

WILLIE BESTER

Willie Bester nasce nel 1956 a Montagu, in Sud Africa. Diventa artista a tempo pieno nel 1991, dopo aver frequentato dei corsi d'arte alla Community Art Cape Town. Egli è riconosciuto come uno degli artisti attivisti più significativi del Sud Africa: il suo lavoro è caratterizzato dagli sviluppi drammatici a livello sociale e politico nel Sud Africa post-apartheid, affrontando questioni scomode quali criminalità, povertà, corruzione e responsabilità del governo. Bester grazie ai suoi dipinti, assemblaggi e sculture, incorporati a materiale di riciclo, punta proprio ad alimentare consapevolezza e discussioni in merito Bester vive e lavora a Kuilsrivier, un quartiere di Città del Capo.

Willie Bester was born in 1956 Montagu, Cape Town. In 1991 he attended art classes at the Community Art in Cape Town. He is regarded as one of South Africa's most significant activist artists. His work is characterized by dramatic social and political developments in post-apartheid South Africa, discussing uncomfortable issues such as crime, poverty, corruption and government responsibility. Thanks to his paintings, assemblages and sculptures combined with recycled material, Bester comments the political injustice and the human rights issues. Bester currently works and lives in Kuilsrivier, a district of Cape Town.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017

"Willie Bester's social engineering", The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
"Transformation", Fynarts Festival, Space Gallery, Hermanus, South Africa

2016

"Comprehensive", Art B, Bellville Sout Africa

2015

"Sculptures", Imibala Trust Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa

2014

"Community", Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
"Backyard". Bernard Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2011

"Hourglass Black. Africa In The Collection of Caam", Casa Africa, Las Palmas di Gran Canaria

2009

Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
Sasol Art Gallery, Stellenbosch
Investec Private Bank & US Wordfest Artist, 2009

2008

Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

2007

Montagu Museum

2005

Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

2003

Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

2002

SASOL Museum, Stellenbosch

2001

Centre D'Art Contemporain, Brussels, Belgium. Grahamstown featured Artist. Goodman Gallery Johannesburg

2000

Arte Asserite, Torino

1999

"Opere Recenti", Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy Archivio Della Scuola Romana, Introdotto da Achille Bonito Oliva, Roma, Italy

1998

Emporian, Dakar

1994

Goodman Gallery Johannesburg

1993

South African Association of Art, Cape Town & Goodman Gallery Johannesburg

1992

Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, Milpark Port Elizabeth

1991

Gallery International, Cape Town

1982

Forum, Cavendish Square, Cape Town

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020

"Knoop/Knot", University of Stellenbosch Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

"Matereality", South African National Art Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2019

"GrowBox Art Project", Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Cape Town, South Africa

2015

"Portraits and Still Lifes", Greenfield Sacks Gallery, Santa Monica, CA

2014

"Cruce de colecciones", Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas di Gran Canaria

2012

"Forma Sculture", Galleria L'ariete, Bologna

2011

"Implemented Environments", Brundyn+Gonsalves, Città del Capo

2010

19th Annual Salon, Rose Korber Art, Città del Capo

"100 Prozent Afriks", Dany Keller Galerie, Monaco di Baviera

"Divisions", Stellenbosch Modern and Contemporary (SMAC), Stellenbosch

"Divisions: Aspects of South African Art 1948-2010", De Wet Centre, Stellenbosch

"Streghths & Convinctions", Nobel Peace Center, Oslo

2009

34 LONG FINE ART, Cape Town

2007

Rocca di Castagnoli, Biennale Internazionale d'Arte, Italy

2006

Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, June – September 2006

2005

Hayward Gallery, London, 10 February – 17 April 2005

Centre Pompidou, Paris, 15 May – 20 August 2005

Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy

2004

Dublin Exhibition

10 Years – Klein Karoo Arts Festival, Outshoorn, South Africa

Milk Can Project, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

"Africa Remix – Düsseldorf", Museum Kunst Palast: 24 July – 7 November 2004

2003

Suidoos Festival, Peninsula Technikon

"Coexistence - Contemporary Cultural Production in South African" Rose Art Museum,

USA

2002

"Passport to South Africa", Centro Culturale "Trevi", Bolzano, Italy
Sculpture Biennale, Spier Estate, Stellenbosch
National Art Gallery of Malaysia
King George VI Art Gallery, Port Elizabeth

2001

Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
"Project Conflux", Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

2000

Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, New York
Project Conflux, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

1999

Art Salon, Bay Hotel, Cape Town
"Rewind/Fast Forward", Van Reekum Museum of Modern Art, Appeldoorn, Netherlands
Claiming Art Reclaiming Space, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC.
Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy
"Artery", Joao Ferreira Fine Art, Cape Town

1998

Biennale de l'Art Contemporain, Dakar, Senegal
"The Edge of Awareness", World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, New York,
Soa Paulo, New Delhi
"Still our Land" with Zwelethu Mthethwa, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
"Project Conflux", Tendances Mikado Gallery, Luxembourg
"Project Conflux", Hotel de Ville, Dijon, France
Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

1997

Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di San Marino, San Marino
"Lift Off", Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
"South Africa", Kohn Turner Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
"Not Quite a Xmas Show", Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg
Art Salon, The Bay Hotel, Caps Bay

1996

Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, USA

Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland

Simunye (we are one) exhibition, Adelson Gallery, New York

Tradition in Tradition, October Gallery, London

Contemporary Art from South Africa, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

Contemporary S.A. Art 85 – 95, South African National Gallery, Cape Town

South African Art to Atlanta, City Gallery East, Atlanta, USA

"OTRO PAIS : ESCALAS AFRICANAS", Palau de la Virreina, Barcelona

"The other journey (Africa and the Diaspora)", Kunsthalle, Krems, Austria

"Seven Artists from South Africa", Boumani Gallery, San Francisco

1995

"DIALOGUES OF PEACE", Exhibition for the UN's 50th Anniversary, Palaise Des Nations, Geneva

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

Africa '95 Festival, London

Art Salon at The Bay, Camps Bay, Cape

De Kleur van Verandering Exhibition, The Hague, Netherlands

1994

Galerie De L'Esplanade, La Defence, Paris

"UN ART CONTEMPORIAN D'AFRIQUE DU SUD", Galerie De Ballens, Ballens, Switzerland

"HEIMAT PROJECT", Grahamstown Art Festival

Stallion Gallery, Kentucky, USA

5th Havana Biennale, Cuba

Art Salon at The Bay, Camps Bay, Cape

Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany

CENTRO DE ARTE MODERNO, Las Palmas

1993 – 1994

"INCROCI DEL SUD", Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

1993

"INCROCI DEL SUD: An exhibition of works by 27 contemporary South African Artists", Biennale di Venezia

"INCROCI DEL SUD", Roma, Italy

1992

Primart Gallery, Cape Town
1991 – 1992

ZABALAZA FESTIVAL, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (This exhibition traveled to London and other British centres and was subsequently shown in South Africa at the S.A. National Gallery, Cape Town)

1991

Operation Hunger Exhibition, Cape Town
Dorp Street Gallery, Stellenbosch
Gallery International, Cape Town
Cape Town Triennial Exhibition, Touring Exhibition

1990

Gallery International, Cape Town
Institute for African Studies, University of Cape Town
Jacobs & Liknaitsky Gallery, Cape Town

1989

Baxter Gallery, Cape Town

AWARDS

2009

Johnny Walker artist award

2004

Order of the Disa, Members Class, Government of South Africa

2003

Honorary medal for promotion of Fine Arts: Suid Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns

1992

Prix De L'Aigle, 4th Grand Prix International D'Arts Plastiques de la Ville de Nice, France

1991

Merit Prize : Cape Triennial