

DAVID BRITS



David Brits (b. 1987 Cape Town, South Africa) graduated from the Michaelis School of Fine Art (Painting) at the University of Cape Town in 2010. Over the past four years, he has devoted his practice to formal investigations in public-scale sculpture. Equally energised by material exploration and archival investigation, Brits' practice also spans installation, print-making, drawing and film.

Recent major public sculpture commissions include the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, The Speir arts Trust and the Iziko South African National Gallery. He is the winner of the Rupert Art Foundation's inaugural Social Impact Arts Prize.

Brits' recent solo exhibitions include 'Time is a Flat Circle', curated by Camila Maissune at MOVART Gallery, Lisbon. He was also featured in the 'Matereality' group show at the Iziko South African National Gallery, curated by Andrea Lewis, and Synaptic at THK Gallery, Cape Town.

In 2014 Brits was awarded a residency at the St. Moritz Art Academy, Switzerland, where he was mentored by Marcel van Eden and Daniele Buetti. Additional group shows include Words curated by Willem Boshoff at the Nirox Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, Nevermind the M*ss at A SPACE, Helsinki, Kindergeburstag, held at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. His work has featured in the academic journal Graduate Research and Reviews in the History of Art and Visual Culture (2015) and has been named as a "young artist to watch" by the South African Art Times.

Brits made his curatorial debut with 'Not My War', an exhibition held at the Michaelis Galleries, UCT. This acclaimed show brought together works by significant South African artists that have reflected on their country's involvement in border wars in Northern Namibia and Southern Angola during the 1960ies to 1980ies.

Brits' work is housed in public and private collections in both South Africa and abroad, including the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Collection, the SunFair Collection in New York, and the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art Collection in Geneva. He is a recipient of the Golden Key Society Award for Visual Art, the Irma Stern Scholarship and the Barbara Fairhead Prize.

Main Exhibitions

Solo

2022 – 'Time is a Flat Circle'. MOVART gallery (Lisbon, Portugal)

2016 – 'Sketches for the Cathedral of Johannesburg'. HAZARD Gallery (Johannesburg, South Africa)

2015 – 'Snake Man'. SMITH Gallery, Cape Town (South Africa)

2013 – '1969'. Grande Provance Gallery, (Franschoek, South Africa)

2011 – 'VICTOR VICTOR. Brundyn + (Cape Town, South Africa)

Collective

- 2023** – ArtCurial. MOVART gallery booth (Paris, France)
- 2020** – 'Tears Become Rain'. Rupert Museum (Stellenbosch, South Africa)
- 2019** – Latitudes Art Fair. Strauss & Co Booth (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2019** – Art Joburg. SMITH gallery booth (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2019** – 'Matereality'. Iziko South African Gallery (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2017** – Spier Light Art Festival. Spier Wine Estate, Stellenbosch (South Africa)
- 2017** – SculptX. Melrose Arch (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2016** – 'Words'. Nirox Sculpture Park (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2016** – 'Bring Your Own Beamer IV'. Gallery Momo (Cape Town, South Africa)
- 2015** – 'Nevermind the M*ss'. A Space (Helsinki, Finland)
- 2015** – 'Kindergeburtstag 2015'. Cité Internationale des Arts (Paris, France)
- 2012** – 'Our Fathers'. AVA Gallery, Cape Town (South Africa)

Public Comissions

- 2020** – Spiers Arts Trust, Stellenbosch (South Africa)
- 2020** – IZIKO South African National Gallery, Cape Town (South Africa)
- 2019** – Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation, Cape Town (South Africa)

Curatorial Projects

2012 – Not My War. Michaelis Galleries, UCT (Cape Town, South Africa)

Institutions & Collections

University of Cape Town Collection (Cape Town, South Africa)

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Collection (Cape Town, South Africa)

SunFair Collection (New York, USA)

Fondation Gandur pour l'Art Collection (Geneva, Switzerland)

Prizes & Awards

2023 – Rupert Foundation Social Impact Arts Prize

2011 – Rhodes Scholarship Finalist

2011 – Golden Key Chapter Award for Visual Art

2010 – Humanities Faculty Deans List

2009 – Irma Stern Scholarship

2008 – Barbara Fairhead Prize for Social Responsibility in Art

2007 – Humanities Faculty Scholarship

2007 – Gold Medal Fine Art Foundation Course

Residencies

2022 – MAR - MOVART Art Residency (Lisbon, Portugal)

2020 – Social Impact Arts Prize Residency, Graaff-Reinet

2016 – HAZARD gallery artist residency (Johannesburg, South Africa)

2014 – St Moritz Art Academy (St Moritz, Switzerland)