

EVERARD READ

PHILIP BARLOW

(b.1968 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa)

Philip Barlow describes his work as a step towards abstraction. It is primarily the exploration of light and the relationship of colour, where he at first captures his images with a camera and then translates them into a painted format. He is interested in the concept of capturing "the moment", a millisecond in time when everything lines up perfectly. His paintings seek to explore and demonstrate this, rather like a wonderfully composed climax of a symphony, a perfect marriage. His paintings also give us a glimpse in time where form, light and colour come together in all their complexity. Barlow has a deep appreciation and love for the power and science of colour. Careful tonal shifts and subtlety characterize his work, and the blurred image enabled by the camera lens creates new but familiar understandings of form and the relationship between people and place.

'The figures in the landscape serve as carriers and reflectors of the light that falls upon them. Bathed in the luminosity, it is my hope that they would become more beautiful. To me, light is the ultimate subject because it embodies the pinnacle of all reality.' He is fascinated with the common notion that everything is random when there can be no question that there is design in everything. His is a philosophy of harmony, where even in the grit and grime of a city there is immense beauty to be discovered. A beauty that lies between the imperceptible and the unknown.

Barlow graduated in 1990 from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth. He has shown in numerous exhibitions in South Africa, as well as in North America, the UK and Europe.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 split, Everard Read, Cape Town, Sout Africa
- 2021 slowing a split second, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2020 intersections, Galerie LeRoy, Montréal, Québec, Canada
- 2019 between broadway & 42nd, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018 still motion II, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2017 still motion, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2015 The Anatomy of Colour, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 The colour of light, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2010 Light Train, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2008 Vapor, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
Luminosity, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006 De Light, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2005 Solo exhibition at the Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2004 Glow, Obert Contemporary, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003 This Thing of Light, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Winter Collection, Everard Read, Franschhoek, South Africa
- 2025 If you look hard enough, you can see our future, Newcomb Art Museum, New Orleans, USA
EXPO CHICAGO, with Everard Read, Chicago, USA
- 2024 If you look hard enough, you can see our future, African American Museum, African Diaspora
Art Museum, Atlanta, USA
Southern Light, Everard Read, London, UK
- 2023 If you look hard enough, you can see our future, African American Museum, Dallas, USA
- 2022 Investec Cape Town Art Fair, with Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

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- Group show, Galerie LeRoyer, Toronto, Canada
Art Miami, with Galerie LeRoyer, Miami, USA
2021 Oasis, 25th anniversary show, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2020 Odyssey, online exhibition, Everard Read, South Africa & UK
2019 Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2017 Reality Check, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Solo studios, The Gallery, Riebeek Kasteel, South Africa
Winter, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 Summer in the City, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Solo studios, Gallery, Riebeek Kasteel, South Africa
2014 Summer Salon, Rarity Gallery, Mykonos, Greece
2013 Allusions of Abstraction, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
2011 Persona, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
Hespe Gallery, San Francisco, USA
The Homestead Charity Art Auction, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
2009 Art That Inspires, 10-20 Anniversary, Johans Borman Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
Hespe Gallery, San Francisco, USA
2004 Identity, Fortis Circustheater, Scheveningen, Netherlands