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BIOGRAPHY

Brett Murray studied at the University of Cape Town where he was awarded his Masters of Fine Arts degree in 1989 with distinction. The title of his dissertation was 'A Group of Satirical Sculptures Examining Social and Political Paradoxes in the South African Context'. As an undergraduate he won Irma Stern Scholarships in both 1981 and 1982. He also won the Simon Garson Prize for the most Promising student in 1982 and was awarded the Michaelis Prize in 1983. As a postgraduate student he received a Human Sciences Research Council bursary, a University of Cape Town Research Scholarship, the Jules Kramer Grant and an Irma Stern Scholarship.

He has exhibited extensively in South Africa and abroad. From 1991 to 1994 he established the sculpture department at the University of Stellenbosch, where he curated the show 'Thirty Sculptors from the Western Cape' in 1992. In 1995 he curated, with Kevin Brand, 'Scurvy', at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town. That year he co-curated 'Junge Kunst Aus Zud Afrika' for the Hänel Gallery in Frankfurt, Germany. In 1997 he organised, with Robert Wienek, the show 'Smokkel' as a fringe event for the second Johannesburg Biennale.

In 1999, Brett co-founded, with artists and cultural practitioners Lisa Brice, Kevin Brand, Bruce Gordon, Andrew Putter, Sue Williamson, Robert Weinek and Lizza Littlewort, 'Public Eye', a Section 27 company that manage and initiate art projects in the public arena with the aims to develop a greater profile for public art in Cape Town.

His solo shows include: 'White Boy Sings the Blues' at the Rembrandt Gallery in Johannesburg in 1996, 'I love Africa' at the Bell-Roberts Gallery in Cape Town in 2000, 'Us and Them' at the Axis Gallery in New York in 2003 and 'Sleep Sleep' at the Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg in 2006. His solo show, 'Crocodile Tears', was held at both the Cape Town and Johannesburg branches of The Goodman Gallery in 2007 and 2009. His recent show, 'Hail To The Thief II', was held at the Goodman Gallery in 2012. Murray was included on the Cuban Biennial of 1994, and subsequently his works were exhibited at the Ludwig Museum of Contemporary Art in Germany. He was included on the group show, 'Springtime in Chile' at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santiago, Chile. He was also part of the travelling show 'Liberated Voices, Contemporary Art From South Africa' which opened at the Museum for African Art in New York in 1998. His work formed part of the shows 'Min(d)fields' at the Kunsthaus in Baselland, Switzerland in 2004 and 'The Geopolitics of Animation' at the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo in Seville in Spain in 2007.

He won the Cape Town Urban Art competition in 1998 that resulted in the public work 'Africa', a 3.5 metre bronze sculpture, being erected in Cape Town's city centre. He won, with Stefaans Samcuia, the commission to produce an 8 x 30 metre wall sculpture for the foyer of the Cape Town International Convention Centre in 2003. In 2007 he completed

'Specimens', a large wall sculpture for the University Of Cape Town's medical school campus. He was nominated as the Standard Bank Young Artist of the year in 2002.

Brett works in Cape Town, South Africa, where he lives with his wife Sanell Aggenbach, their daughter Lola and son Kai.
