

About Driaan Claassen

Driaan Claassen (b. 1991) in Johannesburg, South Africa is renowned for his deep exploration of the human psyche through intricate and thought-provoking sculptures. His artistic journey began with a fascination for 3D animation, which eventually led to an apprenticeship with the esteemed artist Otto du Plessis at the Bronze Age Foundry. This experience profoundly shaped Claassen's unique approach, blending traditional craftsmanship with modern technology to create works that are both intellectually engaging and visually compelling.

Working with a diverse range of materials, including wood, wire, and bronze, Claassen's sculptures seamlessly integrate material innovation with psychological depth. His work reflects a deep fascination with themes of consciousness, order, and chaos, often employing a meticulous combination of ancient techniques and cutting-edge technology. Through this approach, he challenges viewers to contemplate the intricate interplay between the material world and the inner workings of the mind.

Claassen's sculptures have been showcased in prestigious galleries and art fairs worldwide, including Design Miami, Design Days Dubai, and AIYA Collectible. His solo exhibitions, such as Forms of Silence at AIYA Bureau in 2022, Order and Chaos at EBONY/CURATED in 2021, and Complex Systems at THK Gallery in 2023, have solidified his status as a leading young contemporary artist. His innovative exploration of consciousness has earned him residencies at the Villa-Legodi Centre for Sculpture and Quartier am Hafen in Cologne.



Driaan Claassen, Are You Sure?, 2024

CV

Education

Diploma in 3D Animation, The Animation School, Cape Town, South Africa Foundry
Apprenticeship with Jan Otto du Plessis of Bronze Age

Solo Exhibitions

2023
Complex Systems, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2022
Forms of Silence, AIYA Bureau, Moscow, Russia

2021
Order and Chaos, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa

Group Exhibitions

2024
Order and Chaos, EBONY/CURATED, Cape Town, South Africa
Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2023
Synaptic, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa Light + Space, THK Gallery, Cape Town,
South Africa
Liminal States, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa THK Gallery at Enter Art Fair, Denmark
THK Gallery at 1-54 London, United Kingdom

2022
Spring | A Group Show, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa
Things I'd Like to Remember: A Group Exhibition, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2021
Cubicle Series, Everard Read, Cape Town, South Africa

2020
EBONY/CURATED at Intersect Chicago, United States of America
Solace, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa

2017
Stellar, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa

2016
Natural Selection, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa

2015
Woodwork, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa
Design Miami, Southern Guild, Cape Town, South Africa

Residencies

2024

Residency at Quartier Am Hafen, Cologne, Supported by THK Gallery

2022

Residency at Villa-Legodi Center for Sculpture, Johannesburg, South Africa

Special Projects and Collaborations

2023

Emergent Properties (with Catherine Ash), NIROX Sculpture Park, Johannesburg, South Africa