

The Institute for Creative Arts (ICA, formerly GIPCA) presents the

3rd Space

Symposium

Decolonisation and the Creative Arts

13 - 14 MAY 14:00 - 21:00

UCT HIDDINGH HALL

Nelisiwe Xaba • Neo Muyanga • Sisonke Msimang
• Nomusa Makhubu • Mwenya Kabwe • Ilze Wolff •
Sikhumbuzo Makandula • Lieketso 'Dee' Mohoto
• jacki job • Lois Anguria • Koleka Putuma • Mike
Mavura • Khanyisile Mbongwa • Hedley Twidle •
Lesoko Seabe • Ntombethongo • Niklas Zimmer
• Jacques Mushaandja • Noncedo Gxekwa • Julia
Raynham • Nadia Davids • Chrisantha Chetty • Gita
Pather • Xolisa Guzula • Carolyn McKinney • Laurie
Sparham • Siona O'Connell • Nomalanga Mkhize

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www.gipca.uct.ac.za
+27 21 650 7156


institute for
creative arts

14:00 Panel: ***Heritage, History, Hybridity***

Koleka Putuma - *Africa, My Africa*.

A one woman spoken word performance that aims to expose the contradiction of the Kumbaya rhetoric through a poem (by the same title) that praises the soil and ancestors of 'Africa'.

Mwenya Kabwe and Lieketso 'Dee' Mohoto - *Astronautus Afrikanus*.

Kabwe and Mohoto engage with the destabilising of what is constituted as knowledge, who the knowers are and how this knowledge might be disseminated.

Ilze Wolff - *Unstitching Rex Trueform: Apartheid architectural modernities as sites of social imaginaries*.

Lois Anguria - *Hyphenated: Creative expression and the Ugandan diaspora*.

This paper explores notions of home, belonging, nation and nationalism and their interrelation with creative expression and creative industries.

jacki job - *Butoh: Lingerin between life, death and transformation in the arts*.

Applying the psychophysical training and philosophies of Butoh to creative processes, this presentation proposes the third space as an in-between, blurred space where cultural spheres overlap, creating identities that need not be coherent or complete.

Vasiki - Creative Citizens (Mike Mavura and Khanyisile Mbongwa) - *Impulses and practices 'from below': The fourth space as 'imagined'*.

Not concerned with moving or speaking to the centre, the fourth space is not an alternative space but exists in its own right. Possibly as 'illegitimate space', it is a space that exists not in relation to the centre but as a reflection of itself and its people, as Narcissus, as self-love-Uthandiwe!

15:30 Coffee / Tea

16:00 Discussion in roundtables

16:30 Feedback and questions from the audience

17:00 Speakers respond

17:30 Break and exhibition viewing: *Promises and Lies: The ANC in Exile*, an exhibition of photographs by **Laurie Sparham**, curated by **Siona O'Connell**.

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18:00 Refreshments

18:30 Introduction: **Nomusa Makhubu**
Welcome: **Sakhela Buhlungu** (Dean of Humanities, UCT)

18:45 Keynote: **Sisonke Msimang** - *The year the Egyptians dared survey France*. This address explores Edward Said's notion of Orientalism as a way to examine contemporary South African debates about identity and place. It looks at the crisis that ensues when - as is currently the case - the 'Egyptians' decide they will not be studied, assessed and catalogued by the French.

19:30 Performance: **Nelisiwe Xaba** - *Fremde Tänze*. In spring 2014 Xaba was invited to the Theater Freiburg, situated in the Black Forest in Southern Germany. During the residency, she created a dance evening based on the programmes of female dancers such as Mary Wigman and Sent M'Ahes who, in the 1900s, presented exoticised works. In *Fremde Tänze* (Foreign Dances), Xaba inverts the perspective and exoticises the Black Forest.

19:50 Film Screening: **Sikhumbuzo Makandula** - *Mission; Imagination in a Troubled Space; Part of the History*. Public history and memorialisation are explored in relation to public space and archives in a country still grappling with identity. Can the public space and archives of the St Michael and St George Cathedral in Grahamstown provide refuge for stories that may be unpopular, painful or malicious? Can archives offer contradictory or fragmentary accounts? These questions were triggered by the fact that Makandula was not given access to the Cathedral, resulting in the artist's use of guerilla tactics to navigate its interior space.

20:05 Keynote and Performance: **Neo Muyanga** - *'Revolting Music': A performative survey of the music that could have liberated South Africa*. Muyanga excavates the archived sounds of protest in South Africa during apartheid together with songs sung in the revolutionary camps of the underground liberation movements of the 1970s and 80s. In so doing, he highlights the complexity in this current moment where the same songs are instrumentalised by wholly incompatible social formations - the rulers, the opposition and the masses who are ruled - as expressions of authentic liberation and/or vehement repulsion.

14:00 Opening Comments: **Jay Pather**

14:10 Keynote Address: **Nomalanga Mkhize** - *Decolonising African languages: Centring iSintu in the pursuit of imaginative freedom.*

14:45 Panel: **Languaging**

Xolisa Guzula and Carolyn McKinney - *Language and languaging in South African universities: Translingual third spaces versus monolingual ideologies.* Anglonormativity ironically positions speakers who are monolingual as the ideal, while multilingual students are cast as linguistically deficient. Using the theoretical concept of 'linguistic third spaces', Guzula and McKinney examine debates around language in the student protest movement. Examples will be drawn from UCT (the founding of student newspaper *Vernac News*) and Stellenbosch University (the proposed changes to language policy).

Lesoko Seabe - *Performing the (un)inherited.*

Language, identity, performance and teaching voice in post-apartheid South Africa.

Hedley Twidle - *Convening and curriculum change: problems and possibilities.*

How may we divert ourselves from an output-fixated, technocratic institutional culture that rewards the privatisation of intellectual labour rather than the difficult, collective and sometimes invisible work of renewing our teaching and learning? What possibilities exist for playfulness, pleasure and creativity in our course structures and assessments to work with the vital archive of South African verbal expression rather than the dead language of (northern) Theory?

Nadia Davids - *'Reading While Black'.*

A series of reflections on how fiction and theatre are read and watched at the nexus of race, craft, the racial imaginary and identity politics.

15:45 Coffee / Tea

16:15 Panel: **Cultural Production**

Julia Raynham - *'The mood is rough and the sentiment is raw'.*

Raynham reflects on strategies for art practice that utilise decisive interventions, polemical and intimate critique, knowledge creation and knowledge production which propose a certain counterculture to the geopolitical status quo.

Gita Pather - *Value vs. value.*

Creative arts practitioners and academics have largely failed to engage with and challenge government policy. Strategies around creating, galvanising and strengthening the creative industries and the integrity of research methodologies

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make for highly contested territory. Despite the impact on the material realities in the arts, the debate on policy has repeatedly been a non-starter. What are the repercussions of this silence?

16:45 Discussion in roundtables / Feedback

17:15 Speakers respond

18:30 Refreshments

Art Installation: **Chrisantha Chetty** - *Cape Town Biryani*.

Chetty's installation consists of a performative video, a big pot of biryani (on a hot plate), a small pot of dhal, plates, serving spoons, three bowls of salads and printed copies of the biryani recipe, which includes a little information about the origin of the food. The video begins with the title: How to eat with your hands...

19:30 Performance: **Jacques Mushandja** - *Eenganga: Translations & Trance formation*.

An immersive body of work of personal narratives and other ethnographic material devised from consultations with black urban traditional healers in Windhoek, in search of a voice between performance and shamanism. The contemporary tensions and complexities of becoming a traditional healer are embodied in characters such as *Urban Shaman*, *Christian Pagan*, *Queer Shaman* and *Shamaniac*.

20:00 Music: **Ntombethongo**

As both a musician and traditional healer, Ntombethongo combines his spiritual healing practice with his musicality. He plays Umrhubhe, uHadi and a 12 string guitar in a contemporary re-imagining of maskanda that he calls 'Transkhanda' – a type of traditional trance music from the Transkei that draws on the folk musical styling of maskanda and trance. His style combines an innocently beautiful voice with evocative dance performed in a traditional beaded dress, with a mini skirt and high heels. He appears with his full band and performers.

Present throughout: Triptych photo installation by **Niklas Zimmer and Noncedo Gxekwa** - *We All Fall Down IV (Each Other)*.

In this artwork, Zimmer and Gxekwa combine photographs captured by three different cameras at the same time into a triptych. The central panel is a classical wide-angle, large format landscape composition that references notions of timelessness, while the side panels of loosely arranged, small images reference the fleetingness of personal 'snapshot' glimpses of the world (and one another). The artists appear and disappear as either traces or subjects, in two distinct photographic modalities: on the one hand as being mechanically *recorded*, and on the other as being individually *seen*.

PARTICIPANTS



LOIS ANGURIA

Lois Anguria is an artist based in Johannesburg whose work concerns diaspora communities and her own position as a second generation Ugandan in South Africa. Anguria completed her Masters in Fine Art at Wits in 2015, and was shortlisted for the Reinhold Cassirer Award. Her work has been included in a number of group exhibitions including *Copulative* (2012) and *Degrees of Separation* (2014).



CHRISANTHA CHETTY

Chrisantha Chetty completed her Honours in Fine Art at Wits in 2014. Her artistic practice involves working in various media including video, performance and spatial interventions. She is currently working towards her Masters in Art in the public sphere at Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais.



NADIA DAVIDS

Nadia Davids is an award-winning writer, theatre maker and scholar. Her plays, *At Her Feet* and *Cissie* have been staged locally and internationally. Her debut novel *An Imperfect Blessing* was shortlisted for the Pan-African Etisalat Prize for Literature. Davids has been a visiting scholar/artist at the University of California Berkley and at New York University. She lectures at Queen Mary University, London.



XOLISA GUZULA

Xolisa Guzula is a biliteracy teacher and community trainer, researcher, storyteller, author and translator of children's literature. She is one of the founders of the network of community literacy reading clubs emerging across South Africa. Her research focuses on children's translanguaging and multiliteracies practices.

PARTICIPANTS



NONCEDO GXEKWA

Noncedo Gxekwa is a photographer and fashion stylist. Her creative practice engages collaborative forms of photography, and the immediacy of avant-garde fashion. She has exhibited in many group exhibitions, including the Lovell Gallery Competition, and the Bonani group exhibition.



jackī job

jackī job is a theatre maker, director, choreographer, dancer and teacher. Her doctoral research at UCT interrogates how the application of Butoh principles in processes of dance practice could shift the perception of binary and external significations of identity to a more complex understanding of the nature of identity that is rooted in the body.



MWENYA KABWE

Mwenya Kabwe is a theatre maker, educator, performer and mother. She is local in parts of Johannesburg, Lusaka, Cape Town, Boston and New York, and lectures in the Theatre and Performance Division of the Wits School of Arts. She is interested in contemporary African performance, immersive theatre forms and the feminisation of migration.



SIKHUMBUZO MAKANDULA

Sikhumbuzo Makandula is a visual and performance artist, studying at Rhodes University, whose practice is concerned with critical investigations at the intersection of arts, politics and public space in post-apartheid South Africa.

PARTICIPANTS



NOMUSA MAKHUBU

Nomusa Makhubu is an art historian and award-winning artist. She is an American Council of Learned Societies fellow, chairperson of the Africa South Art Initiative and was a research fellow at the Omooba Yemisi Adedoyin Shyllon Art Foundation, Nigeria. Her current research focuses on African popular culture, photography, performance and socially engaged art. She lectures Art History at UCT.



CAROLYN MCKINNEY

Carolyn McKinney is Associate Professor at UCT's School of Education. Her research focuses on multilingualism in education, language policy and transformative pedagogies. Her book *Language and Power in Post-colonial Schooling: Ideologies in Practice* is forthcoming.



NOMALANGA MKHIZE

Nomalanga Mkhize is a history lecturer at Rhodes University. Her research interests are in land and agrarian questions, feminist Africinity and the Eastern Cape in the 19th century. She also writes children's stories in African languages.



LIEKETSO 'DEE' MOHOTO

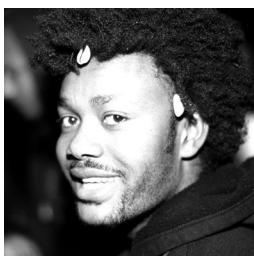
Lieketso 'Dee' Mohoto is a performer, academic, live sound/voice artist and a lecturer in the Drama Department and the University Currently Known as Rhodes (UCKAR). She has worked with Mwenya Kabwe as an experimental live sound artist in multiple productions including *Migritude* (2011) and *SUN* (2012).

PARTICIPANTS



SISONKE MSIMANG

Sisonke Msimang writes about race, power, sex and democracy. She contributes to local media, including a column for the Daily Maverick, and regular pieces in The Con and Africa As A Country, where she is a contributing editor. She has also written for the New York Times, the Guardian UK, and a range of other international media. Msimang recently completed her first book, a memoir about belonging and identity.



JACQUES MUSAANDJA

Jacques Mushaandja is a theatre maker, performer, writer and educator. His research bridges performance and curatorial praxis in African post-colonial identity, change, and healing formation.



NEO MUYANGA

Neo Muyanga was born in Soweto into a family of musicians and makers of the Mozambican Timbila (precursor to the marimba). He studied the Italian madrigal tradition with choral maestro, Piero Pocolen. Muyanga composes works for choir, chamber and large ensemble and continues to tour widely as a solo performer and as a member of Blk Sonshine. He is co-curator of the Pan African Space Station.



NTOMBETHONGO

Ntombethongo is a musician and traditional healer, born and raised in the Mthambalala village in the Eastern Cape. His musical career began in 1992, and he subsequently combined his healing skills with his musicality. Ntombethongo's debut album, *Thokozile*, won the South African Traditional Music Award for best isiXhosa album of 2012. He was also nominated for a South African Music Award in 2013.

PARTICIPANTS



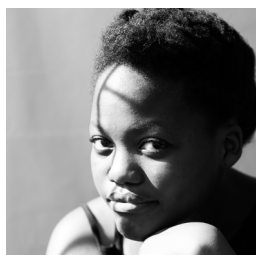
SIONA O'CONNELL

Siona O'Connell is the Director of the Centre for Curating the Archive at UCT. She is a Trilateral Reconnections Project Fellow and a Brown Internal Advanced Research Institute alumnus. Her work around archives and curation seeks to shift frames from aesthetics to restorative justice to open up questions around representation, freedom, trauma and memory in the aftermath of oppression.



GITA PATHER

Gita Pather is a cultural activist and Director of Wits Theatre. Her career has been multi-faceted, spanning the performing arts, television, arts policy, tertiary education, change management, marketing and communications strategy. She is known for her groundbreaking projects that have had a formative influence on arts and culture institutions and programmes in post-apartheid South Africa.



KOLEKA PUTUMA

Koleka Putuma is a performance poet, arts facilitator and theatre practitioner. She is creative director and resident poet of the collective, Lingua Franca and co-founder of theatre company, The Papercut Collective. Putuma was crowned South Africa's first national slam champion in 2014. She has been named One of Africa's Top 10 Poets by Badilisha and one of the young pioneers who took South Africa by storm in 2015 by the *Sunday Times*.



JULIA RAYNHAM

Julia Raynham is Resonance Bazar's managing director, currently developing the Joule City Incubator for entrepreneurial artists, software engineers and cultural brokers. She works across creative, cultural and curative sectors in diverse professions, which include performance artist, cultural researcher, diviner and director.

PARTICIPANTS



LESOKO SEABE

Lesoko Seabe is an actress, academic, voice artist, and part-time lecturer of Voice and Movement at UCT and City Varsity Drama Departments. Her practice explores embodied voice practices, dance making and ways of working with the body and the voice in space.

LAURIE SPARHAM

Laurie Sparham is an award-winning photographer who began his career as a photojournalist, and now specialises in cinema. Since the mid 1990s he has worked on over 50 feature films, and 20 television dramas – on productions as diverse as *The Queen*, *The Golden Compass* and *The King's Speech*.



HEDLEY TWIDLE

Hedley Twidle is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at UCT. His research interests include South African literature, history and performance culture; colonial, postcolonial and 'world' literatures; literary non-fiction, and the environmental humanities.



ILZE WOLFF

Ilze Wolff is an architect, writer, curator and co-director of Wolff Architects. In 2007 she co-founded Open House Architecture – a research practice concerned with documenting architecture of Southern Africa. She has taught at UCT and IUAV, Venice.

PARTICIPANTS



VASIKI – CREATIVE CITIZENS

Vasiki – Creative Citizens (Khanyisile Mbongwa and Mike Mavura) is a knowledge production and distribution collective that uses creative practices beyond aesthetics, but also as tools for civic activism and social engagement. Vasiki embodies creativity as a meeting point for engaging with social, political and economic issues, thereby placing creativity at the service of society.



NELISIWE XABA

Nelisiwe Xaba is an internationally acclaimed performer and choreographer whose vibrant career began in the early 1990s. Her range of work includes *Uncles and Angels*, *Black!...White?* and *The Venus in Venice* which was performed at the Venice Biennale in 2013. She has been involved in various multi-media projects, collaborating with visual artists, fashion designers, theatre directors, poets and musicians.



NIKLAS ZIMMER

Niklas Zimmer is an artist, academic and musician. For the last two decades he has been involved in many facets of the arts in Cape Town: as a teacher of theory and discourse of art and critical studies at secondary and tertiary institutions, as well as in his own practice in video, sound, performance and photography. His writing addresses questions around the archive, fine art and photography.

ABOUT ICA

The Institute for Creative Arts (ICA) is an interdisciplinary institute in the University of Cape Town's Humanities Faculty - formerly the Gordon Institute for Performing and Creative Arts (GIPCA). The ICA facilitates research projects in the creative and performing arts that disrupt boundaries, while underscoring creative education and practice across discipline and faculty. Interdisciplinarity, Live Art and Public Spheres are key themes of the Institute, and projects are imbued with innovation, collaboration and a dialogue with urbanism and community.