



# NELSON MANDELA

Pure Mind – Rare Vision –  
Eternal Spirit



Cape Town, July 18  
Nelson Mandela International Day

An Art Project by Tom Rucker

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## FOREWORD

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Horst Seehofer

Bavaria maintains outstanding relations with South Africa and its partner provinces of Gauteng and Western Cape. The contacts with the Western Cape Province are especially intensive and fruitful. This was proved, not least, by the “Bavaria Meets Western Cape Expo 2010” in Cape Town where the State

of Bavaria presented itself to its friends in South Africa during the 2010 World Cup. My trip to South Africa in September 2010 has reaffirmed the great importance that South Africa has for us in Bavaria.

South Africa has experienced a remarkable development over the past two decades. With great interest and sympathy, we are following its economic upswing and its path to a democratic and free society overcoming the boundaries of race and religion.

This is also why we have the greatest respect for Nelson Mandela, the father of modern South Africa. With his extraordinary visionary power and charismatic character, as well as his globally respected commitment to human rights, he is undoubtedly one of the greatest political personalities of our age.

I am pleased that the art project “Nelson Mandela: Pure Mind – Rare Vision – Eternal Spirit” is once again underscoring Bavaria’s friendly relations with South Africa.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a long horizontal line and a cursive 'Seehofer'.

**Horst Seehofer**

Minister-President of Bavaria

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## BAVARIA WESTERN CAPE PARTNERSHIP

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The bilateral relations between Bavaria and the Western Cape started in 1995 with the first Protocol signed by the Premier of the Western Cape and the Minister-President of Bavaria. Since then the cooperation has developed and expanded to many fields of government, various community projects and the economy. In June 2010, during the Fifa World Cup in South Africa, the 15th anniversary of the partnership was celebrated with the Bavaria meets Western Cape Expo 2010 in Cape Town. Minister-President Horst Seehofer also visited the Western Cape later in 2010 and Premier Helen Zille paid an official visit to Bavaria in September 2011.



Bavarian Minister-President Horst Seehofer being greeted by Western Cape Premier Helen Zille in Cape Town on the occasion of the Fifth Regional Leaders Forum in September 2010.

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In view of the scope and intensity of the bilateral relations it was decided to form a Joint Working Group that meets once a year alternating between Cape Town and Munich. The first meeting took place in Munich in June 2011 and the next meeting would be in Cape Town in February 2013.

It is the first time in the 17 years of the partnership that a project such as the unveiling of the Mandela sculpture is undertaken. The sculpture was unveiled in Cape Town by Premier Helen Zille.

It is a special tribute flowing from this successful partnership between Bavaria and Western Cape to Mr Mandela on his birthday on 18 July 2012.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

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Tom Rucker was born in 1970 in Munich, the 4<sup>th</sup> generation of a well established goldsmiths' family. Following this long tradition he graduated in 1995 as a master goldsmith.



Tom Rucker inspecting the silicone mould provided by Wacker Chemie used by the manufacturer Meissen to create the porcelain section of the sculpture

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As the pioneer of laser welding, in 1997 Tom was appointed by the Faculty of Art and Design at the University of Central England in Birmingham to set up the well known course Creative Laser Welding Techniques. This was the first course in the UK to introduce this new technique. Since 1995 Tom has been acknowledged as an artist working mainly in platinum and diamonds, originating from South Africa. Over the last 17 years he has established his name internationally with large jewellery pieces and objets d'art using state-of-the-art laser welding technology and is globally recognized as being one of the most influential platinum jewellery designers of his time.

Over the last few years Tom has received many awards such as: three Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council Awards, the prestigious German Benvenuto Cellini Gold Medal for the highest standard of excellence in jewellery design and manufacturing, the Lonmin Design Innovation Award three times, the Prix Arctica from the University of Lapland, many recognitions from the Tokyo International Pearl Design Contest, a special honour from the Japanese Government and many more.

For further information please contact the artist: [hello@tomrucker.co.uk](mailto:hello@tomrucker.co.uk) – [www.tomrucker.co.uk](http://www.tomrucker.co.uk)

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## GEO.2 – THE TECHNIQUE

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Tom drew his inspiration for creating large scale jewellery and objets d'art in a hollow, light but very strong structure from forms found in architecture and the aeronautical industry. Inspired by the American designer, architect and visionary Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895–1983), Tom's pioneering process creates light, gossamer woven platinum jewels and objets d'art.

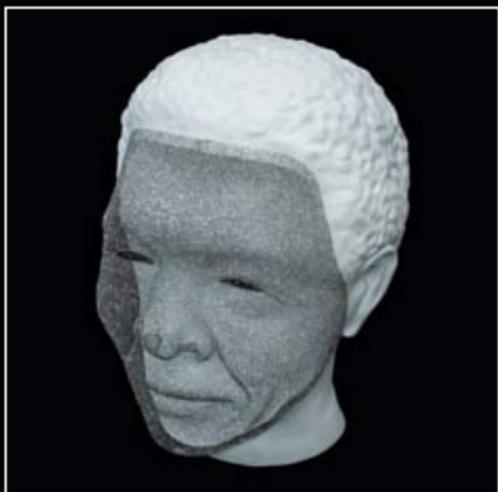
He laser welds ultra-fine platinum wire over a body shape that is then dissolved, leaving an intricate hollow cobweb-like structure that is strong, light and mesmerising in its luminous delicacy. Developed since 1995, Tom calls this painstaking process GEO.2. To manufacture this sculpture, hundreds of thousands of 0.2 mm ultra-fine platinum wire segments were laser welded into a geodesic structure using more than 1.9 million laser spot welds.



Tom Rucker working with his ALM 200, a state-of-the-art laser welding machine originally designed for industrial applications by Munich based company ALPHA LASER GmbH

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The arrangement of the individual platinum wire segments is not arbitrary: the angle of the joins, as well as the shape and size of each segment, is key in arriving at the final 3-dimensional appearance of the unique surface. Seeming almost alive, the entire work was made by hand under a microscope and no computerized process was involved in the manufacture.



### Sculpture Facts

Weight: 3.4 Kilos      Depth: 20.5 cm (8.2")  
Width: 18 cm (7.2")      Height: 28.5 cm (11.4")

Manufacture time: 14 months  
Laser welds: over 1.9 Million spot welds  
Laser equipment: ALPHA Laser ALM 200  
Hallmarked PLATINUM 950, London Assay Office

– Platinum from Rustenberg      – Black Rhodium  
– Black Diamonds from Kimberly      – White Meissen biscuit porcelain



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## THE PROJECT: TRIBUTE TO NELSON MANDELA

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Nelson Mandela has inspired millions of people in the world to live together in peace and freedom. He has dedicated his entire life through his active involvement in resolving conflicts, promoting human rights, international democracy and reconciliation, and in addressing racial issues. For his role as an anti-apartheid activist he spent 27 years in prison, mainly on Robben Island. In 1993 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. With the first free elections in 1994 marking the end of apartheid, Mandela was elected to become State President of South Africa. He stayed in office until 1999.



Nelson Mandela

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Nelson Mandela symbolises a Pure Mind, a Rare Vision and an Eternal Spirit.

### THE ARTIST WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

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### EDITORIAL NOTES

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