

**THE ARCHIVE OF UNSPOKEN THINGS**

**ROBERT SLINGSBY**

ER



# ROBERT SLINGSBY

## *THE ARCHIVE OF UNSPOKEN THINGS*

16 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER 2025

Everard Read Franschhoek is proud to present a new exhibition by Robert Slingsby.

**For more information please contact:**

[ivana@everard.co.za](mailto:ivana@everard.co.za)

[raelee@everard.co.za](mailto:raelee@everard.co.za)

**Everard Read Franschhoek**

20 Huguenot Road, Franschhoek

T: 021 876 2446

[www.everard-read-franschhoek.co.za](http://www.everard-read-franschhoek.co.za)

[fgallery@everard.co.za](mailto:fgallery@everard.co.za)

DETAIL OF ZAMA ZAMA (COVER)

DETAIL OF OFF THE BEATEN TRACK (RIGHT)

DETAIL OF CAST IN STONE (NEXT PAGE)

ER JOHANNESBURG | CAPE TOWN | LONDON | FRANSCHHOEK







## ROBERT SLINGSBY | *THE ARCHIVE OF UNSPOKEN THINGS*

Robert Slingsby has journeyed deep into Africa's interior landscapes, not only across vast geographies, but through layers of history, spirituality and creativity. Nowhere is this commitment more sustained than in the Richtersveld, where he has returned over five decades to document the region's aesthetic, cultural and environmental shifts. His work does not simply reflect a place, it reflects time spent within it: a long engagement with communities, rituals and symbols that are part of a wider creative lineage. Through his fieldwork, Slingsby has built an archive grounded in the creative expressions of traditional African cultures, both ancient and contemporary.

Slingsby's paintings are akin to visual field notes, evocative testaments to places where art is intrinsic to identity. His work tracks his experiential insights of people and places undergoing transformation due to the destabilising forces of the Anthropocene. In this way, we can see Slingsby's practice as a contemplative yet deliberate act of witness, an intimate record reflecting the passage of time across various cultures, traditions and lifestyles.

*The Archive of Unspoken Things* therefore becomes more than a title; it is a methodology. It reflects the archive not as a static repository, but ever-growing, shaped and updated in real time through Slingsby's sustained fieldwork, presence and shared experience. In the remote regions where Slingsby works, the power of being there, rooted in complete immersion, is the point where he can witness and share culture. Being there means more than observation; the unscripted and transformative encounters are the experiences that inspire Robert's work.

The documentation is not the end; it becomes the wellspring from which the paintings emerge. His intricate lines are upwellings from within, creating maps, not of territory, but of vanishing worlds and the silent marks of human presence. Each work is a distillation, a temporal fragment drawn from a vast, disappearing whole. They form an archive of unspoken things: stories told without words, the beauties and beasts of ancestral landscapes in flux and the weight of what can only be learned face-to-face. This all-encompassing, life-long process of active witness results in a practice where painting and fieldwork are inseparable, where the canvas is not just composition; it carries encounter, knowledge and the quiet legacy of connection. *The Archive of Unspoken Things* is the record of that journey: of how archive becomes art and art becomes archive. Slingsby's paintings trace his pursuit of Africa's creative genius, encapsulate the depth and beauty of shared experiences, across time, through shifting, sacred landscapes and how his art is a living testimony to what endures.





ROBERT SLINGSBY  
*The Archive of Unspoken Things*



**UNSCRIPTED ENCOUNTERS**

Oil on canvas

150 x 120 cm

**R195 000 (sold)**







**UNSPOKEN THINGS**

Oil on canvas

120 x 200 cm

**R282 000**







**GATECRASHER**

Oil on linen  
90 x 80 cm

R82 000







ROBERT SLINGSBY  
*The Arrival of Summer (2014)*







**AT THE RIVERBANK - HOMAGE & EPITAPH**

Oil on canvas

150 x 210 cm

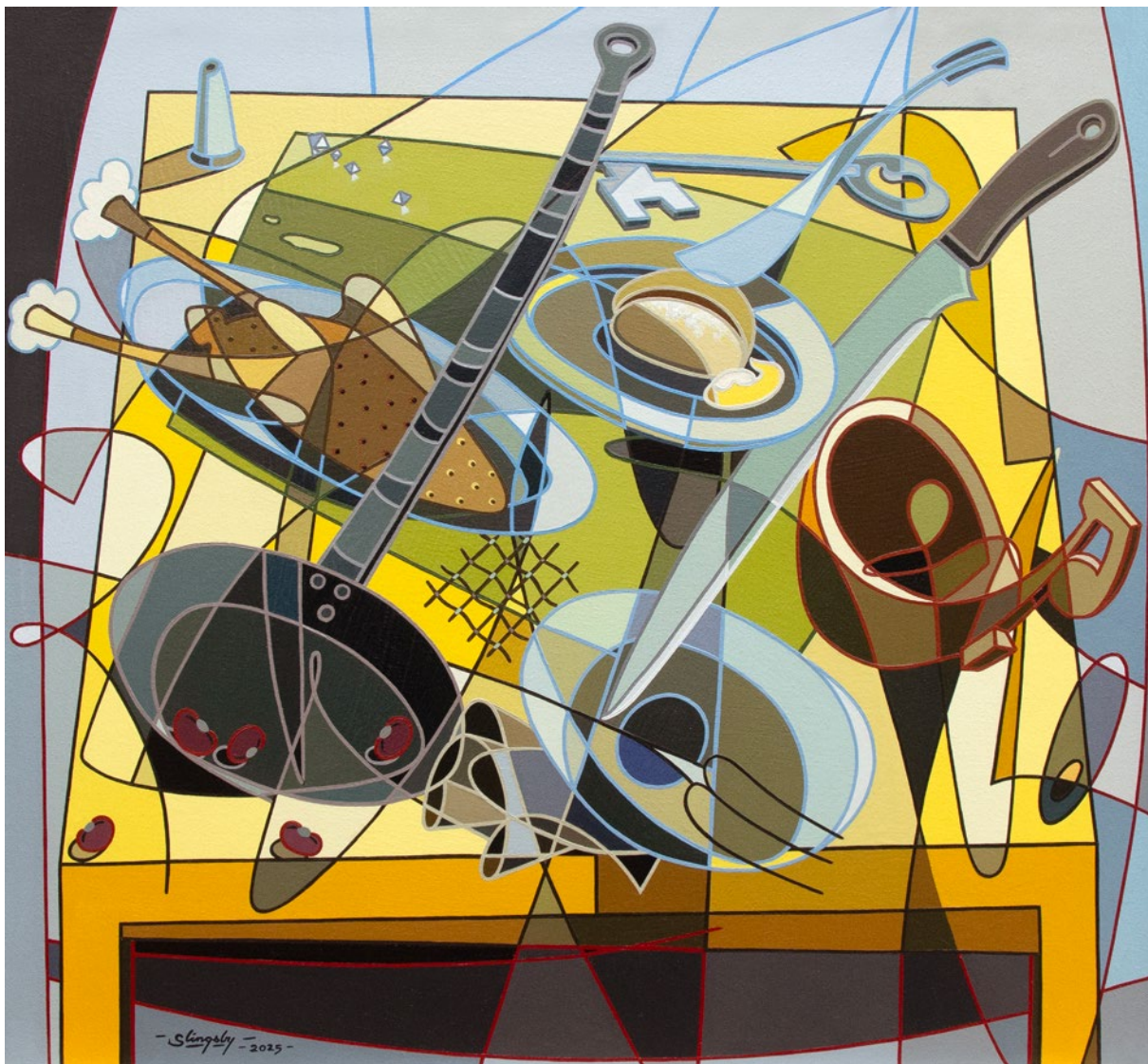
**R345 000**

*Detail image on next page*









ZAMA ZAMA

Oil on linen

60 x 65 cm

R54 000 (reserved)







**CAST IN STONE**

Oil on canvas

160 x 210 cm

**R295 000**







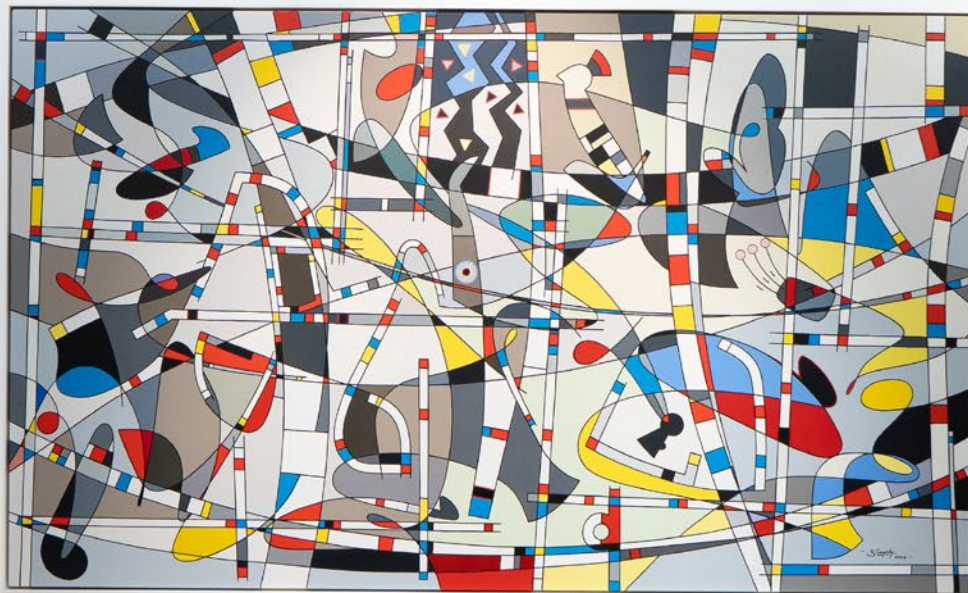
**ATTACHED DETACHED**

Oil on linen

49 x 42 cm

**R42 000**









**THREADS OF LIGHT**

Oil on canvas

120 x 200 cm

**R282 000**

*Detail image on next page*









### WELLSPRING I

Oil on linen  
49 x 42 cm

R42 000 (sold)



### WELLSPRING II

Oil on linen  
49 x 42 cm

R42 000 (sold)

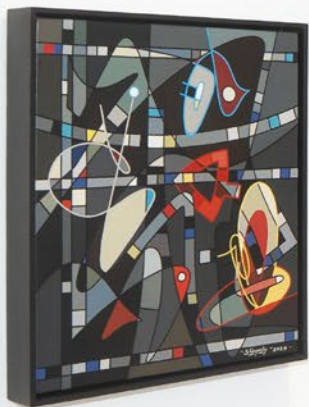


### WELLSPRING III

Oil on linen  
49 x 42 cm

R42 000









**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

Oil on linen

60 x 75 cm

**R60 000**





# **LINES OF CONTACT**

Oil on linen  
60 x 65 cm

R54 000



# **ENTANGLED LEGACIES**

Oil on linen  
60 x 65 cm

R54 000













**PATTERN OF LIFE**

Oil on linen

90 x 80 cm

**R82 000**



**STING**

Oil on canvas  
160 x 210 cm

**R295 000 (sold)**

*Detail image on next page*



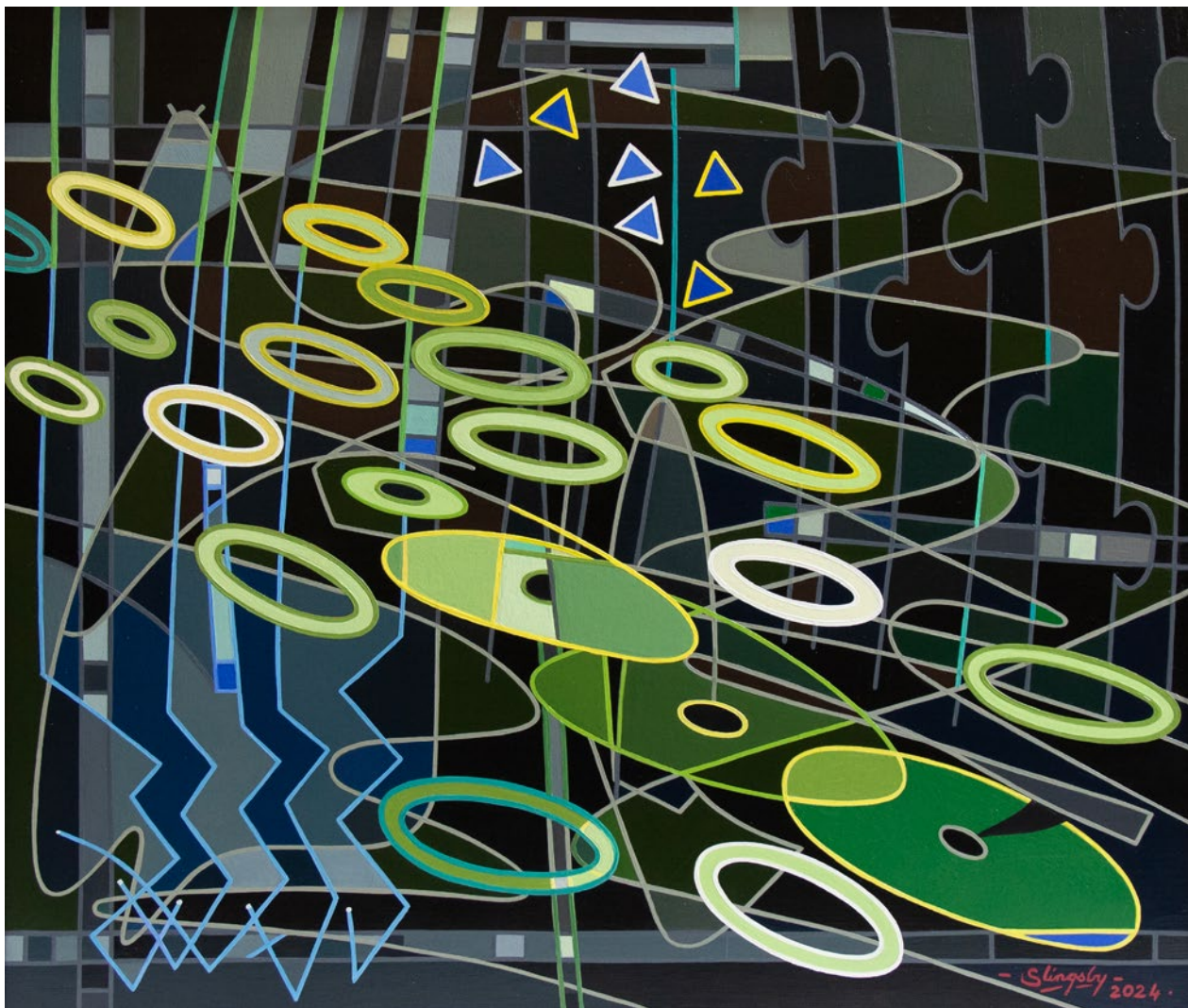












**INTERSPACE**

Oil on linen

42 x 49 cm

**R42 000**





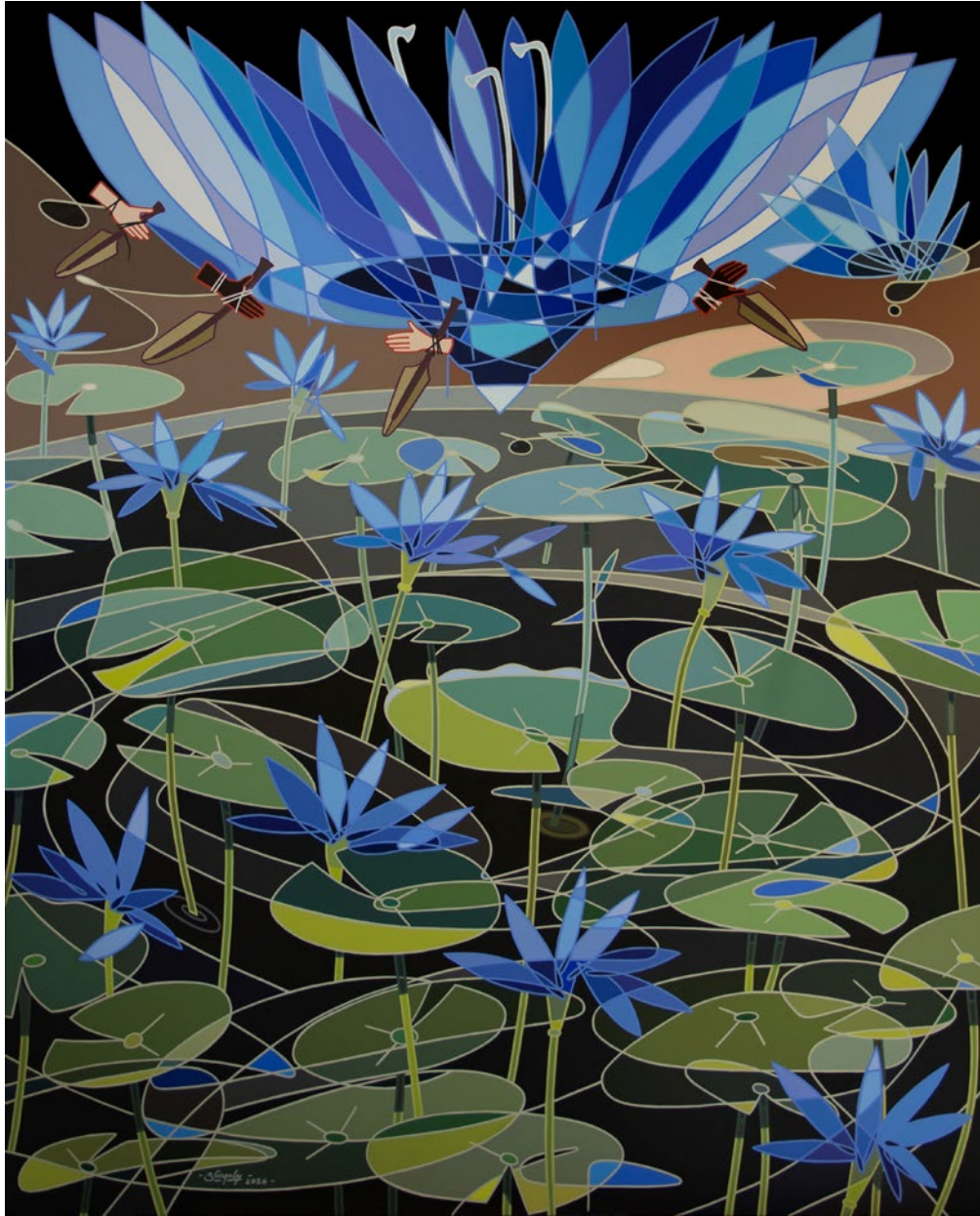
**LAST SUPPER**

Oil on linen

30 x 28 cm

**R36 000**





**HIGH SOCIETY**  
Oil on canvas  
150 x 120 cm

**R195 000**





ROBERT SLINGSBY  
*The Archive of Unspoken Things*





## ROBERT SLINGSBY

(b. 1955, South Africa)

For over five decades, Robert Slingsby has pursued a singular and uncompromising artistic journey, grounded in fieldwork, research and a steadfast commitment to documenting the complexities of Africa's traditional cultures. A five-year education at the Vrije Akademie in Den Haag, Holland, a crucible of classical training infusing countercultural ideas, innovative expression and revolutionary politics, formed the foundation for Slingsby's development as a multidisciplinary artist. His practice encompasses painting, drawing, etching and sculpture, marked by precision and intentionally intimate engagement with Africa's traditional mark-makers, both ancient and contemporary.

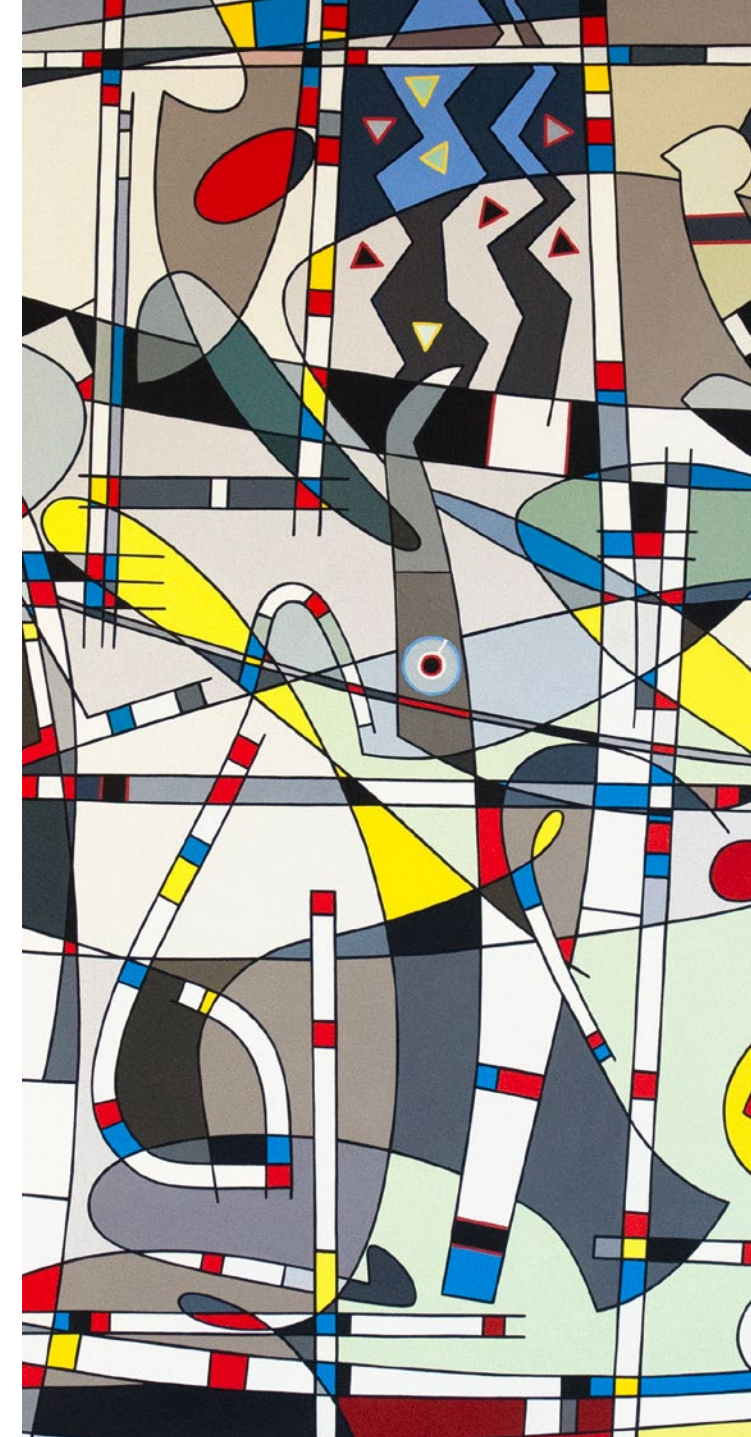
Slingsby's practice is the outcome of immersive field research in some of the most remote regions of the continent. Through his intentional engagement with Africa's art, particularly the petroglyphs of the Richtersveld, and the in-depth documentation of threatened indigenous knowledge systems, his art confronts the realities of marginalisation, land dispossession, environmental degradation and the erosion of ancestral culture under modern expansion.

In his current body of work, a return to oil on canvas, Slingsby draws from this deep wellspring of lived experience and decades of observation. These complex, layered compositions are both a reckoning and a tribute, anchored in his enduring fascination with 'the line', a visual and conceptual thread that runs through ancient rock markings and contemporary mark-making alike. His paintings are precise and visceral: they chart not only the landscape, but the emotional and spiritual terrains of communities standing at the edge of erasure. Through them, he invites viewers into a world shaped by encounter, endurance, embedded beauty and observation.



## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 The Archive of Unspoken Things, Everard Read Franschoek
- 2024 Winter Group Show, Everard Read Franschoek  
25th Anniversary Group Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art
- 2023 Season's Greetings Summer Group Exhibition, Everard Read Franschoek  
What I Think About When I Look At The Cosmos, Group Exhibition, Everard Read Franschoek
- 2022 Spring, A Group Show, Everard Read Franschoek  
The Big Picture, Group Exhibition, Knysna Fine Art
- 2021 Summer, a Group Show, Everard Read Franschoek
- 2020 Classrooms of Dus, solo exhibition, Knysna Fine Art  
Imago, group exhibition, Everard Read Franschoek
- 2019 In/Dependence, Circa Gallery, Everard Read Johannesburg
- 2017 Great Rift, solo exhibition, Everard Read Franschoek
- 2015 I am, solo exhibition, Royal College of Art, London
- 2014 Crossing The Line, solo exhibition, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town; 'Crossing the line' book accepted into Thomas J. Watson Library / Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- 2012 Money and God in His Pocket, Barnard Gallery, Cape Town
- 2011 Just Injustice, Sandie Lowry, Kensington Park Rd pop-up, London
- 2010 CC - Unlimited Power, UCT Irma Stern Museum
- 2008 Square 1 Gallery, London; Art International, group exhibition Nassau, Bahamas
- 2007 Excess(ive) baggage, Square One Gallery, London
- 2006 Bones of the rusting carpet, Square One Gallery, London
- 2005 Power house, Bell-Roberts Contemporary Art Gallery; Art International Nassau, Bahamas





DETAIL OF *THREADS OF LIGHT* (PREVIOUS PAGE)

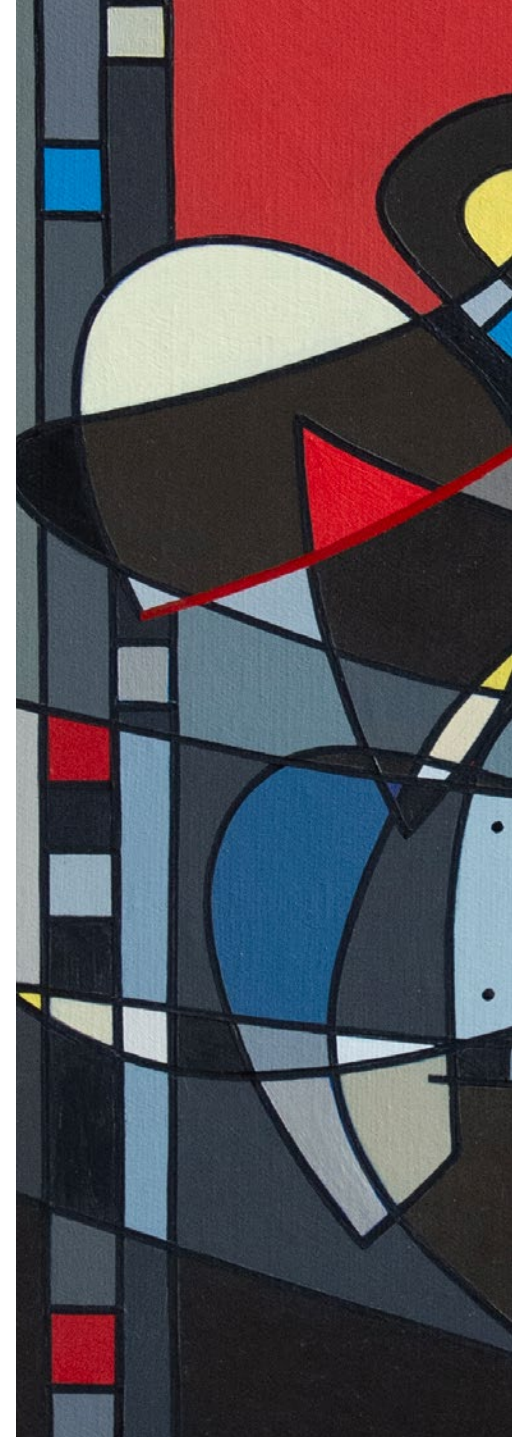
DETAIL OF *WELLSPRING I* (RIGHT)

DETAIL OF *CAST IN STONE* (END PAGE)

*Modern and contemporary art from Southern Africa*

Everard Read Franschhoek  
20 Huguenot Road | Franschhoek | 7690  
fgallery@everard.co.za | 021 876 2446

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