



MATERIAL NARRATIVES: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HISTORIES IN CLOTH

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Works of art made from or involving textiles or cloth (or works that are sewn or woven) often depict events and histories of significance. These may be occurrences with social and political import to communities, groups or countries, but they may also be incidents or experiences only of consequence to those who made the works concerned. While many works in cloth represent events directly, others allude to public or personal histories through their inclusion of motifs with symbolic or metaphoric associations. And while they may involve activism or offer socio-political commentary, often with feminist underpinnings, the act of narrating histories and representing events via cloth is also on many occasions a vehicle for self-reflection or the exploration of identities.

In this conference, the focus is on the multiple and varied ways in which textiles or fabric (or weaving or the use of embroidery, collage, printing and other techniques to work into cloth) have served as a way of representing events and histories with public or personal significance.

CONFERENCE VENUE ▪ *Offices of the South African Research Chair in South African Art and Visual Culture, 33 Twickenham Avenue, Auckland Park, Johannesburg (corner Twickenham Avenue and University Road, just opposite the Auckland Park Kingsway Campus of the University of Johannesburg).*

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PROGRAMME

18 NOVEMBER

- 2.45 – 3.30 Registration and coffee/tea
3.30 – 3.45 Welcome

PANEL 1

Politics and Histories of Fabrics in Africa

- 3.45 – 4.30 **Vera-Simone Schulz**, "Oceans of Cloth: Material Narratives of Crossings, Passageways, and Sails in the Storm offshore West Africa"
4.30 – 5.15 **Shonisani Netshia**, "Material Narratives in the works of Igshaan Adams and Anthony Bumhira".
5.15 – 6.00 **Marisha Flovers**, "Peering through the safety net: On shade cloth and the vulnerability of farmworkers in the Western Cape"
6.00 – 7.00 Reception at "Neither here nor there", an exhibition by **Vanessa Tembane** at 33 Twickenham Avenue. The artist will introduce the show
7.00 Dinner at 33 Twickenham Avenue

19 NOVEMBER

PANEL 2

Textiles and representation in the public domain in the mid-twentieth century

- 8.30 – 9.15 **Christianna Bonin**, "The Bespoke Copy: Textiles, Painting, and the Production of the Stalinist Personality Cult in Mid Twentieth-Century Central Asia"
9.15 – 10.00 **Ruth Baumeister**, "Other Stories: Asger Jorn's and Pierre Wemaere's *Le long Voyage* 1959-1960"
10.00 – 10.30 Tea and coffee break

PANEL 3

Embroidery in public buildings in South Africa

- 10.30 – 11.15 **Naudia Yorke**, "From Stone to Sewn: Unpicking the Traces of 12 Northern Cape Embroideries"
11.15 – 12.00 **Frances Andrew**, "The Women's Charters Tapestry"

PANEL 4

Community Art Projects and their iconographies

- 12.00 – 12.45 **Kaya Mchunu**, "Paralleling Kahlo, Superwoman and a Woza Moya Beadworker"
12.45 – 1.45 Lunch
1.45 – 2.30 **Philippa Hobbs**, "The blood-sucker bird: A woven narrative of exploitation and dependency"

PANEL 5

Politics of Fashion

- 2.30 – 3.15 **Winnie Sze**, "Then and Now: A case study of fashion brand Unknown Union's connection with pioneering African designs"
- 3.15 – 4.00 **Annemi Conradie**, "Sedition à la mode? The transfiguration of Steve Biko in post-apartheid fashion and décor design"
- 4.00 – 4.30 Tea and coffee break
- 4.30 – 5.15 **Ziddi Msangi**, "Stories from the Mchafukoge: Kanga as a form of Visual Communication"
- 5.15 – 6.00 **Bongiwe Hlekiso**, "The Hidden Narrative of the Black Cloth"
- 7.00 Conference dinner at the Lucky Bean in Melville

20 NOVEMBER

PANEL 6

Between public and personal histories in South Africa

- 8.45 – 9.30 **Marsha MacDowell**, "Public and private histories in South African quilts and related textiles"
- 9.30 – 10.15 **Karen von Veh**, "The anti-war memorials of Paul Emmanuel"
- 10.15 – 10.45 Tea and coffee break
- 10.45 – 11.30 **Brenda Schmahmann**, "Public and private histories in Senzeni Marasela's 'Beyond Booty' exhibition"

PANEL 7

Gender and Personal Histories

- 11.30 – 12.15 **Irene Bronner**, "Felled, in fabric: Time and loss in Tamara Kostianovsky's Tree Stumps"
- 12.15 – 1.00 **Bev Butkow**, "embodied-entanglements/entangled-embodiments"
- 1.00 – 2.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Depart for post-conference visit to the Holocaust & Genocide Centre in Johannesburg.

*The images are of the Keiskamma Art Project's Biko Tapestry (2014)
in the University of Johannesburg collection.*