

Attention all interested authors,
Call for papers for a Special Issue of *de arte* titled *Untold Stories*

We are pleased to announce this call for papers for a special issue of *de arte*, titled *Untold Stories* that draws on the issues explored at the 35th Annual SAVA H CONFERENCE, hosted by the research entity Visual Narratives and Creative Outputs and the Faculty of Humanities, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus, 29 September – 2 October 2021.

Untold stories

“Stories give flesh to the bare bones. Out of stories, we make culture, not from the bones of the dead, though the bones are the rationale for stories being told. Whereas in art, this impulse is clearer, science too is about telling certain stories. It is out of stories that we make society. Out of stories an individual constructs a self.” Kopano Ratele, *Life of Bone* (2011)

“All of which makes up a story I do not choose to tell. I choose not to tell it because to no one, not even to you, do I owe proof that I am a substantial being with a substantial history in the world.”

JM Coetzee, *Foe* (1986)

Stories capture the elusiveness of creating and imagining by linking the act of telling with being. Stories make us, and we make ourselves through the stories we hear and don't hear, tell, and don't tell. Over millennia and across cultures, stories about places, persons, materials, objects, or ideas have been told and retold in different ways and from different perspectives. In the process, some narratives have gone unheard, unseen or have even actively been silenced. The year 2020 marks the beginning of a new decade. How might we re-imagine our collective past and imagine the future through the creation of new stories or the un-telling of old stories? How do we go about uncovering, sharing, or recording previously untold or silenced stories – our own and those of others?

We propose that engagement with the work of artists, artworks, visual culture, and design, as practices of storytelling or narrative, may offer constructive ways of understanding, unravelling, and contributing to current discourse on the visual field. We invite papers that explore, inquire, and reflect on visual expression and ways of storytelling that work towards acknowledging, understanding, and (re-)visualising narratives. This is an invitation to scholars to evaluate and re-evaluate positions taken in the field (conceptual and metaphorical frameworks and locations), or in relation to material objects and their existences or locations.

Possible topics include:

- Tensions between visibility, materiality, orality, and textuality in and through narrative
- Visual storytelling (such as artist's books, graphic novels, cartoons, illustration, animation, branding, and campaigns)
- Relating experiences of place and space or situatedness through stories
- Collaborative storytelling and ways of collectively engaging with or sharing stories
- Notions of truth and fiction, history, and myth in visual storytelling
- Memory, remembrance, visual narrative and *re-story-ation*
- Palimpsests, intertextuality, bricolage and (visual) layers of narrative
- Liminality and boundary crossing

- Surfacing the hidden through storytelling,
- Archives, archival material and subaltern voices

We invite papers of 5000- 8000 words that engage with the theme to be submitted for consideration for publication in *de arte* untoldstories2022@gmail.com by 28 March 2022. All submissions will be subject to double-blind peer review.

Any questions to do with this call for papers can be sent to the guest editors of the Special Issue: untoldstories2022@gmail.com

de arte

Authors whose research does not engage with the above-mentioned theme are welcome to submit articles for consideration for publication in *de arte*, by following this link <https://journals.co.za/journal/dearte/submit>, or contacting the editor (mcdowe@unisa.ac.za)