

## **African Critical Inquiry Workshop on The Arts of Intervention**

### **Programme for workshop at Absa KKNK in Oudtshoorn, 3-6 April 2014**

The African Critical Inquiry Programme is a recent initiative of the University of the Western Cape and Emory University. We would like to invite you to attend its inaugural workshop in Oudtshoorn, South Africa from 3-6 April 2014 on *The Arts of Intervention*. The workshop is an opportunity to develop new perspectives on the relationship of the arts and humanities to questions of public institutions, politics and critique. It aims to assess, extend and deepen those strategies developed in the 1990s and early 2000s that sought to unravel the legacies of apartheid in the sphere of public institutions in South Africa. Much has shifted in the debates about public arts, culture and education in the milieu in which artists now work.

Beyond the instrumentality that the notion of arts of intervention calls forth, what are these new institutional and political conditions that enable and constrain the work of art in contemporary South Africa? What are the possible frameworks and forums for bringing artists and scholars in the humanities into conversation? How can such a conversation make sense of the debates that the arts have provoked both about the struggles against apartheid and about the shape of the post-apartheid in the public sphere?

Set within the space of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Absa Klein Karoo Nasionale Fees in Oudtshoorn, the workshop seeks to draw on the questions raised by an arts festival that has attempted to address some of the pressing questions of the transition to a post-apartheid South Africa. These questions relate to non-racism and anti-racism, notions of institutional transformation particular to public culture, the politics of language and community, and scripts of nation and belonging in the arts.

The immediate post-apartheid period in South Africa was a time of renewal and possibility, when the country's well-developed museums, universities, and other institutions were called to imagine new cultural, artistic, and humanistic forms and institutional transformations. Projects involving the Centre for the Study of Public Scholarship at Emory University and the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies at the University of the Western Cape, in collaboration with a range of other public institutions, helped to forge different understandings of these new imaginings as they criss-crossed communities and constituencies often separated by bitter history. This challenge engendered lively debates about and through forms of public cultural and artistic expression. Integral to these efforts was a dedicated cadre of scholar-practitioners, developed both from university-based scholars in the humanities and humanistic social sciences and professionals in arts and culture institutions, who worked across institutional boundaries to forge new critical approaches in public scholarship.

In February 2013, nearly two decades after the formal end of apartheid, a public consultation on the scope of a new project on Hidden Voices in Art and Music was hosted by UWC's Centre for Humanities Research with Iziko South African National Gallery and attended by approximately 80 arts practitioners and humanities scholars. A common recommendation emerged which suggested the need to build a partnership that would attend to revitalising the discussion about the role of the arts and education in post-apartheid South Africa.

Linking these initiatives on either side of two-decades of the transition from apartheid to the post-apartheid is the question of the arts of intervention. The arts of intervention defines a topic that retraces and reinvigorates the debates about the making of post-apartheid public institutions and the manner in which the arts configure such remaking. The workshop will provide a venue for this engagement.

### **Day 1 Thursday 3 April.**

Depart Cape Town 8:30am travelling along route 62 to Oudtshoorn.  
Arrive in Oudtshoorn by mid-afternoon. Check in to Yamkela Lodge and The Pearl Hotel on Baron Van Rheede Street.

15:00 Meet at Yamkela Lodge (across the road from The Pearl Hotel).

16:00 Performance **#checkityt@route62#2** (A community showcase performance featuring talent from towns along Route 62). **Tickets required.**

17:30 Welcome and introduction to workshop by Brett Pyper, Cory Kratz and Heidi Grunebaum at Jemima's restaurant.  
A dedication in honour of Ivan Karp

Early dinner at Jemima's restaurant

20:00 **Akoestiese Klanke** music production with Arno Carstens, Francois van Coke, Karen Zoid and others. **Tickets required.**

### **Day 2 Friday 4 April**

**Session 1** 9:00 - 11:15 (At the Outeniqua conference room across the road from Yamkela at the Pearl Hotel. Breakfast at Yamkela and the Pearl to be had beforehand)  
**Note: Premesh, Brett, Malcolm (festival bus) and a fourth car to drive to and park at Arbeitsgenot before session. Return to the Pearl with fourth car.**

Chair: Premesh Lalu

09:00 'From Institutions of Public Culture to African Critical Inquiry as projects of

intervention'. Cory Kratz, Leslie Witz and Ciraj Rassool.

The presentation recaps the trajectories of past collaborations and research on public institutions and public scholarship.

09:45 'From "Uncontained" to the Catalytic Project on Hidden Voices in Art and Music. Heidi Grunebaum.

10:00 Viewing *When the Sea Came to the Karoo*, Jonathon Jone's documentary on the 2013 Barrydale Parade (Handspring Trust and Net Vir Pret).

10:30 'Current debates in post apartheid arts institutions and the public sphere'. Valmont Layne.

10:45- Discussion and refreshments

11:15

11:30 Absa KKNK Visual Arts Exhibition. Guided walkabout in English with festival curator, Sandra Hanekom. **Tickets required.**

Informal lunch at stalls in Baron van Reedestreet / Rivierbuurt. **Tickets required. Note: Please keep your tickets to use for access to stalls and the Top 40 music stage adjacent.**

**Session 2** 14:00 -16:30

14:30- 15:00 Discussion with Nicola Hanekom director of the **Land van Skedels** at Arbeidsgenot, CJ Langenhoven's historic home (currently a heritage museum). **Tickets required.**

15:00 - 16:30 Guided walk-about at Arbeidsgenot with Oom Zanie.

**Note: Meet at parked bus and 2 private vehicles to go to Epicene Butcher.**

17:00 **The Epicene Butcher Tickets required.**

18:15 **Land van Skedels** [Land of Skulls] Nicola Hanekom's site-specific performance centred on the South African War, 1899-1902. **Tickets required. Note: Please bring warm jacket for Land van Skedels as it is a site-specific production outdoors.**

20:00 Dinner (for own account, according to budget and preferences)

20:00- Top 40 Stage (music tent featuring Hemelbesem, The Prerogatives en Dr. Victor)

**Note: Use Rivierbuurt access tickets from earlier in the day for entry.**

### **Day 3 Saturday 5 April:**

09:30 Meet outside The Pearl Hotel to depart by bus and two vehicles for Toekomsrus.

10:00 **James Grace & Jonathan Crossley** (guitar duo) at new Toekomsrus Teater. Tickets required.

11:00 Site visits in Toekomsrus, Bridgton & Bongolethu with Valmont Layne. Engagement with Joey Hefke, local musician who presents Oudtshoorn's Township Tours.

13:30 Late lunch at Outeniqua conference room, The Pearl Hotel

**Session 3** 14:00 – 17:30 (Outeniqua conference room, The Pearl Hotel)  
Chair: Suren Pillay

There have been various attempts to think the arts alongside a generative project of the postapartheid. This session allows for exchange of ideas on how and in which forms interventions unfold. We are particularly interested in how these interventions challenge our understandings of public culture, language and community, nation and public access.

Presenters will speak to 5-6 page texts developed from their pre-circulated statements (submitted by workshop participants on 31 March) in which they reflect on their current work and on the conceptual and/or creative questions these raise.

14:00-15:15 'Re-viewing Interventions'  
Patricia Hayes and Jo Ratcliffe, Gary Minkley, Desiree Lewis

15:15 – 16:15 'Interventions: the Performative and the Curated'  
Steward van Wyk, Emile Maurice, Miki Flokkeman

16:15-17:30 Discussion

18:00 Dinner (for own account, according to budget and preferences. We hear that the United Congregation Church's roostekoek stalletjie is a festival favourite!)

19:00- **Rymklets – Da Rainbow Show** (Jack Parow, Jitsvinger, and a local line-up of hip-hop artists perform – developed in partnership with local youth organisations). ***Tickets required.***

**Day 4 Sunday 6 April:**

09:00 Check out of guest house/hotel after breakfast

**Session 4** 09:30 – 12.00 (Outeniqua conference room, The Pearl Hotel)

Chair: Heidi Grunebaum

9:30 'The politics and frictions of "counter-culture"'. Aiden Erasmus.

9:45 'Can you see the non-racial?'. Jon Soske.

10:00 'The Humanities and Arts: Interventions in thinking a concept of the postapartheid'. Premesh Lalu.

10:15 'Towards an African Critical Inquiry'. Cory Kratz.

10:30- Debrief and discussion

12:00 Departure

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**Programme Notes:**

**Preparations**

Participants are asked to submit a short concept statement or a review of a project on which you are currently working; or a video, set of images, sound clip; or online link to a project you wish to discuss or share by **31 March**.

Readings have been circulated electronically. Hard copies will be available at the workshop.

Presenters please email Olivia Coetzee at [olivia.m.coetzee@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.m.coetzee@gmail.com) with AV requirements for your presentation/intervention.

**Transport**

A festival shuttle will provide transport from Cape Town to Oudtshoorn and back to Cape Town for participants.

**NB! The festival shuttle will depart from UWC, on the ring road outside the Social Science lecture theatres at 08:30 sharp on Thursday, 3 April.**