

## SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



### **Jenna Burchell**

Born 1985 in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Lives and works in Pretoria, South Africa

Burchell works as an anti-disciplinary South African artist weaving together various forms of science and technology, ideas sourced from and (critical of) anthropology, along with sound and interactivity in her art. Her work often fuses the digital with the natural world through sculptural objects and interactive environments. Burchell's work explores the power inherent in the creation of an archive. In her current project *Songsmith*, she restores broken objects and sites by embedding golden sound instruments (songsmith) into them. These sculptures respond to human contact by revealing song about people, places and events within the vicissitudes of time.

Burchell completed a Fine Arts degree at the University of Pretoria in 2007. She has been resident artist at institutions such as; Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2017), Nirox Sculpture park (2016) and Arteles Residency in Finland (2012). She was the recipient of the Soundlands Public Art Commission in Wales (2015), National Arts Festival Grant in Grahamstown (2014), Ithuba Art Fund in Johannesburg (2013) and the Thami Mnyele Fine Art Award in Ekhureleni (2011). Her work has been exhibited in national and international institutions and galleries in American, Europe and South Africa as well as special projects at FNB Joburg Art Fair (2015), Turbine Art Fair (2014) - Johannesburg, and Art15 (2015) - London. Burchell's large scale, permanent, commission *Songsmith (The Great Karoo)* was recently installed at the Spier Wine Estate, South Africa (2018).

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## Education

2007 Fine Art Degree (Hons.), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa

## Grants

- 2015 *Songsmith (Bangor City)*, Soundlands Public Art Grant, Bangor, Wales, U.K  
*The Geographers*, Afrika Burn Art Grant, Tankwa, Karoo, South Africa
- 2014 *Homing*, National Arts Festival Main Programme Grant, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2013 *Homing*, Ithuba Arts Fund, Johannesburg, South Africa

## Awards

- 2011 Thami Mnyeale Fine Arts Award (Overall Winner)
- 2009 Thami Mnyeale Fine Arts Award (Merit Award: New Media)
- 2006 Coca Cola Bursary Award (Studies in Arts)
- 2005 Golden Key Society Membership (Academic Excellence)
- 2003 Johan Canon Art Trophy

## Permanent Installations

2018 *Songsmith (The Great Karoo)*, The Spier Wine Estate, Stellenbosch, South Africa

## Residencies

- 2017 Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire, United Kingdom
- 2016 Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, Gauteng, South Africa
- 2015 Soundlands, Bangor City, Wales, United Kingdom
- 2014 National Arts Festival, Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2012 Arteles Residency, Hämeenkyrö, Finland

## Special Projects

- 2017 *Songsmith (Yorkshire Sculpture Park)*, Yorkshire, United Kingdom
- 2015 *Homing*, Art15 (Special Project) (Sulger-Buel Lovell), London, United Kingdom  
*The Narrators*, FNB Joburg Art Fair (Special Project), Johannesburg, South Africa  
*The Geographers*, Afrika Burn, Tankwa, Karoo, South Africa
- 2016 *Songsmith (Bangor City)*, Soundlands, Bangor, Wales, United Kingdom
- 2014 *Homing*, Turbine Art Fair (Special Project), Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2013 *Urban Wetlands*, Turbine Art Fair (Lovell Conceptual), Johannesburg, South Africa

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Songsmith (Cradle of Humankind)*, FNB Joburg Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell)  
Johannesburg, South Africa

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- 2014 *Homing*, Lovell Conceptual, Woodstock, Cape Town, South Africa  
*Homing*, Rhodes School of Art Gallery, Grahamstown National Arts Festival (Main Programme), Grahamstown, South Africa
- 2008 *Murmur. Silence. Touch*, Goddart Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 2019 Investec Cape Town Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Gallery), Cape Town, South Africa
- 2018 *Sweep Landskip* curated by Roberto Eckholm. Kino Kino, Sandness, Norway. Participating artists include: Derek Jarman  
*EVE*, Amar Gallery, London, United Kingdom. Participating artists include: Sonja Braas, Renee Cox, Guerrilla Girls, Mekhala Bahl and Anthony Gormley
- 2017 *1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Lovell), London, United Kingdom  
*Cape Town Art Fair* (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Cape Town, South Africa
- 2016 *Hook Up* curated by Found Collective & Dead Bunny society, Ellis House, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*A Place In Time* curated by Helen Pheby, Winter Sculpture Fair, Nirox Sculpture Park, Cradle of Humankind, South Africa
- 2015 *Altered Realities* curated by Johan Conradie, Association of Arts, Pretoria, S.A
- 2014 *MAKE IT NEW* curated by Rayda Becker, Jos Thorne, Jane Solomon and Isabel Schneider, World Design Capital 2014 - Policy Conference Exhibition, Cape Town Stadium, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 *Digi Re-Engineering* curated by K vd Walt, J de Rooster, J Lebeko and B Mknzonza, University of South Africa (UNISA) art gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
*New Voices* curated by Ronel de Jager, Art Space, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2012 *Terra Firma* curated by Elfriede Dreyer, Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, South Africa  
*A.R.T.* show curated by Carol Brown. Travelling group show: Smithsonian, Washington DC, United States of America; UCT Michealis Galleries, Cape Town, S.A; Museum Africa, Johannesburg, S.A; KZNSA art Gallery, Durban, South Africa  
*The Hanging Gardens* curated by Paul Bayliss. KKNK arts festival, Oudtshoorn, S.A  
*Designs* curated by Elfriede Dreyer. KKNK Arts Festival, Oudtshoorn, South Africa
- 2011 *Designs of Nature* curated by Elfriede Dreyer. Fried contemporary, Pretoria, S.A  
*Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Awards*, Coen Scholtz Recreation Center, Kempton Park, S.A
- 2010 *Absa Atelier Contemporary Fine Art Awards*, ABSA Towers, Johannesburg, S.A  
*Bodies in Transition* curated by Elfriede Dreyer. Fried Contemporary, Pretoria, S.A  
*Dystopia* curated by Elfriede Dreyer and Jacob Lebeko. Travelling group show: Oliewenhuis Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa (2010); Museum Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa (2009); UNISA Art Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa (2009)

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- 2009 *The Point will be Defeated*, Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Addict Lab 09*, Design Square, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Thami Mnyele Fine Arts Award*, Coen Scholtz Recreation Centre, Kempton Park, S.A  
*Sasol New Signatures*, Pretoria Art Museum, Pretoria, South Africa
- 2008 *Fabrication*, curated by Audrey Anderson, Magpie Gallery, Centurion, Johannesburg, South Africa  
*Bewilderness*, Magpie Gallery, Centurion, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2007 *i spy*, SACTE building, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, S.A - Fine Arts Degree (Hons.)

### Select Reviews, Features and Articles

- 2018 Business Day, [Golden Sounds of Ancient Rocks in the Karoo](#) By Lucinda Jolly  
New African Magazine, [Singing in the New](#) By Beverly Andrews  
Spier, [The Singing Stones of Spier](#),
- 2017 Art Versed, [Jenna Burchell: Art, Technology and Nature](#) By Isabel Gilchrist  
Yorkshire Sculpture Park, [Visiting Artist: Jenna Burchell](#),
- 2016 Art.co.za, ['The Singing Rocks' - Artist Jenna Burchell turns ancient rocks into songsmiths](#),
- 2015 Two-Vivid Productions, [Jenna Burchell](#)  
ArtLogic, [JoburgArt Fair Video](#),  
ELLE, [5 Must-See Artists: Joburg Art Fair](#),  
Artsy, [10 Young African Artists You Should Know](#),  
[FNB JoburgArtFair: Jenna Burchell | Histories That Resonate](#),  
After Nyne Online, [Top Ten Art15 Pieces you wish you'd thought of first](#)  
ArtNet News, [What to see and buy at Art15 London Art Fair](#),
- 2014 B-Things Blog, [Homing - interactive installation by Jenna Burchell](#) By Yolandi Schreuder  
Lovell Conceptual presents *Homing* by Jenna Burchell, [Documentary video](#),  
Whats On In Capetown, [Review:Homing at the Lovell Gallery](#) By Jaroslav Kalac  
Oppidanpress, [Tech-savvy artists at fest](#), By Lili Barras-Hargan.  
Cape Argus Early (Life), [Harping on memories](#) By Diane de Beer  
Architype Online Magazine, [Homing](#) By Toni Clayton  
IOL Tonight, [Evocative soundscapes and flights of fancy](#), By Diane de Beer  
Business Day, [Children, adults and cabinet ministers](#), By Chris Thurman  
Cue, [Sounds from home](#), By Dave Mann and Isabel M. Castro  
The Herald, [Harp-like sculpture pulls at heartstrings](#), By Diane de Beer  
Mail and Gaurdian, [Interactive and on all the time](#), By Jessica Hunkin  
Media Update, [National Arts Festival to trace SA's heritage and legacies in 2014](#).

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- Between10&5 (Featured Artist), [Interactive installation and performance artist Jenna Burchell](#) By Jessica Hunkin
- 2013 Business Day TV, [Ithuba Arts Award](#),  
Ithuba Arts Gallery. [Ithuba Art Fund Award](#)
- 2012 The Sunday Times Read Right Supplement. [Artists in your pocket: A mini guide to contemporary SA artists](#)
- 2011 Live Out Loud Millionaires Magazine. [Designs of nature - artist profile](#). By Christine Grove

### Video Documentation

- 2015 [Two-Vivid Productions Interview with Jenna Burchell](#) (London, United Kingdom)
- 2014 [Lovell Conceptual presents Homing by Jenna Burchell](#) (Cape Town, South Africa)

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