MATER

ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE

14-16 OCTOBER

symposium / performances / exhibition

Cormac Cullinan John Parkington Tossie van Tonder Mbali Vilakazi Ibrahim Saleh Dylan McGarry Bruce Hewitson Brendhan Dickerson Virginia MacKenny Babatunde Abiodun Peter Johnston Jacqueline van Meygaarden Gina Ziervogel Kyla Davis Jean Brundrit Frege Merle O'Brien Fritha Langerman lan-Malcolm Rijsdijk Mwenya Kabwe Simon Max Bannister Pavitray Pillay Gillion Bosman Jaqueline Dommisse Joelle Chesselet Nadja Daehnke Green Campus Initiative



FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

18:00	Refreshments (Hiddingh Hall)
18:30	Welcome and introduction: John Parkington and Jay Pather.
18:45	Premiere performance: The End by Tossie van Tonder.
19:05	Opening address: Cormac Cullinan.
19:20	Poetry performance: Mbali Vilakazi.
19:25	Threshold exhibition introduction: Virginia MacKenny.
19:40	Threshold exhibition walkthrough (Michaelis Galleries)

20:00 Outdoor performance (kinetic fire-sculpture): *Complicit* by Brendhan Dickerson

20:15 Ends

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

08:30	Registration and tea / coffee (Hiddingh Hall)
09:00	Keynote address 1: Bruce Hewitson on climate processes. 30 min address, followed by discussion.

10:00 Keynote address 2: Virginia MacKenny. 30 min address, followed by discussion.

11:00 Tea / coffee

11:30 Panel 1: In search of a language. Babatunde Abiodun, Peter Johnston, Dylan McGarry, Jacqueline van Meygaarden, Mbali Vilakazi and Pavitray Pillay.

13:00 Lunch (provided)

14:00 Address and film screening: *The End* by Tossie van Tonder; respondent: Jaqueline Dommisse

15:00 Tea/coffee

15:15 Earth Forum workshop led by Dylan McGarry.

17:30 Ends

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

- 11:00 A conversation with Bolus exhibition walkabout (Michaelis Galleries). Optional.
- Brunch and Panel 2: Communicating the gravity of the subject: Getting word to the public. What are the uses of consciousness raising? Facts around positive shifts in behaviour and impact. Gina Ziervogel, Kyla Davis, Ibrahim Saleh, Jean Brundrit and Gillion Bosman.
- 13:30 Break
- 14:00 Panel 3: Engaging with the performing and creative arts curricula: Is there room for inclusion of climate change as content? Are there points of intersection and collaboration with the sciences? Ilona Frege, Merle O'Brien, Fritha Langerman, Ian-Malcolm Rijsdijk and Mwenya Kabwe.
- 15:30 Tea / coffee
- 16:00 The way forward, making networks and closing comments. Erik de Ridder, Caroline Wallington, Astrid Gebhardt, Dylan McGarry, John Parkington and Jay Pather.
- 17:00 Ends

Hot Water is presented in association with the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) at the University of Cape Town.



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THE END

Hiddingh Hall, Friday 14 October, 18:45 By Tossie van Tonder 1955-2011.

"The End is created as curve from heaven to the beyond, with a short, but rich interval on earth – a tidy feast of passion, a quality of doingness, perhaps two co-ordinated wings, a piece of satin, being bound and dragged by labour, compassion, wine and granite, a body between fire and its air, a prayer, a study, tricks!, a necessity, bewilderment, fallibility, a yawn...countless earthy, humane matters - where things are totally empty and totally full."

Tossie van Tonder

With thanks to GIPCA for the opportunity for this creative ensemble to explore dance, videography and theatre as work in progress.

Director: Clinton Osborn; Videographers: Joëlle Chesselet and Nicola Visser; Video mixer: Matthew Kalil; Costumes: Helen de Leeuw and Gaynor Young; Dancer: Tossie van Tonder 1955-2011

POETRY PERFORMANCE

Hiddingh Hall, Friday 14 October, 19:20 By Mbali Vilakazi.

"In our conversations and in our attempts to respond to this new challenge of our times,

it is important to remember that this work is about people.

There are the overarching narratives, and there are the people trying to live their lives within them.

They matter. People like 18 year old Noloyiso Mthana from Luyoloville, Gugulethu.

Central to our search for a new language is this reminder:

The ordinary, the everyday and the most vulnerable amongst us."

Mbali Vilakazi

COMPLICIT

Hiddingh Campus (outdoor performance), Friday 14 October, 20:00 Kinetic fire-sculpture by Brendhan Dickerson.

"For me the tragedy of polar bears becoming exhausted and drowning, while swimming around looking for a chunk of ice to climb onto, has become iconic of the climate change crisis.

A larger than life-size, fully articulated swimming polar bear fire-sculpture, weaving back and forth along a cable, 6m overhead. Paddling desperately, looking for a chunk of ice - burning up, burning out, fading out and dying. The kinetic polar bear fire-sculpture is operated by two hooded puppeteers (reminiscent in their protective leather hoods, of medieval executioners). On the ground, like a Greek chorus, just outside the puppeteer's field of movement, an array of singing kettles are set to boil on gas rings. As the bear burns down, the kettles begin to emit an ever-increasing cacophonous whistling - piercing and irritating - intended to evoke a sense of alarm, of impending catastrophe."

Brendhan Dickerson

EARTH FORUM

Hiddingh Campus / The Company's Gardens (outdoor workshop), Saturday 15 October, 15:15 Led by Dylan McGarry.

"Earth Forum is a stimulating and productive way of working in small groups to explore how we live together on this planet. It is a process in which everyone and anyone can participate, but is also unique because it is not just another talk shop. Earth Forum has developed a process of creative thinking and exchange that is not only inspiring, but enables us to go beyond just swapping opinions, argument and debate. Negotiation is useless if we don't really understand what others are seeing and saying. Whether you are a farmer, governmental official, activist, scientist, entrepreneur, teacher, artist, learner, community leader, or any other citizen - Earth Forum is an opportunity to engage with others in your community or group, or those who come from completely different situations."

Dylan McGarry

HOT WATER: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE VISUAL ART

THRESHOLD

Michaelis Galleries (open from 10:00–14:00, Saturday 15 October and 10:00-12:00, Sunday 16 October; walkthrough Friday 14 October, 19:40) Curated by Virginia MacKenny.

Commissioned for *Hot Water*, *Threshold* is an exhibition of environmentally conscious art curated by 2011 Donald Gordon Creative Arts Award winner, Virginia MacKenny. This year COP17, the United Nations Earth Summit meeting on climate change, will be held in South Africa. Hosted in Durban in December, it is of vital importance that the country as a whole is aware of its concerns. Given the particularly susceptible Western Cape eco-system, it is here that South Africa will most feel the effects of climate change. Already warmer winters are threatening Elgin's apple crops and our unique fynbos floral heritage is under threat.

Threshold implies an upper limit to tolerance levels as climate change shifts the balance long established in ecosystems. This exhibition engages the premise that not only are the climatic conditions of the planet at a tipping point and happening dangerously fast, but that we need to enter into closer relationship with the earth, this place we call home. The exhibition is thus as much an invitation to greater visual acuity and witnessing or 'being present', as it is with environmental awareness and our custodianship of the planet. Threshold engages environmental change through the remaking of traditional genres such as landscape and flower painting. It presents work that calls viewers' attention to things often overlooked. Major South African artists such as Thomas Mulcaire, Jeremy Wafer, Lucas Thobejane, Gavin Younge, Lien Botha, Lyndi Sales and James Webb, plus younger emerging artists such as Claire Jorgenson, Nina Liebenberg and Daniella Mooney, are featured.

Threshold's opening on September 24, our National Heritage Day, also coincided with Global Moving Planet Day organised by 350.org – a day when artists and those who care for our environment around the planet protest the continued use of fossils fuels as unsustainable. While the environmental organisation Treading Lightly marched through the City of Cape Town. Michaelis students were engaged in intervention performances during this day.

A CONVERSATION WITH BOLUS: SCIENCE, SENSIBILITY, SENSUALITY

Michaelis Galleries (open from 10:00–14:00, Saturday 15 October and 10:00-12:00, Sunday 16 October; walkabout Sunday 16 October; 11:00) Curated by Nadja Daehnke.

The year 2011 sees the centenary of the world-renown and scientifically important Bolus Herbarium, housed in the UCT Botany Department. Harry Bolus (1834 – 1911), an amateur botanist, devoted much of his life to finding, classifying and cataloguing the flora of the Western Cape. On his death Bolus's type specimens of flora were bequeathed to the Bolus Herbarium, one of the largest herbaria in the Southern Hemisphere. Also bequeathed were a substantial library of botanical books dating back to the early 17th century, and a number of botanical illustrations and other non-botanical artworks linked to Harry Bolus, now all part of UCT collections.

A Conversation with Bolus: Science, sensibility, sensuality is an imaginary visual conversation with Harry Bolus, considering various approaches to his beloved subject-matters of the botanical and the aesthetic. The subtitle 'science, sensibility, sensuality' suggests three ways of seeing: the scientific gaze of collecting, taxonomy and recording; the sensibility of minute observations required by botanical artists; and sensuality/ sexuality which is often reflected through the symbolism of flowers. Forming part of the exhibition is the painting The Doors of Mercy, a Pre-Raphaelite work by Sir Arthur Hughes. This remarkable piece, purchased by a public subscription organized by Harry Bolus, speaks about a typically Victorian urge for sensual (in this case religious) excess. The Doors of Mercy is one of the most unique pieces in the UCT art collections and forms a remarkable contrast to the scientific images included in the exhibition in the form of books and scientific botanical documents from the 18th to 20th centuries. Contemporary painting and photography also plays off the scientific manuscripts and herbarium type specimen folders, some of which date back to the early19th century.

Threshold, Complicit and A Conversation with Bolus are presented in association with the Michaelis Galleries.



LEVIATHANHiddingh Hall
By Simon Max Bannister.

From the series *Plastikos*, 2011, Reclaimed polyethylene plastic, 1.86m x 0.4m x 1m.

"This mythological creature has been brought to life once again in the form of reclaimed plastic, representing the ignorance of the pollution in the abyss of the high seas - an enemy of humankind, endowed with supernatural powers to inflict the waters of chaos. It is the beast that waits to test the hero's will, an obstacle that must be confronted and overcome. It is the protector of the infinite source, a carrier of the Son's fire and must be slain in order to attain true realization from the dark waters of the subconscious."

HOT WATER: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE PARTICIPANTS



BABATUNDE ABIODUN

Dr Babatunde J. Abiodun is a lecturer at the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Cape Town. Before joining UCT in 2008, he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Iowa State University (USA), and taught several undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Meteorology and Climatology at the Federal University of Technology Akure (Nigeria). He is a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher, with research interests in the development and application of atmospheric models to study climate. His research has been published in several international journals and he is a lead author in the International Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report 5 (IPCC AR5).



SIMON MAX BANNISTER

Simon Max Bannister has been hunting plastic litter for three years. His search has taken him from the streets of Johannesburg, down the rivers and coastlines of South Africa, into the open ocean. Earlier this year he joined a research vessel to sail across the South Atlantic to find the island of Plastikos. He has returned to share his insights, by using the menace as the medium.



JEAN BRUNDRIT

Jean Brundrit lectures Photography at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. As a visual artist, she has participated in exhibitions both locally and internationally. Her research focus is identity and lesbian sexuality in South Africa, however she also has an interest in rapid climate change, how this could be represented and the future of the planet.



GILLION BOSMAN

Gillion Bosman spent the majority of his formative years working as an activist for social change Cape Town. He was selected as an Anti-Racism and Human Rights Ambassador for the Unboxed Programme, where he established a community project on stereotypes. Bosman studied political science at the University of Cape Town and is the British Council's project manager for the COPART project.



JOELLE CHESSELET

Joëlle Chesselet has made films in South Africa since the 1980s. Besides being a producer and editor for foreign media, she collaborated with Lloyd Ross (Shifty Music) and cameraman Craig Matthew on numerous music videos. She has collaborated with Warrick Swinney (Kalahari Surfers), artists Wayne Barker, Beezy Bailey and Maria Van Rooyen, and choreographer Tossie van Tonder - whose audio-visual archive (spanning thirty years of her journey as a dancer) she has consolidated. Chesselet has won many awards for her documentary films such as *This crazy thing called Grace*, *Ochre and Water* and *Mercury – an Island Diary*.



CORMAC CULLINAN

Cormac Cullinan is a practising environmental attorney and author. He is a director of leading South African environmental law firm, Cullinan & Associates Inc, and Chief Executive Officer of EnAct International, an environmental governance consultancy. A former anti-apartheid activist and a London-based commercial lawyer, he has practised, taught and written about environmental law and policy since 1992, and has worked in more than 20 countries. In 2008 he was listed among the world's most extraordinary environmental champions in *Planet Savers: 301 Extraordinary Environmentalists*, which lists 301 people in history to be commended for their role in saving and conserving the environment and promoting sustainable governance.



NADJA DAEHNKE

Nadja Daehnke holds Master degrees in Fine Art and in Art History, both with distinction, from the University of Cape Town and has exhibited nationally and internationally. She is the Curator of the Michaelis Galleries, UCT, previous to which she was Curator of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture at the Iziko South African National Gallery. She has taught Painting, Visual Literacy and Art History at various tertiary educational institutions.

HOT WATER: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE PARTICIPANTS



KYLA DAVIS

Kyla Davis is a director, performer, theatre practitioner and eco-socialist activist. After working as performer and devisor for eight years on international theatre collaborations in London, Bath, Austria, Greece, Italy and Malawi, she returned to Johannesburg and established the Well Worn Theatre Company, an NPO which aims to create new and exciting original works around the themes of climate change, sustainable development, social justice and "eco-consciousness". Davis was chosen as one of the *Mail & Guardian*'s '100 Women of 2010' and '200 Young People of 2011'; she is also the recipient of the Arts and Culture Trust's 2010 Impact Award for Theatre.



BRENDHAN DICKERSON

Brendhan Dickerson studied at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town, where he completed a Masters degree with distinction. His work often articulates wry social commentary or political satire. He draws material from the media and other popular culture - combining or distorting images in unexpected, startling ways - and takes great delight in kinetic and interactive sculpture, making works which invite some kind of physical interaction from the viewer. Dickerson is a passionate arts educator and has lectured at various tertiary institutions; he was also the product developer and project co-ordinator at Montebello Designs Centre's Working from Waste skills development program.



JAQUELINE DOMMISSE

As theatre maker and director, Jaqueline Dommisse is a passionate storyteller with an eclectic style, using whatever medium best serves the story she is currently driven to tell - from puppetry and circus skills, to dance and the spoken word. Dommisse is involved in community theatre and training, and served as the performing arts manager at CAP, then AMAC, a longstanding NGO with a history of resistance theatre. She is currently the Artistic Director of Hearts & Eyes Theatre Collective and is associated with UNIMA South Africa's Out The Box Festival - as Artistic Director in 2010 and currently on a curatorial level.



ILONA FREGE

Ilona Frege holds degrees in Drama from the University of Stellenbosch and Rhodes University. She was a founding member of The First Physical Theatre Company and still performs ad hoc - recently in Infecting the City and in Gerard Samuels' dance film, *Place of Grace*. Frege lectured in Movement and Dance for many years at the University of Stellenbosch and the University of the Witwatersrand. Currently, she lectures part-time in Choreographic Studies at the University of Cape Town, examines externally at various universities, and conducts choreographic consultancy.



BRUCE HEWITSON

Professor Bruce Hewitson is a climatologist based at the University of Cape Town since 1992. He is currently engaged in the Climate Systems Analysis research group in the Environmental Geographical Science Department. His research interests include climate modeling, climate change, and interesting analysis methodologies. Extended interests include appropriate technology for Africa and scientific capacity building.



PETER JOHNSTON

Dr Peter Johnston is a climate scientist at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on the applications and impacts of climate variability and change on various user sectors. He specialises in agriculture and water related activities with special emphasis on vulnerability and adaptation options. Johnston has worked closely with the Western Cape Government in developing a climate change vulnerability study and is also involved in the African Centre for Cities, looking at adaptation frameworks for both Cape Town and Johannesburg. His interests have taken him to many African countries to learn from, and contribute to, other water and agricultural adaptive practices.



MWENYA KABWE

Mwenya Kabwe is a Zambian born theatre maker currently living and working in Cape Town, with other home bases in New York and Lusaka. She is a lecturer and course co-ordinator in the Drama Department at the University of Cape Town. Kabwe is a recipient of various awards, including Fleur du Cap (2008) and Spier Contemporary (2007) awards.

HOT WATER: ART AND CLIMATE CHANGE PARTICIPANTS



FRITHA LANGERMAN

Fritha Langerman is an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town, teaching Printmaking and Drawing at the Michaelis School of Fine Art. Her research is of an interdisciplinary nature and research interests include curatorship, scientific representation of the body and the display and ordering of information. She has exhibited nationally and internationally, and has number of public commissioned works and installations in the Pharmacology, Pathology, Public Health and Chemistry Departments at UCT. Her awards include a Donald Gordon Creative Arts Award (2009) and the UCT Creative Works Award (2010).



VIRGINIA MACKENNY

Virginia MacKenny is an artist and Senior Lecturer in Painting at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town. She has received a number of awards including the Volkskas Atelier Award (1991), the Ampersand Fellowship in New York (2004) and a Donald Gordon Creative Arts Award (2011). She is an independent critic and curator and is often a selector/judge for national art competitions. A previous KZN editor for www.artthrob.co.za, she contributed to Sophie Perryer's 10 Years 100 Artists – Art in a Democratic South Africa (2004) and continues to write critically on South African contemporary art



DYLAN MCGARRY

Dylan McGarry is an environmental scientist, artist and recently a student in social sculpture. He is currently completing a split site PhD in Environmental Education and Art between the Environmental Learning Research Centre at Rhodes University and the Social Sculpture Research Unit at Oxford Brookes University. He was a volunteer co-ordinator and co-founder of COPART. McGarry now focuses his attention on a collaborative social sculpture project entitled Earth Forum. His research is mainly concerned with exploring the fields of social learning, reflexive justice, contemplative enquiry and social sculpture to develop learning practices that engage new approaches to ecological citizens.



MERLE O'BRIEN

Merle O'Brien is a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town School of Dance and the Graduate School of Business, exploring a transdisciplinary study into 'the dance of creativity'. She is a qualified futurist and Odissi danceuse who holds a MPhil Future Studies, BA Drama and is a Fellow and former President of the Institute for Public Relations and Communication Management of southern Africa (PRISA). O'Brien has won numerous awards in her 12 years of strategic marketing and communication consulting, and was named in the *Mail & Guardian's* 2010 book of South African Women for her contribution to science and education.



JOHN PARKINGTON

John Parkington is Emeritus Professor in the Archaeology Department at the University of Cape Town. He has taught Archaeology at UCT since 1966 and has been involved in a series of research projects, mostly in the Cape, that include excavations and the recording of rock paintings. His research interests are broad and include all aspects of the lives and behaviours of stone age San people and their evolutionary antecedents. He has published many papers and, recently, a series of books that describe the Rock Art and Coastal Archaeology of San hunter gatherers in the *Follow the San* series.



JAY PATHER

Jay Pather is a choreographer who has collaborated with visual artists, architects and urban planners since 1984, taking his inter-cultural performances into public spaces. He is Director of Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA), an Associate Professor at the University of Cape Town Drama Department, Artistic Director of Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre and Chairperson of the National Arts Festival Committee.



PAVITRAY PILLAY

Pavitray Pillay holds a a BSc in Zoology and Archaeology, Honours degree in Marine Biology and Masters degree in Fisheries Biology. She has worked for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, running the Southern African Network for Coastal & Oceanic Research (SANCOR), and also worked for a UNDP funded programme called BENEFIT as the Training and Capacity Development Officer for three countries (South Africa, Namibia and Angola). She is currently the science communicator at the Marine Research Institute (UCT), where she specialises in communication and outreach education of marine issues, and how global change is going to affect the oceans.



IBRAHEM SALEH

Dr Ibrahim Saleh is a Fulbright Scholar and convener of Political Communication at the University of Cape Town. He chairs the Journalism Research and Education Section and the Regionalisation and Membership Committee in the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). He is involved in the global partner organisation of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) Media Literacy Education Clearinghouse and is a member of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), the World Association of Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) and the World Journalism Education Council (WJEC).



IAN-MALCOLM RIJSDIJK

Dr Ian-Malcolm Rijsdijk lectures in the Centre for Film and Media Studies at the University of Cape Town. His PhD looked at history and myth in the films of Terrence Malick and he has published several articles and book chapters on Malick. His post-doctoral work includes eco-criticism and film and South African film. He has also written for the stage and television.



JACQUELINE VAN MEYGAARDEN

Documentary filmmaker and a visual theatre-maker Jacqueline van Meygaarden has been telling stories about climate change through her work for four years. Her company, Cosmos Productions, focuses on the intersection of social and environmental issues, and her aim is to develop thought-provoking and innovative ways of telling stories that affect some kind of change in viewers and audiences. She has received Commonwealth Vision Awards for her documentary films and has produced work in southern Africa, Madagascar, Poland and Cambodia. She also creates and directs visual theatre that combines puppetry, movement and video. Cosmos Productions has toured two climate change themed shows in South Africa.



TOSSIE VAN TONDER

"The thing I did for the longest time in my life is dance. I was sent to train, left the narrow disciplines, and now that I am old, unconcerned with the rules of steps, I am free. I also think deeply and write about dance and have the greatest respect for any dancer. Sometimes the higher realm of dance asks of me not to do a thing or to do the impossible. A dance is the simplest means of making actual what was potential without any exaggerated drama. Once one knows that one's dance does not show your power, but the power of the dance, it is easy to disappear."



MBALI VILAKAZI

Mbali Vilakazi is an award-winning poet, performer, radio producer, host, arts co-ordinator and creative facilitator based in Cape Town. Her practice is inspired and informed by the idea of 'the personal as political' and 'the body as intervention'. Particular areas of interest include trauma and silence, women, young people, memory and mythmaking. As both witness and participant, she works with the specific intent to render visible the most invisible parts of our conversations, our communities and our humanity. She believes that what is sacred is worth protecting.



GINA ZIERVOGEL

Dr Gina Ziervogel is a geographer by training, with 12 years of experience in the field of adaptation and vulnerability to global environmental change. She is a lecturer in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town. Ziervogel completed her PhD in Geography at the University of Oxford in 2002, after completing her BSc at the University of Cape Town and her Honours in Environmental Water Management at Rhodes University. She gets excited about finding moments where advances in climate science intersect with the daily lives of people – this event is one of those moments.

ABOUT GIPCA

The University of Cape Town's Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA) facilitates new collaborative and interdisciplinary creative research projects in the disciplines of Music, Dance, Fine Art, Drama, Creative Writing, Film and Media Studies. Interdisciplinarity is a key theme of the institute and projects are imbued with innovation, collaboration and dialogue with urbanism and community. GIPCA was launched in December 2008 with a substantial grant from Sir Donald Gordon, founder of Liberty Life.

For more information on the 2011 GIPCA programme, visit www.gipca.uct.ac.za, or contact 021 480 7156 / fin-gipca@uct.ac.za.

GIPCA Director: Associate Professor Jay Pather; GIPCA Project Manager: Adrienne van Eeden-Wharton; Chair of the GIPCA Board: Professor Paula Ensor.