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 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 exhibitions 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, and have positioned him as a notable voice among emerging contemporary artists. His innovative exploration of consciousness has earned him residencies at the Villa-Legodi Centre for Sculpture and Quartier am Hafen in Cologne.

In 2025, Claassen undertook the Tyburn Foundation Affiliated Fellowship at Civitella Ranieri, deepening his engagement with painting through focused studio inquiry. In February 2026, Claassen presented in *Grammar of Belonging* at THK Gallery and the Cape Town Art Fair. He also participated in an exhibition titled I *Find You All Around Me* at the THK Gallery in June of 2026. Looking ahead, Classen will be in group show taking place in December at the THK Gallery in Cape Town.





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

Residencies

2025
Tyburn Fellow, Civitella Ranieri, Umbria, Italy

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

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

2026
I Find You All Around Me, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
A Grammar of Belonging, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2025
Quiet Grounds, Tyburn Foundation at PIASA, Paris, France
Solstice I + II, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1-54 London, THK Gallery, United Kingdom
Investec Cape Town Art Fair, THK Gallery, South Africa

2024
Light + Space II, THK Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
1-54 London, THK Gallery, United Kingdom
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Waterhouse Natural Scienze 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
1-54 London, THK Gallery, United Kingdom
Enter Art Fair, THK Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark

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