

Under the Dome

PROGRAMME

Welcome: Pippa Skotnes,
Director of the Centre for Curating the Archive.

Opening: Rooksana Omar,
CEO of Iziko Museums
of South Africa.

Fragments of an Untold History
Animortis

Cape Town's Checkerboard:
From slave ships to barber shops
Frequencies of a Birthmark

Inside Out

INTERVAL

Reflectance

Artists' Spaces

Diane

WRPD

Q&A with the filmmakers

Final comments and award (sponsored by the
Sutherland Planetarium): Lyndall Cain and Martin Wilson



Diane Tsa Borwa (Southern Proverbs)

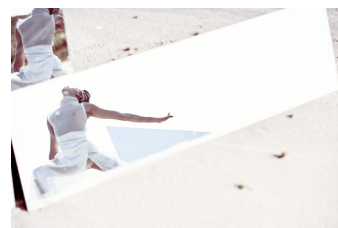
This is a collaborative experimental film by multimedia artist Ofentse Letebele (King Debs) and filmmaker Chris Grava born out of the creators' shared interests in technology, storytelling, and cultural expression. Grava works behind the lens, documenting the pensive movements of King Debs as he paints his cryptic calligraphy in an abandoned warehouse in an undisclosed Cape Town location. King Debs' self-developed calligraphy expresses traditional proverbs from various Bantu and Nguni languages of South Africa. By painting traditionally oral proverbs, King Debs archives and expresses indigenous knowledge that may otherwise be lost or forgotten. In doing so, he provides his own means to bring tradition into the modern era. By documenting this with 360 degree cameras and screening the content in immersive viewing spaces, the creators combine tradition and cutting-edge technology to (re)present indigenous knowledge in new ways.

Created by Ofentse Letebele (Kind Debs) and Chris Grava.



Fragments of an Untold History

This documentary was first proposed by Pippa Skotnes who imagined a story based on the thousands of buttons found in an excavation by Elizabeth Jordan of a site on Table Mountain where slaves had once washed clothes. Following initial discussions with Susan-Glanville-Zini, Theo Ferreira and Ofentse Letebele, the documentary *Fragments of an Untold History*, was realised in a dramatic poem written and narrated by Tracey "Khadija" Heeger and created by Cliff Bestall, Martin Wilson and Karen Ijumba, with sound by Warrick Swinney. It inspired the conception of the Under the Dome Festival, opening up new possibilities for creating local content for the Iziko planetarium.



WRPD

WRPD attempts at exaggerating the distorted visual effects of dome projection. This dance film uses movement to trace distortions of the physical form, placed against a surreal landscape. It is a visual exploration of reflection, refraction, duplication and deflection. The concept plays with perceptions of "from below looking up" versus "from above looking down", while the dancer's movements are designed to reflect this through duplication. By representing the human body through these multiplying frames, we assemble a strange, kaleidoscopic collage of the physical form. The resulting layers form a depiction of the human form as fragmented, architectural, juxtaposed... alien to its natural landscape.

Created by Louise Coetzer and Oscar O'Ryan.

Under the Dome

EXPERIMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

A project of the Centre for Curating the Archive
in collaboration with
Iziko Museums of South Africa

Under the Dome is an experimental film festival which showcases nine short films made specifically for Iziko's digital dome — a space traditionally reserved for astronomy. This project has been realised by Martin Wilson, Lyndall Cain, Ofentse Letebele, Theo Ferreira and Karen Ijumba.



Animortis

Animortis is a journey into the realm of death. In the expanding, contracting cosmic void, animal, bird and insect spirit-automata attempt to reclaim their mobility. Guardian consciousness from the Animalia kingdom keep a watchful eye out. This immersive film was created with found insect and roadkill corpses. It speaks to our collective fate and current ecological crisis. The abyss IS staring back at us.

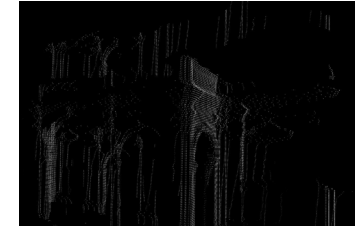
Created by Kali van der Merwe and Simon Dunckley aka KALCYFI.



Frequencies of a Birthmark

Frequencies of a Birthmark is a non-linear narrative film concerned with notions of diaspora and exile through the use of visual archives and found sound video from 1940 onwards. The film interrogates various temporalities of collecting and storing data which is seen as contentious and nebulous material. It attempts to refigure para-narrative forms of re-enacting history within a post-colonial gaze, through the exploration of a fictional character Godide who was the son of Ngungunyane in Gaza, now modern Mozambique. After Ngungunyane was overthrown by Portuguese troops, Godide accompanied his father into exile. The film explores Godide's return to the land of his birth place.

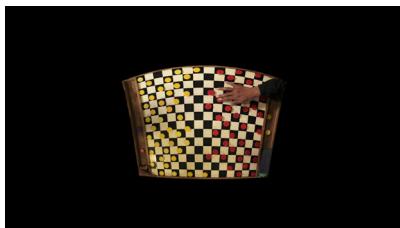
Created by Phumulani Ntuli.



Reflectance

If encounter always reduces to surface, and what lies beyond surface can only be relegated to abstraction, the act of perceiving abstraction as surface becomes recursive. *Reflectance* uses raw and manipulated lidar imagery projected into a 3D environment, combined with audio transcoded from these images, as a spatial investigation into abstraction and the way we construct and synthesise meaning from our encounters with surface, reflection and movement. In this historicising process we encounter the asemic as a type of hauntedness — a representing in 3D space of that which has neither conceptual position nor present, but jumps into being exactly because of that lack.

Created by Jason Stapleton and Jacques van Zyl.



Cape Town's Checkerboard: From slave ships to barber shops

This documentary film explores the history of the board game, Dumm, and, in so doing, tells a story of slavery and forced removals in Cape Town. It offers an opportunity to understand how cultural practices served to retain connections in communities under siege as a result of apartheid laws. The game is not only of historical significance. It draws attention to rethinking history and the resilience and tenacity of the racially oppressed.

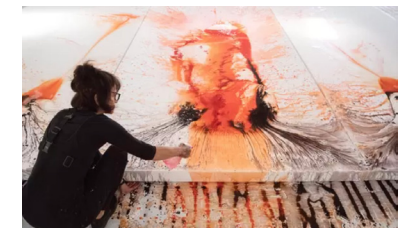
Created by Professor Siona O'Connell (director), Jade Nair (producer), Martin Wilson (editor), Adam Asmal and Moeneeb Dalwai (camera work).



Inside Out

Inside Out is an abstract journey exploring the relationship between the outside world and the inner world of the mind. We furnish our minds with the rich topography of what we see outside ourselves — but to what extent do our inner worlds affect the external world? The production challenges the assumption that this influence is unilateral. As the narrative unfolds, the boundary between outside and inside blurs until eventually they coalesce. Through projection of a constructed world, the experience potentiates the mind's propensity for projection of the psyche to expose the interdependence of the two realms.

Created by Adam Oosthuizen, Thom Dreyer, Ross Eyre and Ché Coelho.



Artists' Spaces

This is the first in a future series of 360 degree video documentaries looking at established artists and their studios. Artists' studio spaces have always been a source of intrigue for art collectors, art patrons and gallery visitors — seen as spaces of creativity wherein artists generate their artwork: spaces full of ideas, potential and passionate energy. This video showcases the studios of contemporary South African artists Stephen Ingg and Penny Siopis.

Created by Melvin Pather and Moeneeb Dalwai.