

Curricular Connections

Creating innovative educational experiences



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Wits Art Museum is home to an extraordinary collection of over 11 000 works of Sub-Saharan African art, including contemporary and historical pieces. Collected over eight decades, this collection is an unparalleled resource for academic research and teaching across disciplines, topics and themes. Through funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, WAM employs two Museum Research Associates who are available to provide additional information about the artworks, facilitate access to the collection and explore potential educational opportunities with you.

INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING USING REAL ARTWORKS

Lecturers can select works from the WAM collection to enhance, broaden or deepen the educational experiences of their students. In addition coursework can be designed around the existing exhibition programme in the WAM gallery spaces.

RESEARCH

The collection is available to instructors and students for independent research. Please make an appointment well in advance to select materials or works to ensure availability.

TOURS OF UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

This programme is provisional and subject to change. Please contact WAM to check details closer to time. Contact info.wam@wits.ac.za to book exhibition tours.

31 January – 9 July 2017

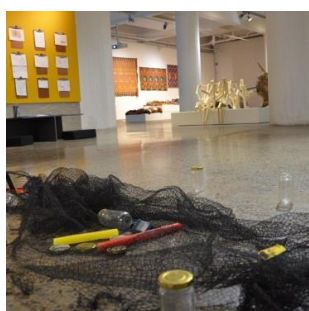
Lifescapes: Object biographies from Wits Art Museum (WAM)



Lifescapes is the product of an exciting collaboration between Wits History of Art staff and postgraduate students. Through the course, 'Writing Art's Histories', students select objects from WAM's collection, research the objects' biographies, then communicate their discoveries through the exhibition and an extensive publication. The collaboration results in students generating knowledge, honing critical thinking skills and participating in a transformative teaching practice. Artworks on display range from photographs by George Mahashe to work by Jane Alexander, Paul Stopforth and Nesta Nala.

21 February – 23 April 2017

Overtime: representations, values and imagined futures of 'classical African Art'



Using the museum's 'classical African Art' collection as inspiration, past and present WAM student staff explore various ways that African cultural material has been, is and can be represented, valued and imagined in the future. Central to the exhibition, is the idea of the cultural material from the collection having relevance and meaning across time. *Overtime*, is an exercise in collective reflection on the museum space and a (re)imagining of how the 'classical African Art' collection can be engaged and curated particularly from the perspective of young people who have worked with the collection.

14 March – 16 July 2017

Moses Tladi (1903-1959) – An exhibition



Moses Tladi, *No 1 Crown Mines*, mid 1920s. Oil on canvas board

This is an important historical exhibition of the work of Moses Tladi, a pioneer South African artist whose work is little known outside of a small circle. Following on from the ground-breaking exhibition at Iziko SANG in 2015, this exhibition features paintings, mostly landscapes from the 1930s and 1940s, which are drawn primarily from his family's collection. The exhibition presents a valuable opportunity to make Tladi's work known to a wider audience and to consider the historical and political context in which these landscapes were produced.

02 May - 25 June 2017

Michael MacGarry – Show No Pain: The collected film and video work of Michael MacGarry (1999-2017)



Show No Pain is a concise retrospective of selected film and video works by Michael MacGarry beginning with his student years in 1999 and charting a clear line through to 2015. The exhibition consists of ten key artworks. These are accompanied by supporting props and sculptures that manifest various forms of lens-based media across narrative cinema, multi-channel video installation, animation and experimental film. The exhibition is built around several recurring themes in the artist's filmic oeuvre: the interrogation of modern architecture; historical cinematic representations of Africa; man and landscape; notions of entropy and the concept of eternal recurrence.

04 July – November 2017

One Colour at a Time: Contemporary Screenprints

In June this year, WAM in collaboration with Artist Proof Studios and Prints on Paper will open an exhibit featuring various South African artists that have produced screenprints, in recent years. More details to follow.

25 July – 08 October 2017

Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop, Works From the Merrill Lynch Collection

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Merrill Lynch Collection

Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop, Works from the Merrill Lynch Collection is a major exhibition of more than 80 screen-prints by iconic American Pop artist, Andy Warhol. An uncommon departure from WAM's African art mission, Warhol's art provides a fascinating forum for reflection on our consumerist, celebrity obsessed and media dominated culture. Warhol blurred the boundaries between popular culture and high art, re-defined the notion of what it meant to be an artist and identified the defining cultural images of his time. Students can look forward to seeing some of Warhol's most famous images: celebrity portraits of Muhammed Ali and Marilyn Monroe, *Endangered Species*, *Flowers* series, and the *Myths* series. The exhibition is sponsored by Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd.

17 October 2017 – February 2018

Gideon Mendel: Drowning World

A photographic exhibition by well-known South African-born photographer Gideon Mendel, this series examines the impact of climate change on communities around the world. Following extreme floods, Mendel has visited many parts of the world, where he documents the monumental devastation global warming wreaks on people's lives. Says writer Gordon Glyn-Jones: 'The images, often featuring people waist-deep in water, have a peculiar stillness to them; whilst the subject's worlds have turned into a dystopian hell, they gaze out sedately as if posing for a traditional portrait.' Innovatively, Mendel seems to have knitted together the seemingly disparate roles of documentarist, portraitist and activist.

24 October – 08 February 2017

Masixole Feni's 'A drain on our dignity' (Winner Ernest Cole Award)

Masixole Feni was the 2015 winner of the Ernest Cole Award for his project – A Drain on Our Dignity. Feni, an activist photographer who also works for GroundUp, documenting social issues, won the award for focusing his camera on the lack of service delivery and the life of the marginalised. As he says, "I live at the back of an RDP house in Mfuleni on the Cape Flats. I experience issues like poor sanitation, access to clean water and the flooding first hand". Many of Apartheid's marginalised people remain neglected 21 years into democracy. The award is named in memory of photographer Ernest Cole who in the early 1960's showed black life under apartheid. The award enabled Feni to travel to an additional four townships to explore life and develop the exhibition (and accompanying book) that will be exhibited.

November 2017 (dates TBC)

NEWWORK 17

A show of the graduating Wits Fine Arts class.