

Dr Willie Bester

Born 1956, Lives and works in Kuilsrivier, Cape Town, South Africa

Education

Full-time professional artist. No formal art training : Mostly self-taught, 1991

Community Arts Project, Cape Town, 1986

Awards / Recognitions

2019 Honorary doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal

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

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2019 Out Of The Furnace' Willie Bester And Wolf Werdigier, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017 Social Engineering, The Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017 Transformation, Fynarts Festival, Space

2017 Gallery, Hermanus, South Africa

2016 Comprehensive, Art B , Bellville South Africa

2015 Sculptures, Imibala Trust Gallery, Somerset West, South Africa

2014 Community, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

2014 Backyard, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2013 Recent works, Sol Plaatjie, Kimberlie South Africa

2011 Recent Works, Oliewenhuis Art Museum, Bloemfontein South Africa

2009 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2009 Sasol Art Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa

2009 Investec Private Bank & US Wordfest Artist

2008 Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town

2007 Montagu Museum

2005 34 LONG, 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 Assortite, Torino , Italy

1999 Opere Recenti, Studio D'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy Archivio Della Scuola Romana, Introdotto
da Achille Bonito Oliva, Roma, Italy

1998 Emporain, Dakar

1994 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

1993 South African Association of Art, Cape Town

1993 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

1992 Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

1992 Millpark, Port Elizabeth

1991 Gallery International, Cape Town

1982 Forum, Cavendish Square, Cape Town

Selected Group Exhibitions

2016

This Place-This Space, Moore Gallery,
Franschoek, South Africa
Outdoor Exhibition, Mok Gallery,
Stellenbosch, South Africa
Melrose Gallery, Johannesburg South Africa

2015

Die Burger 100 years of Art at Artscape,
Cape Town South Africa
Changchun Sculpture Symposium – China

2014

Libertas Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Summer Season, Everard Read Gallery,
Cape Town, South Africa
Winter, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2012

Small Works, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town,
South Africa
Beelden aan Zee, Netherlands

2011

15th Anniversary, Everard Read Gallery,
Cape Town, South Africa
Implemented Environments, (I Art) Brundyn &
Gonsalves, South Africa

2010

20 Years of SA Art Sculptures, Nirox,
Johannesburg, South Africa

2009

34 Long Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
Studio Rafaelli. Trento Italy

2008

A Way Through, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2007

Rocca di Castagnoli, Biennale Internazionale d'Art, Italy

2006

Tokio, Mori Art Museum: June – September

2005

London, Hayward Gallery: 10 Feb – 17 April
Paris, Centre Pompidou: 15 May – 20 August
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 Nov

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

Barcelona Contemporary Cultural Center, Spain
Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy

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, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, joint with Zwelethu Mthethwa
Project Conflux, Tendances Mikado Gallery, Luxembourg
Project Conflux, Hotel de Ville, Dijon, France
Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town

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 Africa

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 Town, South Africa
De Kleur van Verandering Exhibition, The Hague, Netherlands

1994

UN ART CONTEMPORIAN D'AFRIQUE DU SUD, 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 Town
Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
CENTRO DE ARTE MODERNO, Las Palmas

1993

Venice Biennale, INCROCI DEL SUD : An exhibition of works by 27 contemporary South
African Artists
INCROCI DEL SUD, Roma, Italy
INCROCI DEL SUD, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

1992

Primart Gallery, Cape Town
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

Publications

BERMAN, E., 1993. PAINTING IN SOUTH AFRICA. Page 363. Halfway House, Transvaal : Southern Book Publishers, (ISBN 1-86812-345-6)

BOGATZKE, H., BROCKMANN, R., LUDSZUWEIT, C. 2000. ONDAMBO – African Art Forum. Page 30 – 49, Page 174 – 177. Gamsberg Macmillan Publishers (Pty) Ltd., (ISBN 99916-0-211-9)

FRANK, H., & D'AMATO., M., 1999. LIBERATED VOICES, Contemporary art from South Africa. Page 27. New York, London, Prestel, Munich : The Museum of African Art, (ISBN 3-7913-2195-1)

KONATE, Y., 2001. WILLIE BESTER. Bruxelles : Centre D'Art Contemporain

LEE, D., 2006. WILLIE BESTER, ART AS A WEAPON, Awareness Publishing Group (Pty) LTD., (ISBN 1-77008-178-X)

LITTLEFIELD KASFIR, S., 1999. CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART. Page. 159 -161. London : Thames & Hudson, (ISBN 0-500-20328-8)

MAGNIN, A., & SOULILLOU, J., 1996. CONTEMPORARY ART OF AFRICA. Pages 155 – 156, Page 158. New York & London : Thames a Hudson, (ISBN 0-500-01713-1)

PROUD, H., 2008. REVISIONS + EXPANDING THE NARRATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ART. Stellenbosch Modern and Contemporary Art Gallery, (SMAC), (ISBN 1-874817-36-7)

RANKIN, E., 1994. IMAGES OF METAL, Post-War Sculptures and Assemblages in South Africa. Pages 89 – 92. Johannesburg : Witwatersrand University Press, University of Witwatersrand Art Galleries, (ISBN 1 86814 257 4)

WILLIAMSON, S., & JAMAL, A., 1996. ART IN SOUTH AFRICA – THE FUTURE PRESENT. Pages 134 – 139. Claremont, South Africa : David Philip Publishers (Pty) Ltd., (ISBN 0-86486-321-7)

Collections

UNISA, Johannesburg

French Embassy, Pretoria

MTN Collection, Cape Town

ENGEN, Cape Town

METROPOLITAN LIFE, Cape Town

Human Science Research Council, Cape Town

Cape Provincial Libraries, Cape

Foschini Ltd. Parow, Cape

GENCOR S.A., Johannesburg

Durban Art Gallery, Durban

Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg

Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria

Jean Pigozzi - Contemporary African Art Collection, Paris

Vodacom, Cape Town

Smithsonian Inst. USA

Oceana Fishing Group, Cape Town

NASPERS, Cape Town

Zonnebloem Art Collection, Stellenbosch

DE BEERS Collection, Johannesburg

BOE Bank, Cape Town SASOL Limited, Johannesburg

South African National Gallery, Cape Town

Johannesburg Art Gallery

King George VI Gallery, Port Elizabeth

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town

University of South Africa, Pretoria

Department of National Education, Pretoria

Department of Foreign Affairs, Pretoria

Cape of Good Hope Bank, Cape Town

Rembrandt Van Rijn Collection, Stellenbosch

South African Breweries Collection, Johannesburg

South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC TV), Cape Town

South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC TV), Johannesburg

SANLAM, Cape Town

WOOLTRU, Cape Town

Willie's work is also in numerous private collections in South Africa and abroad.