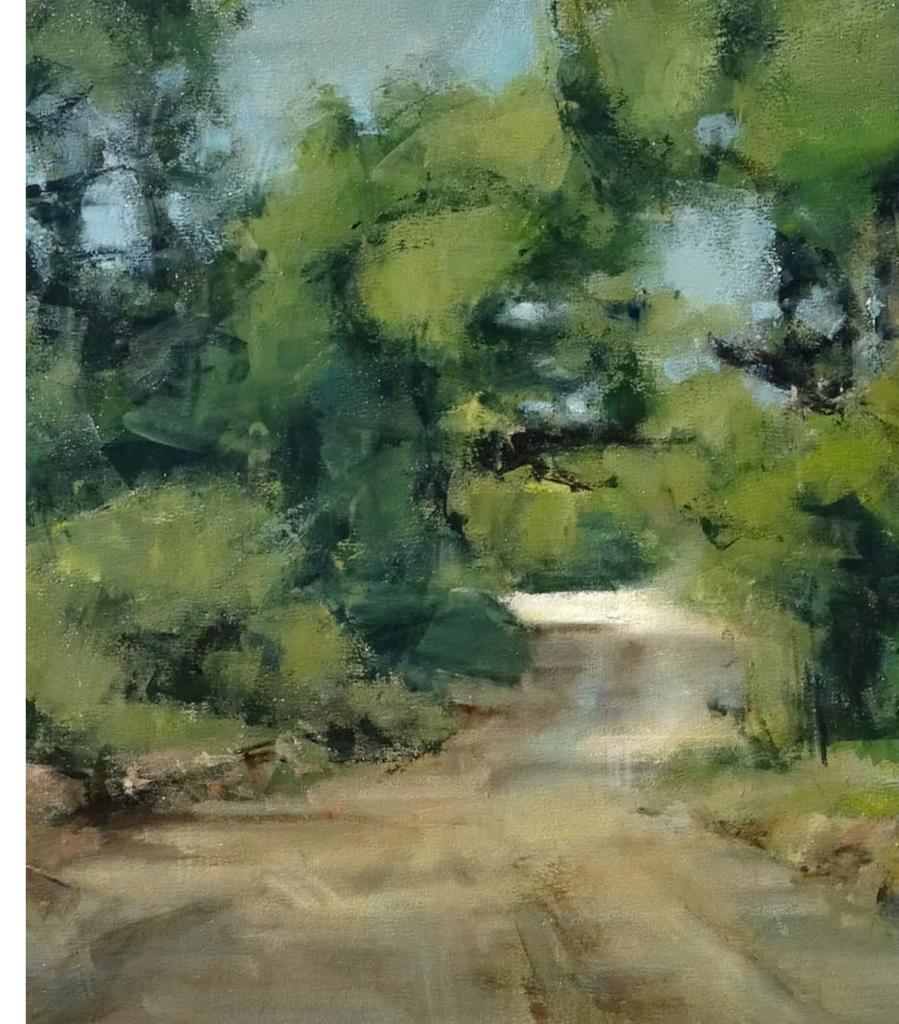


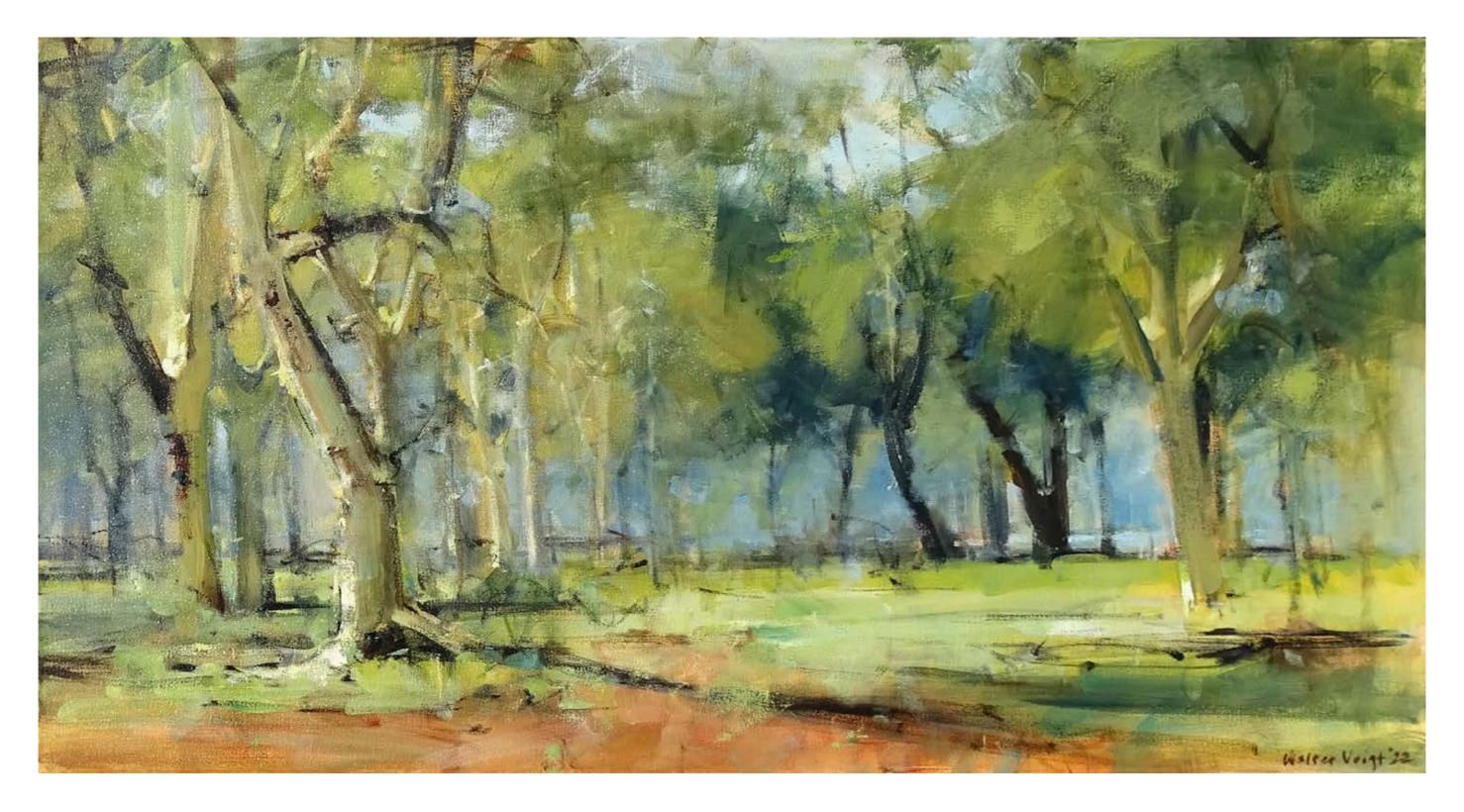


Timbavati River Landscape, Central Kruger oil on canvas 70 x 130 cm 27 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 51 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.

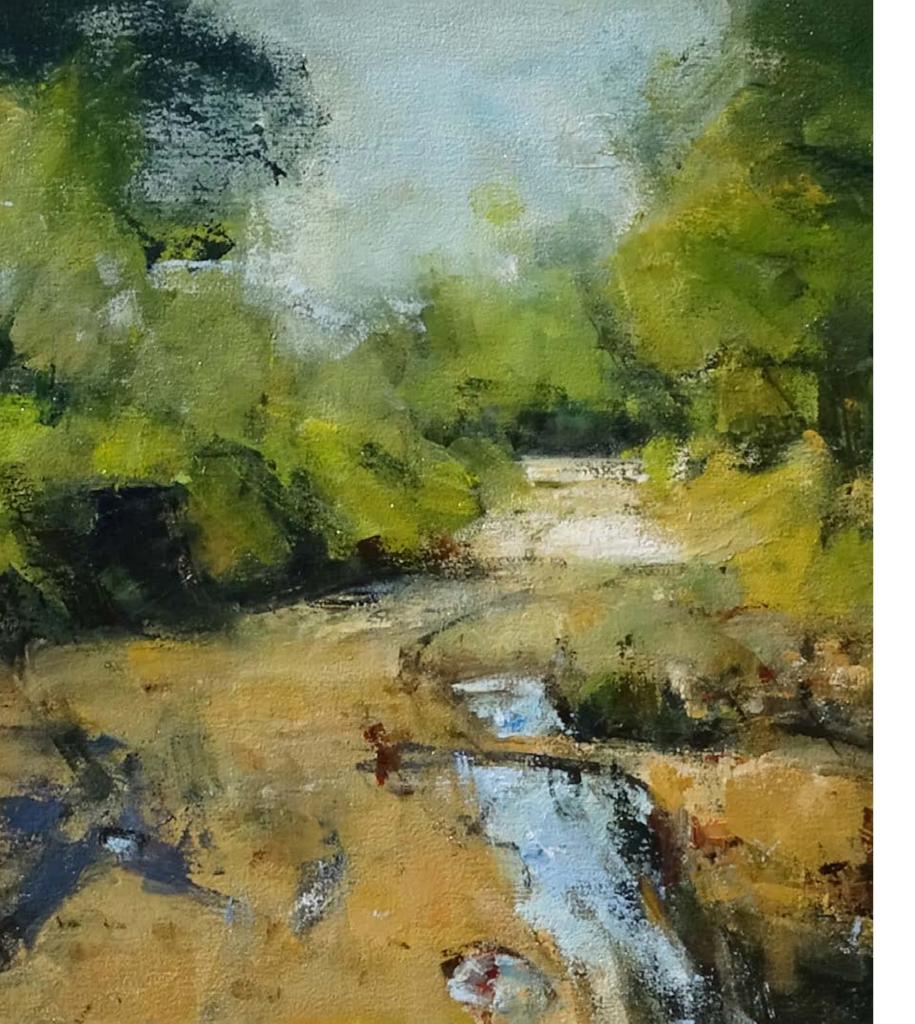


Sand Road Landscape, Southern Kruger oil on canvas
70 x 100 cm
27 1/2 x 39 1/4 in.





Fever Tree Forest Study III, Northern Kruger oil on canvas 58 x 110 cm 22 3/4 x 43 1/4 in.

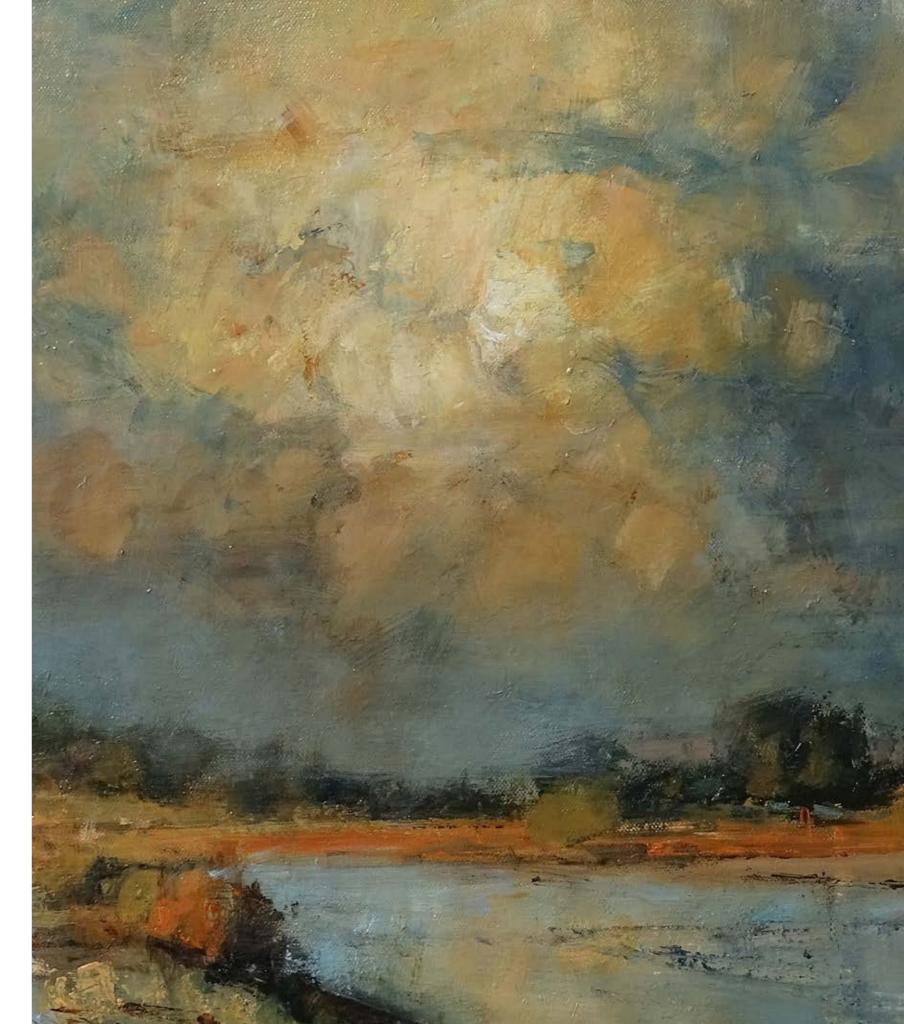


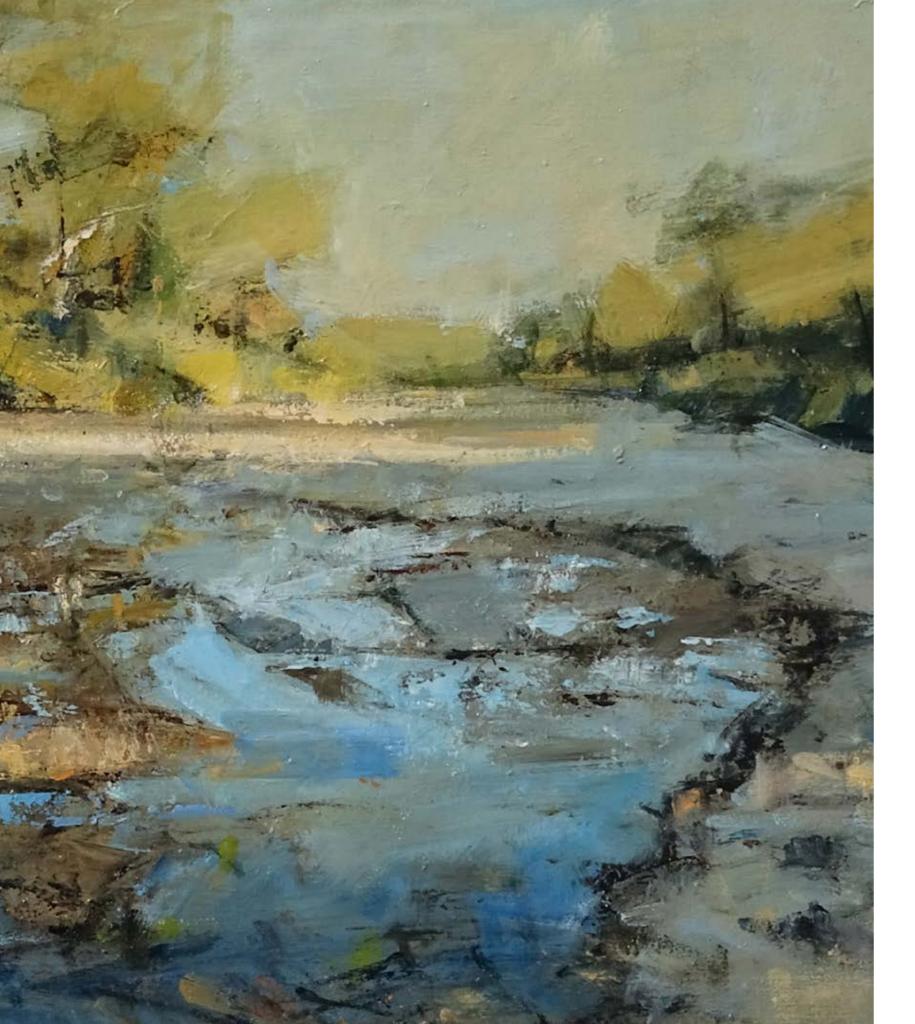


Kruger River Bed oil on canvas 40 x 70 cm 15 <sup>5</sup>/8 x 27 <sup>1</sup>/2 in.



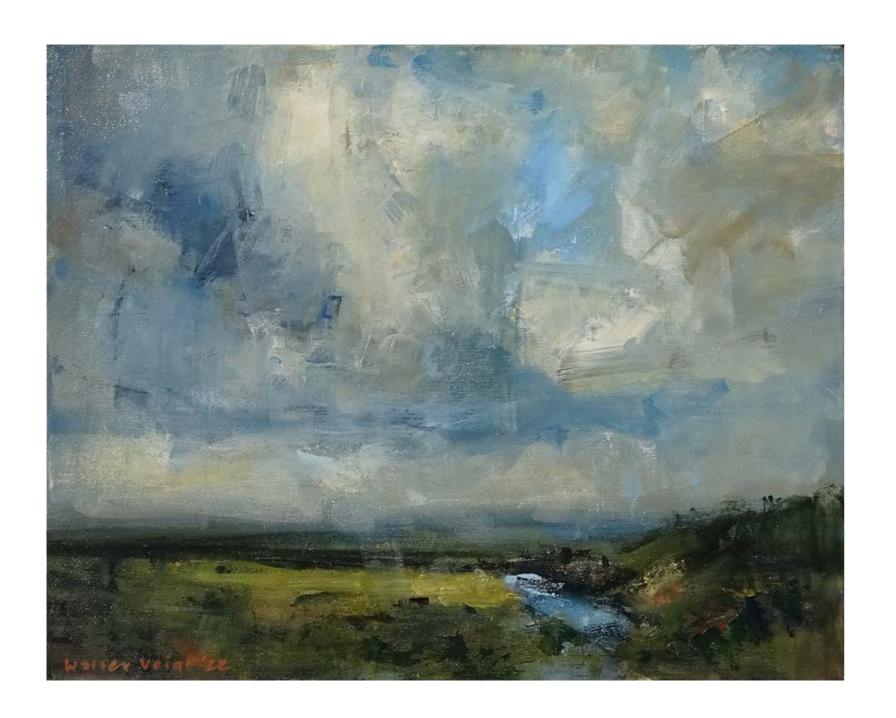
Bushveld Dam with Storm Cloud oil on canvas 45.8 x 60.8 cm 18 x 23 <sup>7</sup>/8 in.

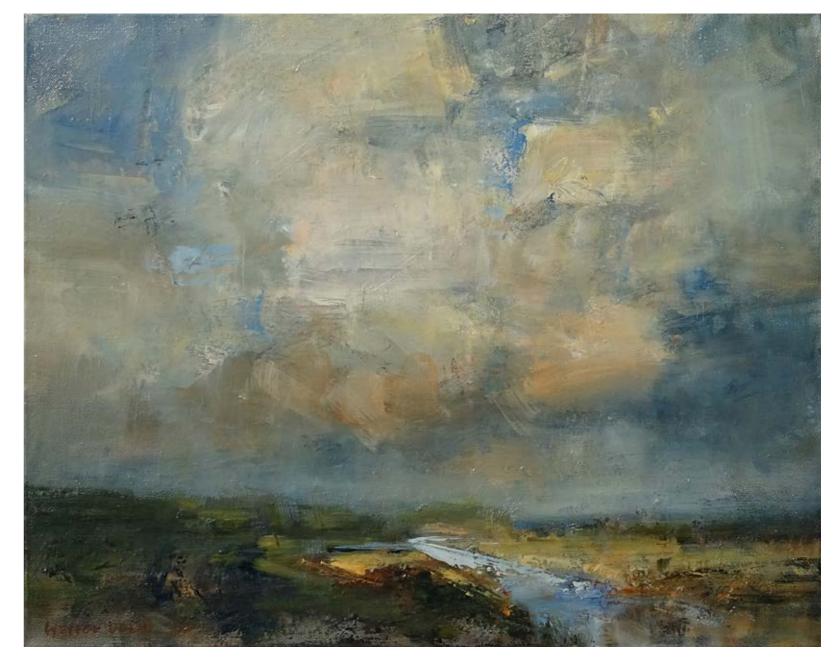






River Bed with Elephant Tracks II
oil on canvas
40.3 x 60.4 cm
15 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 23 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in.





# WALTER VOIGT Mlondozi Dam, Southern Kruger oil on canvas 40.7 x 51 cm 16 x 20 in.

#### WALTER VOIGT

Olifants River with Rain Cloud, Central Kruger oil on canvas 40 x 51 cm 15 5/8 x 20 in.



Storm Cloud with Acacia Tree, Kruger oil on canvas 30 x 60 cm 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 23 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in.



Tswalu Landscape with Sand Dune oil on canvas 25 x 80.2 cm 9 <sup>3</sup>/4 x 31 <sup>1</sup>/2 in.



b. 1971 Johannesburg, South Africa

Born in Johannesburg in 1971, Walter Voigt grew up in the mountainous Lowveld Escarpment region near Nelspruit in Mpumalanga, South Africa. In 1992 he began a three-year course in Graphic Design at The Witwatersrand Technikon in Johannesburg, majoring and specialising in illustration.

Voigt's technical ability combined with a passion for the sky and landscape allow him to capture the elements of light, space, air, and movement. There is a passionate love affair between earth and sky in Voigt's work. His paintings are atmospheric spaces designed for contemplation, 'visual meditations' of sensual richness of colour, light and form. Voigt's moody landscapes involve broad, energetic strokes, followed by lighter more sensitive touches. There is a vigorous, scratchy linear construction to his work, including other media such as palette knife, giving variety and expression to the mark making process.

Voigt celebrates the African landscape as viewed through the

European conventions of the sublime and expressionist. As he states, 'The Turneresque views project a very emotive content upon the landscape. The quality of light and the juxtaposition with dark becomes a metaphor for broader, more ethereal concepts.'

His celebration of the landscape is clearly structured in the very physical nature of the paint, where the manipulations skilfully depict a deep love and reverence for nature. Voigt adds, 'The works become a pantheistic representation, almost having a spiritual residue encapsulating the place. This is not an attempt to record the landscape but rather an effort to allow the viewer to experience the particular light that is unique to the southern parts of Africa'

Voigt is a full-time artist specialising in oil paintings and exhibits his work at the Everard Read Gallery in Johannesburg, Cape Town, London as well as Knysna Fine Art and The White River Gallery in Mpumalanga.



#### SELECTED SOLOEXHIBITIONS

2022 New Landscapes, Everard Read, London

**2021** Revered Landscapes, White River Gallery

**2020** Paintings From the Lowveld, February Online portfolio Winter Landscapes, June Online portfolio, Everard Read, Johannesburg

**2018** *Kruger – Sacred Spaces*, Everard Read, Johannesburg

**2016** Raw Beauty – Mapungubwe, Everard Read, Johannesburg

**2015** Bushveld Landscapes, Everard Read, Johannesburg

**2014** *Landscapes*, White River Gallery, Mpumalanga

2008 Mali, Everard Read, Johannesburg

2008 Wild Horizons, Everard Read, Johannesburg

2004 Everard Read, Johannesburg

2003 Everard Read, Johannesburg

#### SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

**2021** *The Absolutely Fabulous Spring Show*, Everard Read, Johannesburg

2020 Tiny, Everard Read, Johannesburg

2014 Winter Group, Everard Read, Cape Town

**2013** Everard Read Centenary Exhibition, Everard Read

2012 Winter Group, Everard Read, Johannesburg

**2011** *Shift Exhibition*, Everard Read

2010 A View from the South, Everard Read Johannesburg

**2007** *Southern Views – SA Landscapes*, Everard Read

2005 New Everard Read Exhibition, Everard Read

**2002** Oil Piantings, Everard Read

**1999** Everard Read Millennium Exhibition, Everard Read

**1997** International Wildlife and Natural History Paintings & Sculpture, Everard Read Gallery

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Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 10am — 6pm | Friday 10am — 5pm Saturday 12pm — 4pm

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS
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