



PROGRAMME

SAVAH Conference 2024

Hosted by
the Department of Visual Arts, in the School of Visual and Performing Arts, Faculty of
Humanities, Nelson Mandela University

12 – 14 September 2024

THEME:

UNSETTLED: the re-Collective Memories and Histories of South Africa

VENUE:

**Bird Street Gallery,
Central, Gqeberha**

Conveners:

Prof Vulindlela Nyoni and Dr Pfunzo Sidogi

provisional version – 15 August 2024

Keynote Speaker

Pumla Dineo Gqola (1972, Alice, South Africa) is Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies. She holds the SARChI Chair in African Feminist Imagination at the Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha. She was previously Dean of Research at the University of Fort Hare, Professor in African Literature at University of the Witwatersrand, Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Classical Culture at the University of the Free State, and Chief Research Specialist in the Societies, Culture and Identities Research Programme at the HSRC.

She is author of five books, editor of *Miriam Tlali: Writing Freedom* (HSRC Press, 2021) and co-editor of *Discourses on Difference, Discourses on Oppression* (2002). Her monographs include *What is slavery to me? Postcolonial/Slave Memory in Post-apartheid South Africa* (2010), the 2016 *Sunday Times* Alan Paton Award winner, *Rape: A South African Nightmare*, and most recently, *Female Fear Factory* which won 2022 NIHSS Best Book and 2023 Falling Walls Breakthrough Award from the Falling Walls Foundation in Berlin.

Within visual arts, her essays have been on Zanele Muholi, Berni Searle, Gabrielle Goliath and Penny Siopis, as well as select group exhibitions such as *Innovative Women*, *When We See Us*, and *When Rain Clouds Gather*.



Day One

Thursday 12th September

Time	Proceedings
8:30 - 10:00 Venue	<i>Registration and morning tea</i> <u>Bird Street Gallery Reception Room, Rm 0002</u>
10:00 - 10:15 10:15 - 11:00 Venue	<i>Welcome</i> Prof P Maseko (Executive Dean) <i>Keynote Speaker: Prof Pumla Gqola</i> <u>Bird Street Gallery Main Hall</u>

Tea time: 11:00 - 11:30 Music Performance Hall

Session 1.1: Morning (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Intersection of Activism and social justice in Visual and performing arts in unsettling current context</i>	<i>Visual and performative representations of unsettled histories and memories in South African Art</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
11:30 - 12:00	Kolodi Senong (University of Witwatersrand) The Prevalence of Communalism, Cooperation and Joint Human Action in the Aesthetics of Dashiki	Nathani Lüneburg (North West University) An ethical enquiry: archaic war photographs representing unsettled histories and memories of animals subjected to war during colonial rule in South Africa
12:00 - 12:30	Kutlwano Monyai (Tshwane University of Technology) Women Artists as Archivists: An Exploration of Nyakallo Maleke's Archival Practices	Joe Turpin The story of a Bottle, and the Jewish community of the North West Province
12:30 - 13:00	Zama Spellman (Nelson Mandela University) Veiled Spaces: Visually materializing black double consciousness within a South African context through portraiture.	Adriaan de la Ray (Open Window University) Contemplating collapse: Slow Cinema, the long take, and ruins in the South African small town

Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00 Music Performance Hall

Session 1.2: Morning (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Visual and performative representations of unsettled histories and memories in South African Art</i>	<i>Visual and performative representations of unsettled histories and memories in South African Art</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
14:00 - 14:30	Mnqobi Ngubane (Nelson Mandela University) Illuminating labour tenants' struggles for farmland in South Africa today	Lunga Kama (Stadio) Visual Studies Exploration: Deconstructing Problematic Representations of the Black Body in South African Contemporary Art and Photography
14:30 - 15:00	Catharina De Klerk (Independent researcher) Unsettling historical narratives on the water's edge in Dorothy Kay's harbour scenes	Hilary Graham (University of Fort Hare) Dikeni and the Gentlemen from Grimsburg
15:00 - 15:30	Craig Paterson (Rhodes University) Unsettled Reality: The Hubris of Memory in late-20th Century English-speaking South Africa	Brian Ernest Walter (Retired academic) The Caversham Print and Poetry Project: from Birdshit on My Windscreen to Mirrorprints

Exhibition Event: Photographic exhibition by Students of NMU dealing with the themes of the conference.

Session 1.3: Afternoon (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Intersection of Activism and social justice in Visual and performing arts in unsettling current context</i>	<i>The role of Visual and Performing Arts in documenting and contesting historical narratives</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
15:30 - 16:00	Bongani Khoza (University of Johannesburg) Lamppost: A Metaphorical Reflection on Stasis and Movement	Mzwanele Tshishonga (Freelance) Ukuhlonipha as a photographic methodology: How can Bra Andrew Tshabangu's refusal of normative documentary photography conventions be understood as a decolonial option to ways of representing black life?
16:00 - 16:30	Sampie Terreblanche (University of Fort Hare) Symbolic layers in David Goldblatt's The Structure of Things Then. A philosophical interpretation	Tumi Tumelo Moloji Sonic Immersions of the Visual in 'Tracey Rose: Shooting Down Babylon'
16:30 - 17:00	Gloria Makochieng (University of Stellenbosch) Into the interstice: An exploration of diasporic subjectivity through printmaking	

End of day

Day Two

Friday 13th September

Session 2.1: Morning (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>The role of Visual and Performing Arts in documenting and contesting historical narratives</i>	<i>Ways of knowing: session convened by Louise Hall, Jess Draper and Justine Wintjes</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
9:30 -10:00	Kiyara Anamalay (art curator at financial institution) Colonial portraits and colonial archives translated into counter-portraits and counter-archives.	Pieter Binsbergen (Nelson Mandela University) and Grettel Osorio (Nelson Mandela University) Multimodality and meaning-making: Decolonising the mind through a visual language formed by embodiment in the South African Arts Education
10:00-10:30	Amie Soudien (University of Witwatersrand) In plain sight: slavery and colonial 'visual technologies' in Cape Town	Palesa Mokwena (Tshwane University of Technology) The Black Consciousness Movement, Lefifi Tladi and Black Existential Art
10:30 -11:00	Jessica Staple (Nelson Mandela University) Coast-lines: The unsettling of Gqeberha beach front as explored by the artist-observer	Micaela Scholtz (Eduvos) A 'place' of significance: drawing as autoethnographic practice

Tea time: 11:00 - 11:30 Music Performance Hall

Session 2.2: Morning (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>The role of Visual and Performing Arts in documenting and contesting historical narratives</i>	<i>Ways of knowing (cont.)</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
11:30 -12:00	Adrie Haese (University of Pretoria) Storyboarding the past: an illustrated engagement with stories from Westonia	Chumani Mtshixa (University of the Western Cape) Unsettling Fishermen: The impact of Visual and Performing Arts in Reclaiming Marginalized Narratives in Post-Apartheid South Africa
12:00 -12:30	Victoria Flowers (Nelson Mandela University) The dynamics of displacement: exploring the role of Place as a contributing factor to historical legacies, memories and complexities of Coloured identities	Anne-Marie Tully (Durban University of Technology) Mamlambo at the Bluff: Artistic reflections on an African port
12:30 -13:00	Drew Minter (Nelson Mandela University) The phenomenon of bisexual erasure: A visual exploration of fluid identity construction.	Louise Hall, Jess Draper and Justine Wintjes Panel discussion: 'Ways of knowing'

Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00 Music Performance Hall

Session 2.3: Afternoon (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Post-colonial and Decolonial reflections on the idea of 'settling' and 'unsettling' and its artistic expressions</i>	<i>Exploring the complexities of national identity through visual culture, art and performance</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
14:00 - 14:30	Yolanda De Kock (Oliewenhuis Art Museum) Unsettling Histories and Narratives: To Reclaim or Disown?	Taryn Jade Benadè (Nelson Mandela University) Discussion of New Materialist Philosophy in Relation to Contemporary South African Art Analysis
14:30 - 15:00	Kim Harmse (Nelson Mandela University) Re-writing "his story": addressing the colonial narrative in the Eastern Cape mission settlements.	Rudi Bouwer (Nelson Mandela University) Timber to Timbre: Art as product, art as process, and the role of equipment and technology in the work of Francois Pistorius Guitar
15:00 - 15:30	Maureen de Jager (Rhodes University) Unsettling 'The Angel': a critical-creative re-reading of a Makhanda memorial	Mariam Bibi Khan (University of Stellenbosch) Contemporary Jewellery as a Creative Response to the Unsettling of South African Identity

Session 2.4: Afternoon (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Post-colonial and Decolonial reflections on the idea of 'settling' and 'unsettling' and its artistic expressions</i>	<i>Exploring the complexities of national identity through visual culture, art and performance</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
15:30 - 16:15	Marcus Neustetter (artist) Johannes Jaeger (biologist and philosopher) via video conference Pushing the Boundaries	Vulindlela Nyoni (Nelson Mandela University) Panel discussion: From Here to There

End of day

Day Three

Saturday 14th September

Session 3.1: Morning (parallel)		
Theme		
Time	<i>Exploring the complexities of national identity through visual culture, art and performance</i>	<i>Challenges and opportunities in curating exhibitions that engage with settled and unsettled histories</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
9:30 - 10:00	Jo-ann Charmaine Chan (University of Stellenbosch) Awkward encounters: Representations of Chineseness in South African art and media	Jonathan Van Der Walt (Nelson Mandela University) and Uthando Baduza (Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality) The land/lines cross-gallery exhibition: A socio-cultural visual response to the complexities of the Eastern Cape context.
10:00 - 10:30	Kgaogelo Mothepa Mashilo (Tshwane University of Technology) Ba re bitsa ka mabitso: healing from land trauma through transdimensional farming and matronymic names.	Greer Valley (University of Witwatersrand) The Exhibition as Social Intervention
10:30 - 11:00	Lauren Marsha Grootboom (University of Cape Town) Contextualising Black women's identity in South Africa through the colonial project and apartheid archive: An intersectional African Feminist analysis of race, class and gender within South Africa's political history	

Tea time: 11:00 - 11:30 Music Performance Hall

Session 5: Morning		
Theme		
Time	<i>Decolonizing art history and the representation of settler histories</i>	<i>The forging of collective identities and communities of practice in South Africa</i>
Venue	<u>Bird Street Main Gallery</u>	<u>Bambanani</u>
11:30 - 12:00	Barnabas Ticha Muvhuti (Rhodes University) Not all Cultural Loot is Staked in Colonial Capitals: The case of the human remains and stolen artifacts in South Africa.	Devandre Boonzaaier (Cape Peninsula University of Technology) The Moravian Heritage of Music Festivals in South Africa
12:00 - 12:30	Philippa Hobbs (University of Johannesburg) Rorke's Drift: Men, tapestry and the warping of history	Bruce Cadle (Nelson Mandela University) Settling Differences: Afronowism, Afrikanness, Autochthonous Design
12:30 - 13:00	NMU soapbox	Maggie Davey Liberation and apartheid typography, logofoms and print culture: Communicating national identity with so much at stake

Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00 Music Performance Hall.

14:00 - 15:30 **SAVAH meeting and elections**

End of Day

**Please find contained within useful links for the course of your attendance:
(to be updated as new events are announced)**

<https://www.nmbt.co.za/> - Nelson Mandela Bay Site

- 3-D Virtual Tours of attractions, Venues, Heritage Sites, Monuments and more found in : https://www.nmbm.co.za/virtual_tours/virtual-tours/

Nelson Mandela Bay History and Information

<https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1/nelson-mandela-bay-metropolitan-municipality>

https://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/things_to_see_and_do/historical

https://www.nmbt.co.za/historical_port_elizabeth

Map of Nelson Mandela Bay

<https://municipalities.co.za/map/1/nelson-mandela-bay-metropolitan-municipality>

https://www.nmbt.co.za/road_and_public_transport.html

<https://images.app.goo.gl/hAjmq34mfEx13HPo7>

<https://www.sa-venues.com/maps/easterncape/port-elizabeth.php/1000>

Experiences

https://www.nmbt.co.za/special_offers.html

Restaurants

https://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/food_and_entertainment/restaurants

Entertainment and shopping

https://www.nmbt.co.za/search/1/food_and_entertainment/entertainment_shopping