



STEFAN SMIT

ARTIST

Perhaps the inheritance of any growing industrial society, optimistically measured in expansive concrete infrastructure and sparkling designer skyscrapers, carries a more sinister cultural significance - an erosive force that seems to be the omnipresent shadow cast by rapid urbanisation.

How is it that with the explosion of urban populations, contained in ever-more minimalist congestion, our connection to one another dwindles, our alienation and isolation grow, and we are left feeling alone in crowded spaces?

Questions like this were the swell behind the wave of artistic production that lead to this body of work. Each of the pieces on this show provide a lens, a window through which the viewer is invited to peer, anonymously and covertly into the private experiences of someone, adrift in the tumultuous wash of metropolitan mayhem. Unlike the screens of our technology, the canvas allows us uncensored access to the protagonist, unaware of our presence, caught in moments of introspection, disorientation or yearning.

The imposing character of the urban environment looms in the background, at times ominous, but often simply vast and impersonal, it is somehow culpable for the tares in the fabric of a once connected human community and at other times, offering us a sense of comfort through familiarity. The daylight ghosts of passers by leave only whispered traces in a society where sidewalk etiquette excuses us from human interaction. We are small, self-absorbed universes, messily compacted into individual bodies - branded packages yearning for connection as we slip silently by in the no-man's land of the city-scape.

"I approach my subjects in such a way as to comment and observe how our surroundings are sometimes more familiar to us than the people who inhabit them." - Smit

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● 'MURMUR'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
1400mm X 550mm

R16 000.00

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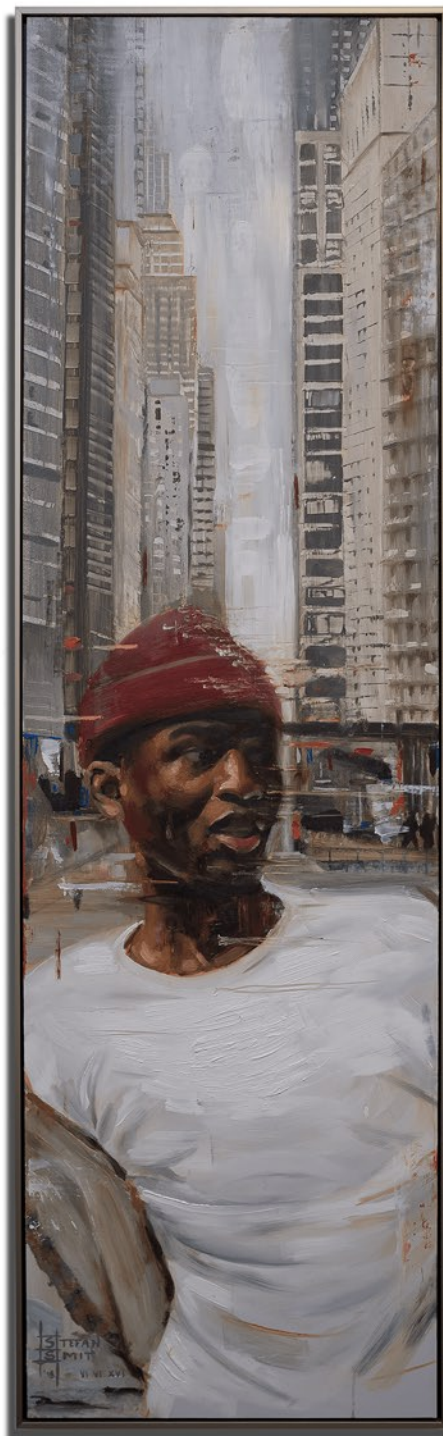
● 'IMPASSE / BYPASS'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
1400mm X 550mm

R16 000.00

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Alone in a crowd, the scenes we are covertly witnessing from beyond the canvas, speak to disconnection in a community too large and sprawling to care for it's microcosm.

'CURB' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
325mm X 1100mm

R12 000.00

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'HEAD IN THE CLOUDS' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
325mm X 1100mm

R12 000.00

These arrested moments of silence and introspection stand testament to the alienation that is a fallout of the chaos of congested metropolitan living.

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● 'GROUND GAZING'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
1400mm X 550mm

R16 000.00

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● 'TERMINAL'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
1400mm X 550mm

R16 000.00

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'LOOK FOR ME ●
(near the rivers and the
streams, though my body
dwells in concrete my mind
resides in dreams'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
325mm X 1100mm

R12 000.00

Adrift in the swirling rush of
big city life, Smit's
protagonists attempt to
anchor themselves in a
world of constant flux.

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In the complex narratives woven into the rich surfaces of his artworks, the city occupies an enigmatic role as both antagonist and silent, anonymous spectator.

'ASUNDER' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
325mm X 1100mm

R12 000,00

STEFAN SMIT

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'BYPASS'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
170mm X 440mm

R4 000.00

(left)

'SKYSCRAPER' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
170mm X 440mm

R4 000.00

(middle)

'PEOPLE WATCHING'

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
170mm X 440mm

R4 000.00

(right)

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'OCCUPY' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
440mm X 170mm

R4 000.00

(top)



'CONNECT' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
440mm X 170mm

R4 000.00

(middle)



'SIDESTEP' ●

OIL ON ARCHIVAL PANEL
440mm X 170mm

R4 000.00

(bottom)



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CURB

**Thank you for taking the time to look
through my latest catalogue of work.**

If you would like to purchase any of the pieces,
please get in touch with me - art@stefansmit.co.za
All artwork includes framing plus delivery and
installation (within the Johannesburg area.)

Special thanks to Gary Mockler, Vanessa Partington,
Natalie Boyce, Megan Theunissen, Natalie Propa,
The Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, Argyris Papageorgiou,
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