

Jeremy Wafer



Biography

Jeremy Wafer (b. 1953, Durban, South Africa) grew up in Nkwalini in what was then Zululand. He studied Fine Art at the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg (B.A.F.A.1979) and at the University of the Witwatersrand (B.A. Hons. in Art History 1980, M.A. Fine Art 1987 and PhD 2016).

Wafer taught in the Fine Art Departments of the former Technikon Natal (now DUT) and Technikon Witwatersrand (now UJ) before being appointed Professor of Fine Art in the Wits School of Arts of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He retired from full time teaching in 2019.

Wafer is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies, notably the Standard Bank National Drawing Prize in 1987 and the Sasol Wax Art Award in 2006. His work featured on the South African Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015. Wafer has exhibited in South Africa and internationally, his work is represented in the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, the South African National Gallery, the Johannesburg Art Gallery as well as in many other museum, private and corporate collections.

Wafer lives and works between London UK and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Artist Statement

"While my work has come from a deep involvement in a South African context I am continually interested in exploring issues that extend outwards from this personal and geographic centre. My work could be seen as traversing a South-North axis in which the global languages of contemporary art are intersected with the particularities of a local geography and history. I have been particularly interested in exploring, in the context of the South and its relation to the North, common issues of colonial legacies, the tensions between centres and margins, the layering of indigenous and settler cultures, and the effects of a shifting world economy on cultural practice. My work has since 1994 engaged with a practice which integrates and responds to aspects of African sculpture in the context of a broadly post minimalist sculptural idiom."

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017** *Index*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2014** *Strata*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013** *Survey*, Wits Art Museum, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009** *Structure*, KZNSA and Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
- 2009** *Paradise*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007** *Jeremy Wafer – Recent Work*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2006** *Geography*, Sasol Art Awards Winner, Sasol Gallery Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
- 2005** *Tropic*, Square Space Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004** *Measure*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2003** *Artfirst Gallery*, London, UK
- 2002** *FNB Vita Art Awards*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2002** *Survey*, Sasol Museum, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2002** *Survey*, Durban Art Museum, Durban, South Africa
- 2001** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2000** *Jeremy Wafer* Artfirst Gallery, London, UK
- 1999** *Jeremy Wafer* The Thami Mnyele Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1998** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1996** *_Cheltenham* College of Art, Cheltenham, UK
- 1993** *Jeremy Wafer* Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

- 2019** *Ampersand* UJ Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2019** *Paint it Black*, Aardklop Festival, South Africa (Upcoming)
- 2019** *Tribute*, KKNK festival, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2018** *Of Sovereignty and Safety*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2017** *Everywhere But Here*, Jeremy Wafer & Andreas Schneider, Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
- 2016** *In Context: Where We Are*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2016 *New Revolutions: Goodman Gallery at 50*, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2015 *Edge of Silence*, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2015 *South African Pavilion at 56th Venice Biennale, What remains is tomorrow*, Venice, Italy
2013 *Witness*, Linden Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia
2009 *Sources: Contemporary Sculpture in the Landscape*, NIROX Foundation, Johannesburg, South Africa
2009 *2nd Joburg Art Fair*, Johannesburg, South Africa (Goodman Gallery booth)
2008 *1st Joburg Art Fair*, Johannesburg, South Africa (Goodman Gallery booth)
2008 *Spier Contemporary*, Cape Town, South Africa
2008 Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2007 *Spier Contemporary*, Spier, Cape Town, South Africa,
2007 Bank Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2006 *Body of Evidence*, The National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
2006 *Group exhibition: Brande International Artists Workshop*, Brande, Denmark
2006 *Sasol Art Awards* (1st prize winner), Sasol Gallery Johannesburg and Aardklop Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa
2005 *In the Making: Material and Process*, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2004 *Tangentia*, international site specific art project in Cato Manor, Durban, South Africa
2004 *The Brett Kebble Art Awards* (Merit Award), Cape Town, South Africa
2004 *Insights*, National Museum of African Art, Washington DC, USA
2003 *Topographies*, joint exhibition with Sandile Zulu, Michael Stevenson Contemporary, Cape Town, South Africa
2002 *FNB Vita Art Awards* (Finalist) Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
2001 *Open Circuit*, NSA gallery, Durban, South Africa
2000 *Xoe 2 site specific*, Nieu Bethesda and Grahamstown Festival, South Africa
 Suitcase, NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
2000 *A.R.E.A.*, Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland
2000 *Outpost*, Association of Arts Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
2000 *Unplugged 5*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1999 *blank – architecture*, apartheid and after, Netherlands Institute of Architecture, Rotterdam, Netherlands (travelling in Europe and South Africa)
1998 *30 S 30 E*, Lipschitz Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1997 *Unplugged 2*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *Jeremy Wafer*, Bronwen Findlay NSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa
1997 *Printmaking in a Transforming South Africa*, Grahamstown Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
1997 *Photosynthesis: Contemporary South African Photography*, Grahamstown Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
1997 *The Johannesburg Biennale*, Newtown Cultural Precinct, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *The New Delhi Triennale*, New Delhi, India
1996 *Earth and Everything*, Arnolfini, Bristol, UK (travelling UK)
1996 *Ground Swell*, Mermaid Theatre, London, UK
1996 *Hitchhiker*, Generator Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Edwards*, Munyai, Wafer, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Barry, Allen, Wafer*, Market Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Natal Artists*, Thompson Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1995 *Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, South Africa
1995 *Panoramas of Passage*, (travelling) Meridian Foundation, Washington, USA
1994 *Contemporary Art from South Africa*, Galerie d'Esplanade, Paris, France
1994 *Places of Power*, Newtown Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994 *Images of Metal*, Grahamstown Festival (touring), South Africa
1994 *Vita Awards*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1993 *Critics Choice*, ICA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
1991 *Il Sud del Mondo*, Galleria Civica del Arte, Masala, Italy
1991 *The Cape Triennale*, South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1989 *Volkscas Awards Exhibition* (Merit Award), South African Association of Arts Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa
1987 *The Standard Bank National Drawing Competition*, Grahamstown Festival, South Africa

Teaching, Lectureships and Workshop

2016 Full Professor, Wits School of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
2004-2015 Associate Professor, Wits School of Arts, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
2002-2003 Department of Fine Art, Technikon Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
1983-2002 Department of Fine Art, Technikon Natal, Durban, South Africa
1996 Department of Fine Art, Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Cheltenham, UK

Conference and Workshop Participation

2008 Invitation to International Artists Workshop, Manaus and Sao Paulo, Brazil
1997 South African representative on the New Delhi Triennale, New Delhi, India
 International Artists' Workshop, Garhi Studios, New Delhi, India

Awards and Merits

2007 The Sasol Wax Art Award, Johannesburg, South Africa
1989 The Volkscas Bank Merit Award, South Africa
1987 The Standard Bank National Drawing Prize, South Africa

Academic Record and Residencies

Residencies:

2017 Cité internationale des arts, Paris, France
2008 Fellowship at the Ampersand Foundation, New York, USA
2006 Brande International Artist's Workshop, Denmark

2005 RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia as part of the South Project
2001 Fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Centre, Umbria, Italy
1999 Thami Mnyeli Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
1990 Cité des Arts, Paris, France. Postgraduate:
1987 M.A. Fine Art, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Undergraduate:
1980 B.A. (Honours) History of Art, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
1979 B.A. Fine Art, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Collections

The Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, America
The Library of Congress, Washington, USA
Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
Durban Art Gallery, Durban, South Africa
Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
Tatham Art Gallery, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
University of the Witwatersrand Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
Natal Technikon Collection, Durban, South Africa
MTN Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
South 32 Collection (Formerly BHP-Billiton Collection), Johannesburg, South Africa
Didata Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa
BoE Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
Standard Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
Reserve Bank, Johannesburg, South Africa
Nando's Art Collection, Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa

Commissions

2009 Sculpture for the One and Only Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
2009 Sculpture for the International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa
2009 Sculpture for the new football stadium, Durban, South Africa
2004* Sculpture for the Arrabella Estate, Knysna, South Africa
2003 Sculpture for the Arrabella Sheraton Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa
2001 Design of a memorial wall for the Gugu Dlamini Park, Durban, South Africa
2000 Sculpture, Metal and Glass for the Dorothy Nyembe Community Centre, Cato Crest, Durban, South Africa
1999 – 2001 Metal gates and Glass for the Diakonia Centre, Durban, South Africa
1997 Sculpture and Glass for the Poynton Chapel, Koinonia, Botha's Hill, South Africa in collaboration with Sarkin and Jain Architects

Selected Articles and Reviews

2003 Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer and Sandile Zulu*, www.artthrob.co.za, August
2002 Edmonds, P. *Jeremy Wafer at the Sasol Art Museum*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
2000 Smith, K, *Life Sciences: Jeremy Wafer*, www.artthrob.co.za, November
1996 Enwezor, O, *FNB Vita Art Now*, Frieze, Issue 30, September, p. 84

Publications

Books
2004 Perryer, S (ed) *10 years, 100 Artists: Art in a Democratic South Africa*. Bell-Roberts Publishing in association with Stuik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa.
2003 Stevenson, M and Rosholt, A, *Moving in Time and Space: Shifts between abstraction and representation in post war South African Art*, Michael Stevenson, Cape Town, South Africa.
2001 Frost, L, *Jeremy Wafer, Taxi-003*, David Krut Publishing, Johannesburg, South Africa.
1997 Geers, K (ed). *Contemporary South Africa Art*. The Gencor Collection, Johannesburg, South Africa.
1997 Hobbs, P. and Rankin, E, *Printmaking in a transforming South Africa*. David Phillip, Cape Town, South Africa.
1996 Williamson, S. and Jamal, A, *the future present* in Phillip, D. *Art in South Africa: the future present* Cape Town, South Africa.
1994 Rankin, E, *Images of Metal Johannesburg*, Wits University Press, Johannesburg South Africa.
1994 Journais, J-Y, *Un Art Contemporain d'Afrique du Sud* Paris, Editions Plume, Paris, France.
1991 Strano, C, *Il Sud del Mondo: l'altra arte contemporanea* Milan, Mazzotta, Italy.
1990 Williamson, S, *Resistance Art in South Africa*, David Phillip Publishers and Catholic Institute for International Relations, Cape Town, South Africa.
Catalogues
2004 The Brett Kebble Art Awards, Barret L, Marulelo, Cape Town, South Africa
2002 *Tumuli: Conversations with Jeremy Wafer*, Jeremy Wafer: Survey, Sasol Art Museum, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2002 *The Scheme of Things*, FNB Vita Art Prize, Goodman Gallery Editions, Johannesburg, South Africa
1997 *Trade Routes: History and Geography*, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, 1997, Johannesburg, South Africa