THE EMERGENCE OF MAN



by André Stead

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The emergence of man has brought about a profound change in the evolutionary development of planet Earth. The oldest recorded abstract art dates back 72000 years. Although it is a far cry from our modern perspective, it is this ability to assimilate abstract thought that has set the human race apart from any other species. This creative capacity has also given humanity the ability to acquire immense technical knowledge. Collectively, as a species, we hold great power to either nurture or devastate. Create or destroy. As individuals we possess infinite potential and it is our combined efforts that make up the collective human presence.

Every single person is special in their own particular way. Each with a unique perspective of the world, adding to the immense diversity of human culture and expression. In every individual lies the key to further understanding the nature of humanity, it is in the essence of human nature that one finds compassion and love. We all have our own unique perspective and identity, but as a species we are all essentially the same. There are certain crucial, somewhat primal instincts that drive each and every one of us. At a subconscious level our desire to find a mate or our fear of death may control the decisions we make on a daily basis. But ultimately, our greatest desire is to be loved, before we inevitably surrender our mortality to both time and space.



Seed of Man - Black

Maquette
2013
Bronze edition of 6
750 x 245 x 210 mm

The Seed of Man

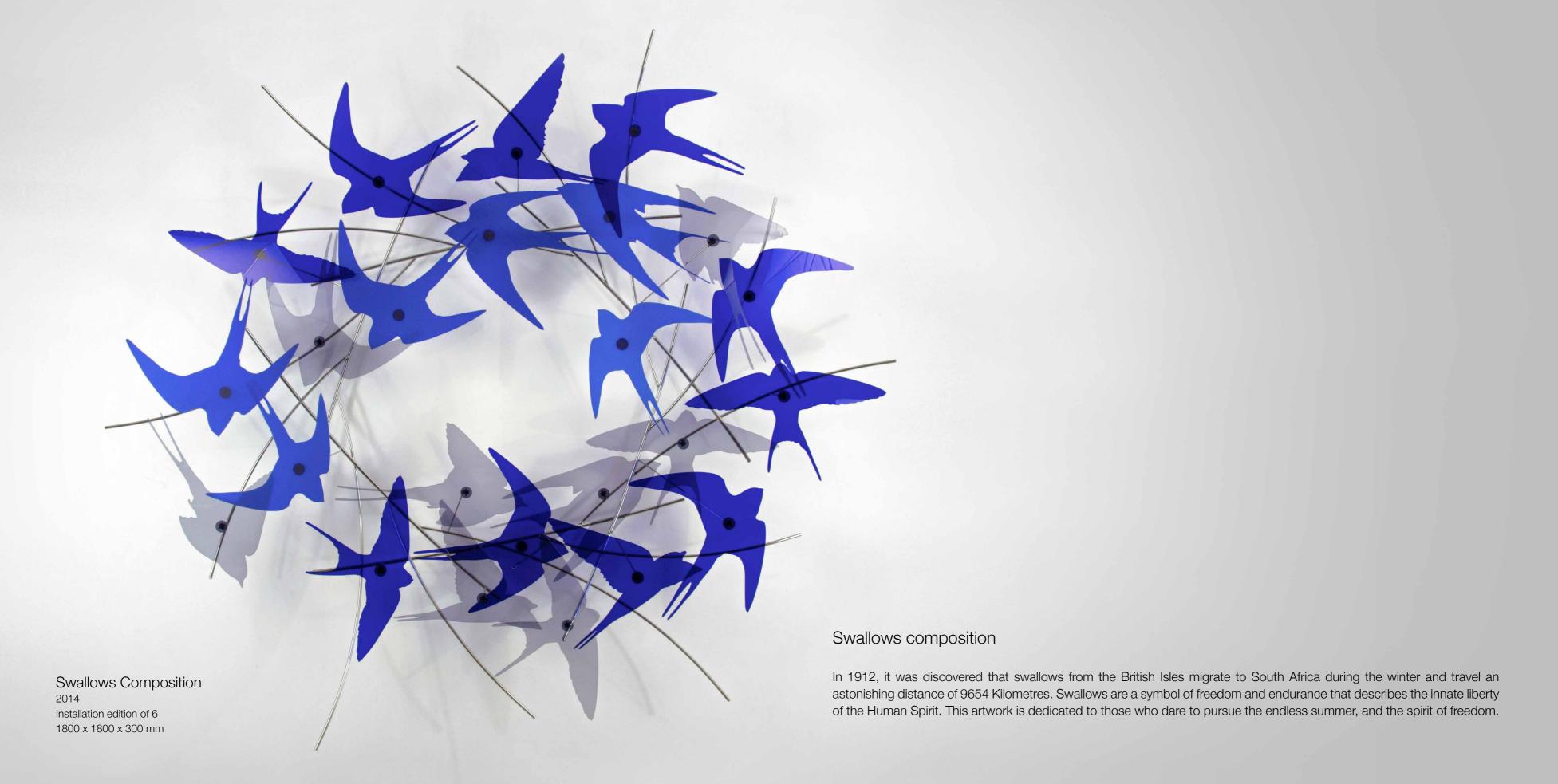
The profound potential that is contained in a tiny seed is personified in the "Seed of man" sculpture. The unseen potential of a human being never diminishes or increases. A young person has the same potential for growth as someone older, and the potential is endless.



Illumination

A ballet dancer is suspended in a pirouette, poised on the edge of her balance as her upper body is blurred by her motion. Self-awareness and our ability for abstract thought, has brought about incredibly diverse cultural expression. Great symphonies, ballet, poetry and art are but a few of the examples of human illumination.

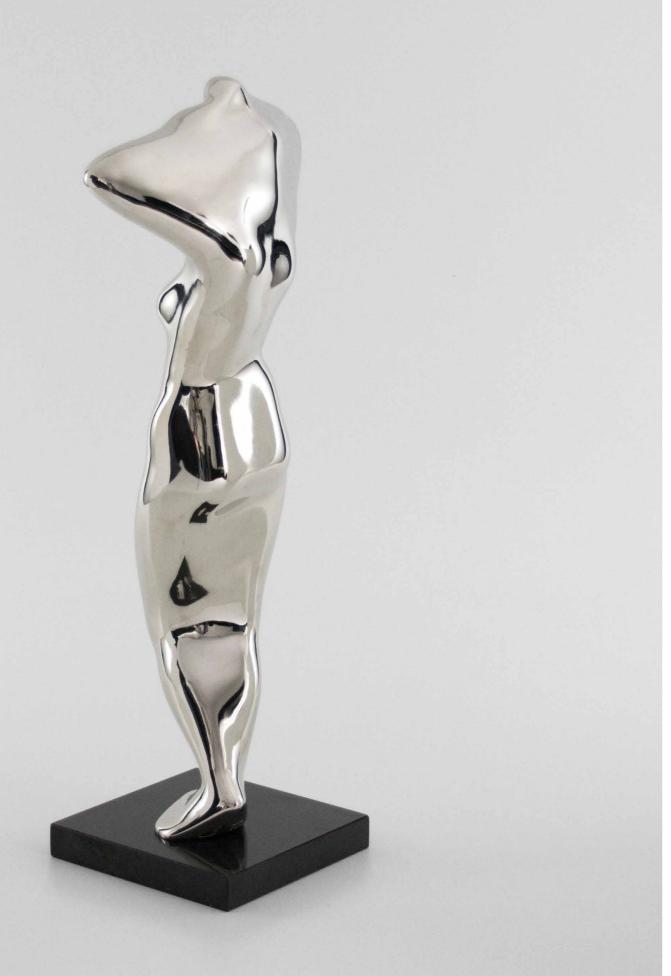
Maquette 2014 Bronze edition of 12





Reclining Figure - Black

Maquette
2010
Bronze edition of 12
250 x 420 x 180 mm



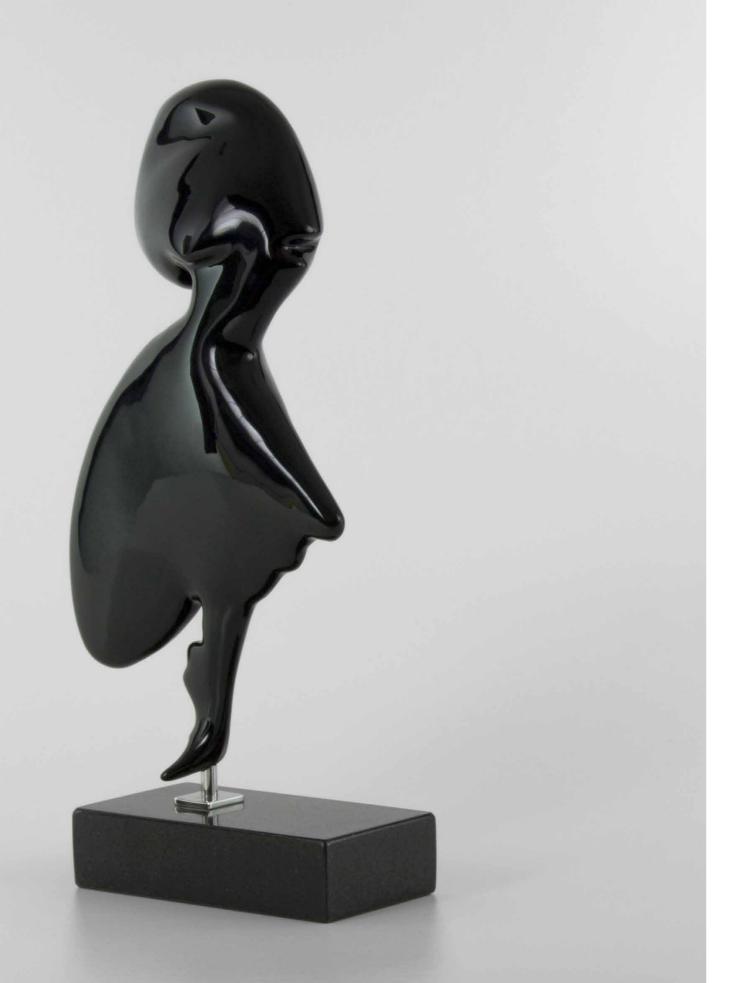
Modern Venus - Nickel plated

Maquette
2011

Bronze edition of 6
680 x 280 x 180 mm

Modern Venus

The "Modern Venus" is a simplified female figure, standing in a classical contrapposto position widely associated with the beauty and allure of a young woman. The image of her beauty is etched into the consciousness of mankind through the sheer virtue of repetition, the artwork aims to convey the innate beauty humans possess.



Ascend - Black Maquette 2010 Bronze edition of 12 480 x 240 x 100 mm

Ascend

This piece from the 'anamorphic series', embodies the duality of human nature. Its multiple figures create the illusion of transforming from a standing to a leaping figure and embodies the human virtue of adaptation. The ability to adapt and survive has endowed human beings with the endurance to overcome the harshest environments and most relentless circumstances.



Heart of Gold 2014 24-Karat gold plated Bronze edition of 12 250 x 110 x 95 mm

Heart of Gold The human heart is the seat of compassion, beauty and love. It can feel things the eye cannot see, and can know things that

the mind cannot understand.

To live by the heart is to live by

compassion, beauty and love.







Icons

The icon series explores our common human affinity with fertility, birth and the mother figure. Derived from the form of ancient fertility relics, these pieces describe human evolution, from our carnal origins to our civilized and finally advanced society.

left:

Modern Icon - Nickel plated
Maquette
Bronze edition of 12
350 x 100 x 100 x mm

Middle

African Icon - Nickel plated
Maquette
Bronze edition of 12
350 x 100 x 100 x mm

Righ

Angular Icon - Nickel plated
Maquette
Bronze edition of 12
360 x 100 x 100 x mm

Businessmen and Strippers

Regardless of how advanced human beings become as a species, we are all still governed by our most primal instincts and desires. Food, shelter and an adequate mate are what drives much of our decision making at a subconscious level and permeates all aspects of our lives including business and pleasure.



Businessmen and Strippers 2014 Installation edition of 6 1900 x 1450 x 180 mm



The Standing Man

Human capacity for abstract thought is transforming the face of mankind as it emerges as a technologically advanced race.

The Standing Man 2014 Bronze edition of 6 980 x 350 x 250 mm



Leap of Faith

Inspired by the "motion studies" of Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), History of a Jump (1885). As if in slow motion, the figure appears at the departure point and arrival point at the same time. The leap of faith refers to the faith in an outcome, as if you can already see it, enabling one to make the leap.





Death and Belief Installation - edition of 6 1300 x 800 x 50 mm

2014

Death and Belief

Humans have always been fascinated with the idea of death and rebirth. All cultures have beliefs that deal with the topic of death and eternal or renewed life. There are intricate ceremonies honouring the passing of loved ones and entire belief systems constructed around the certitude of the afterlife. Death and belief are intrinsically connected in the conciousness of human kind, and form part of our understanding that death ultimately holds the promise of new life, like a seed growing from a fallen fruit.

André Stead

Born in Evander, 1975. Lives and works in Cape Town.

Qualifications and awards

2007 Eight years at the Bronze Age Art Foundry, Simon's Town
1997 Metal forging tuition, John Allesandri, Cape Town
1995 Graphic design course, Gunther Komnick, Cape Town
1994 Goldsmith apprenticeship, Pretoria
1993 Pro Arte School of Arts, Distinction with colours for Art, Pretoria
1991 Merit award, Iscor Art Competition, Iscor Permanent Art Collection,

Selected Exhibitions and Commissions

2014

Murmuration, Corporate commission, Delaire Graff Wine Estate, Stellenbosch

Woordfees 2014, Group exhibition, P J Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch Cape Town Art Fair, Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

The Fountain of youth, Private commission, Oxford, United Kingdom The Wall of Words, Corporate commission, Oxford, United Kingdom

2013

Koi Fish Installation, Private commission, Singapore Cape Town Art Fair, Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

National Heritage Project Company Commission Elemental man, Solo exhibition, Knysna Fine Art Gallery, Knysna Woordfees 2013, Group exhibition, P J Olivier Art Centre, Stellenbosch

2012

Summer, Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town Young Minds Charity Fund Raiser, st. Lorient, Pretoria Illumination, Solo exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town Oxford Swallows, Private commission, Oxford, United Kingdom

2011

Flight of the Swallows, Corporate commission, Delaire Graff Wine Estate, Stellenbosch
Evolution, Solo exhibition, Is Art Gallery, Franschhoek
Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art, Cape Town
Group exhibition, Dawid's Choice Gallery, Johannesburg

Roodt Inc, group exhibition, Dawid's Choice Gallery, Johannesburg

2010

Group exhibition, Dimitrov Art Gallery, Dullstroom Rooftop exhibition, group show, St. Loriant, Pretoria Group exhibition, The Upper Deck Gallery, Plettenberg Bay Group exhibition, Christopher Møller Art Gallery, Cape Town

2009

Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Johannesburg Identity, group exhibition, Platform on 18th Gallery, Pretoria Figures, solo exhibition, Northcliff, Johannesburg Female series launch, Grande Provence Heritage Wine Estate, CTICC

2008

Angels, group exhibition, Grande Provence Gallery, Franschhoek Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town Medallions, Corporate Commission, Burj Khalifa Development, Dubai

2006

Corporate commission, Graham Beck Wine Estate, Franschhoek Group exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture House, Cape Town

2000 - 2005

Group exhibition, Seidelberg Wine Estate, Paarl Miniatures, group exhibition, Bronze Age Sculpture house, Cape Town Board of Executors, Corporate commission, Cape Town Group exhibition, Vineyard Gallery, Cape Town

1999

Group exhibition, The Christie Gallery, Cape Town Group exhibition, Everard Read Gallery, Cape Town

1998

Wooden figures, Solo exhibition, Novalis Institute, Cape Town Sanlam Restoration - Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Cape Town Group exhibition, Association for visual arts, Cape Town

1997

Sanlam Literary Award, Corporate commission, Sanlam, Grahamstown Group exhibition, Primart Gallery, Cape Town



Collections

National Heritage Project Company
Bernard Fontannaz
Laurence Graff
Willy Woestyn
Johnny Walker Stride Awards
Graham Beck Estates
Board of Executives
Hal Shaper
Sanlam
Iscor



The Christopher Møller Art Gallery

www.christophermollerart.co.za