

ED YOUNG

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Ed Young offers audiences some self-depreciating humour, should they be willing to accept initial discomfort at his, more often than not, intentionally perturbing display, such as his own body. The artist deliberately subverts authority, defies social acceptability and flaunts an apparent disregard for all and anyone that engages with his work.

However, his seemingly nonchalant *modus operandi* walks a fine line between an elaborate performance; and an accurate play on the underlying frustration experienced by almost all contributors to the art world. The attempted function of 'the white cube' space is to strip away 'extraneous' audio, visual material, to imply a 'cleansed' space, free from presumption and context. Alone in the cavernous space, steeped in context, and slightly pathetic is little Ed Young.

Young returns- yet again- to his training as a sculptor... or a more accurate description would be, that he 'imagines' returning to his training years, and the outcome is *COMME des FUCKDOWN*. The hyper-real (down to the last unsightly hair) miniature model of the artist, in the nude, is displayed leaning against a wall in despair, a familiar state of mind for anyone trying to return to his or her youth.

It is with this limited explanation that audiences are invited to view *COMME des FUCKDOWN*. In direct opposition to common contemporary practice of delivering an opinion on a subject, Young offers only his body up as explanation.

Ed Young was born in 1978 in Welkom, South Africa, and currently lives and works in Cape Town. He holds a Masters of Fine Art Degree from the Michaelis School of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town, and has presented solo projects in Cape Town, Miami, Basel and Zurich.

His work has been included in various group exhibitions, both locally and abroad, including: *T1 – The Pantagruel Syndrome* at Castello do Rivolo d'arte Contemporanea di Torino in Turin, Italy in 2005; *The Art of Failure* at Kunsthaus Baselland in Basel, Switzerland in 2007; *Hollywood Remix* at Hayward Gallery in London, England in 2008; *Dada South?* at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, South Africa in 2009; *SPECIAL ED AND FRIENDS* in Zurich, Switzerland in 2013; *KULTURPALAST* in Berlin, Germany in 2014; and *Analogue Eye – Video Art Africa* at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa, which later travelled to the Wiener Festwochen in Vienna, Austria.

In 2016, Young was included in *NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE*, the North American tour of the mobile exhibition with the NO SHOW MUSEUM.

In 2013, Young presented a solo installation at VOLTA9 in Basel and was awarded the AiR Rote Fabrik residency, facilitated by Pro Helvetia in Zurich, Switzerland, in the same year. In 2015, Young was a featured artist for SMAC Gallery's presentation at ARTISSIMA in Torino, Italy. In 2016, Young was an invited artist to present a site-specific installation as one of eight special projects for The ARMORY Show's invitational *Focus: African Perspectives* section, curated by Julia Grosse and Yvette Mutumba of Contemporary And (C&).

In 2018, he will be participating in the das Freiraum-Stipendium artist's residency, sponsored by index, in Zurich, Switzerland.

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Ed Young

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COMME des FUCKDOWN

2017

Silicone, Hair, Cotton and Paint

61 x 25 x 18 cm

Ed. 1/3 + 1 AP

R 380,000.00

(Selling price inclusive of VAT)



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COMME des FUCKDOWN (Detail)

2017

Silicone, Hair, Cotton and Paint

61 x 25 x 18 cm

Ed. 1/3 + 1 AP



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COMME des FUCKDOWN (Detail / Process)

2017

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61 x 25 x 18 cm

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ED YOUNG**BIOGRAPHY**

Born 1978 Welkom, Free State, South Africa.
Currently lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa.

EDUCATION

- 2005** Master of Fine Art (MFA) (cum laude), Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa.
2001 Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) (cum laude), Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- [upcoming] das Freiraum-Stipendium, Zurich, Switzerland – sponsored by index.
2013 AiR, Rote Fabrik, Zurich, Switzerland – facilitated by Pro Helvetia.
2006 Very Real Time. Cape Town, South Africa – facilitated by Gregg Smith.
2005 Top Ten Finalist in the ABSA l'atelier award.
Jules Kramer Art Scholarship.
2003 24/7. Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
2004 Jules Kramer Art Scholarship.
Irma Stern Art Scholarship.
2003 Irma Stern Art Scholarship.
K.W. Johnston Bequest Scholarship.
Irma Stern Art Scholarship.
2002 Jules Kramer Art Scholarship.
Simon Gerson Prize.
2001 Irma Stern Art Scholarship.
2000 Judy Steinberg Prize.
Dean's Merit List.
1999 Irma Stern Art Scholarship.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2017** *cash or card* (SMAC Gallery), Johannesburg, South Africa
2016 *Little* (SMAC Gallery), Cape Town, South Africa.
ALL SO FUCKING AFRICAN. Special Project for ARMORY Focus: African Perspectives. The ARMORY Show, Piers 94 & 92, New York, USA.
2015 *Agnus Dei*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
2013 VOLTA 9, Solo Presentation, SMAC Gallery Booth, Basel, Switzerland.
48 hour Xmas Billboard, Message Salon, Perla Mode, Zurich, Switzerland.
Arch, Youngblood, Cape Town, South Africa.
2010 *Arch*, IDASA, Cape Town, South Africa.
2008 *I Love New Work*, Locust Projects, Miami, USA.
2006 *It Was Only a Blowjob*, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.
2004 *It's Not Easy*, Bell Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
STORM, KZNSA Gallery, Durban, South Africa.
Asshole, Bell Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

- 2003** Muse, Bell Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Bruce Gordon, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016** *NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, NO SHOW MUSEUM*, North American tour (Mobile exhibition).
SUMMER SHOW '16 (SMAC Gallery), Stellenbosch, South Africa.
ARTISSIMA (SMAC Gallery), Torino, Italy.
UPSTART/STARTUP (SMAC Gallery), Johannesburg, South Africa.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa.
Imago Mundi. Pratt Institute. Luciano Benetton Collection. Brooklyn, New York. USA.
Alptraum. Rae (HQ), curated by Marcus Sendlinger. space for contemporary art, Berlin. Germany.
Rhodes Must Fall Exhibition: Echoing Voices from Within, curated by Wandile Kasibe and Pam Dhlamini, Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2015** *IMAGO MUNDI*. Fondaziano Cini. Venice. Luciano Benetton Collection.
ARTISSIMA (SMAC Gallery), The Oval - Lingotto, Turin, Italy.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Towards Intersections: Negotiating Subjects, Objects and Contexts curated by Theminkosi Goniwe, UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria and Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), V&A Waterfront – The Avenue, Cape Town, South Africa.
Alptraum, Salon de Liria, Goa, India.
Analogue Eye – Video Art Africa, Wiener Festwochen, Vienna, Austria.
- 2014** *Brave New World...20 Years of Democracy* curated by Andrea Lewis and Ernestine White, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Alptraum. UGM I Maribor Art Gallery. Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art. Slovenia.
Kulturpalast, Zwitschermaschine, Berlin, Germany.
DO IT, curated by Hans Ulrich Orbist, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.
Imago Mundi, Ca' dei Carraresi, Treviso, Italy. Luciano Benetton Collection.
Viewing room #01 - Typography, SMAC, Cape Town, South Africa.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Analogue Eye – Video Work Afrika, Drive in Theatre and Pop-up Cinema, Grahamstown, South Africa.
PAPERWORK: An Exhibition of Contemporary South African Works on Paper, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), V&A Waterfront – The Pavillion, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2013** *Xmas Show*, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Special Ed and Friends Only. Rote Fabrik, Zurich, Switzerland.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Cape Town Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), V&A Waterfront – The Lookout, Cape Town, South Africa.
Zoo, Nirox Projects, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Big Hole, Kimberley Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa.
Pop Hits & Alptraum, Artspace Rhein-Main, City of Offenbach, Germany.
This Is What, Evil Son, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2012** *Collection 17: Modern and Contemporary South African Art: 1952 – 2012*, presented by SMAC Gallery for Aardklop National Arts Festival, Potchefstroom, South Africa.
Bootleg, Evil Son, Cape Town, South Africa.
FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.
Collection 16, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
Alptraum, Green Papaya Art Projects, Manila, Philippines.
- 2011** FNB Joburg Art Fair (SMAC Gallery), Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Collection 15, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Michaelis Alumni and Staff Exhibitions and Auction, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.

Collection 14, SMAC Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Alptraum! Deutscher Kunstlerbund – Projektraum, Berlin, Germany. The Company, Los Angeles, USA.
Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

10 Years On, Michaelis Gallery, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.

2010 *Manet's Too Tight To Mention*, Whatiftheworld, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Big Hole, The Kimberley Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa.

Divisions: Aspects of South African Art 1948 – 2010, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Tretchikoff and me, Salon 91, Contemporary Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa.

Mixtape – Mobile Cinema, The Grahamstown National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa.

TWENTY: South African Sculpture of the Last Two Decades, NIROX Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa.

Own Goal, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.

Inverting the Pyramid, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

1910 to 2010: From Pierneef to Gugulective, Curated by Riason Naidoo, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

/ + \ = X. Serialworks, Cape Town, South Africa.

Spier Contemporary, City Hall, Cape Town, South Africa.

2009 *Dada South?* Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

Holiday, Whatiftheworld, Cape Town, South Africa.

Whatever did I steal from you? The Bag Factory, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Manifesto, CO-OP, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Volta 5, Whatiftheworld, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Studio Visit, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.

Joburg Art Fair, Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

GRIN & BEAR IT: Cruel Humour in Art and Life, Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland.

Sometimes I forget that you exist, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

PLAYLIST. neon>campobase, Bologna, Italy.

2008 *PULSE Contemporary Art Fair* - In conjunction with Art Basel Miami, Soho Studios, Miami, USA.

Inevitable Continuum, Locust Projects, Miami, USA.

Big Wednesday, Whatiftheworld, Cape Town, South Africa.

It's Not Easy and Walking Man, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.

It's Not Easy, Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham, UK.

ha ha road, Bank Street Arts, Sheffield, UK.

Tangled Up In You: Connecting, Coexisting and Conceiving Identity, 21C Museum, Louisville, USA.

Here Once Again: Where Art and Cinema Interact, The Gallery Loop / Museum of Art, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea.

Ready Made, Kizo Gallery, Durban, South Africa.

2666: Ons Skrik Vir Niks, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

Upstairs/Downstairs, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.

Hollywood Remix, Hayward Gallery Project Space, London, UK.

2007 *Ball Sports*, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Second Cape Town Biennale, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

Collection 6, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

HELL YEAH, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Inchoate, Idiosyncratic Descent into Nihilism, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.

The Art of Failure, Kunsthau Baselland, Basel, Switzerland.

YMGs, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape, Cape Town, South Africa.

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GIMBERG/ NERF/ SACKS/ YOUNG, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
 Collection 5, SMAC Gallery, Stellenbosch, South Africa.
 The John Institute – Role Model, Freymond-Guth & co, Fine Arts/ PERLA MODE, Zurich, Switzerland.
 Pilot Archive (to coincide with Arco 2007) La Xasa Encendida, Madrid, Spain.
 Animus/Wilderness, Barbes, New York, USA.

- 2006** The Cape Town Biennale, Blank Projects, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Unimovie 2006, Pescara, Citta Sant' Angelo, Italy.
 PULSAR, Caracas Contemporary Art Museum, Rencontres Internationales Paris/ Berlin, Caracas, Venezuela.
 America - How Contemporary Video artists See the USA (part 1), Figge von Rosen Galerie, Cologne, Germany.
 Videopassages@careof, Careof, Milan, Italy.
 Videopassages, Provincia di Milano, shops along via Torino, Milan, Italy.
 Laisle Entertainment, Paco Das Artes, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2006** Contemporary South African Print Collection, Bell Roberts, Cape Town, South Africa.
 The Last Braai 666, In collaboration with Christian Nerf, L/B'sw Lounge, Cape Town, South Africa.
- 2005** Michaelis Graduate Exhibition, Michaelis School of Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Absolut Finale, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.
 ThreatZones, Triangle Project Space, San Antonio, Texas, USA.
 Recontres Internationales Paris-Berlin, Centre Culturel Suedois, Paris, France.
 T1 – The Pantagruel Syndrome, Triennale Turin, Castello di Rivoli d'arte Contemporanea di Torino, Turin, Italy.
 PILOT:2 – International Artists & Curators Forum. Farmiloe Building to coincide with the Frieze Art Fair, London, UK.
 15th International Electronic Art Festival – Videobrasil, Southern Panorama, Sesc Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil.
 Black and White Poster Project, Dirt Contemporary Art Space, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Video Art Channel – World Tune 2005 – Kohe Art Village Center, Kobe, Japan.
 Printttttt, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.
 ABSA l'Atelier Finalist Exhibition, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2004** Video Art Channel vol 30: Echo of Reflective Images, Pola Museum, Tokyo, Japan.
 Flanders International Film Festival, Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium.
 Grasduinen 01, S M A K-aan-Zee, Bredene, Belgium.
 Exchange views on.../Echange vues sur... Espace Croix-Baragnon, France.
 ArtintheDark, Faan Smit Park, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 Absolute Moment, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.
 The Brett Kebble Art Awards - Finalist Exhibition, The Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Negotiate, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 Contra Mundi, Association of Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Ten Years of Democracy, Iziko South African National Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
 ABSA l'Atelier Finalist Exhibition, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa.
 St Motherfucking Maxim's Day, In collaboration with Max Raffard, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France.
 My Friend Dan's Crappy 90s Mix. Grasduinen 01. S M A K-aan-Zee, Bredene, Belgium.
 Do Nothing 2/5, Flanders International Film Festival, Vooruit, programmed by Kendell Geers, Barbara Raes and Eva de Groote, Ghent, Belgium .
- 2003** Camera Lucida, Flanders International Film Festival, Ghent, Belgium.
 Rencontres Internationales Paris-Berlin, Cinema l'Arlequin, Paris, Podewil, Berlin, Germany.
 picnic, Bell Roberts Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa.
 Absolut Magic, Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town, South Africa.