

Mistress-Pieces

PROGRAMME

A conference hosted by the South African Research Chair in South African Art and Visual Culture, University of Johannesburg.

In this conference, presenters identify and explore a range of works by feminists and gender activists that might be regarded as iconic in the sense that they have proved influential in particular contexts because of their relevance and distinctiveness, but which have not hitherto necessarily achieved the level of international recognition they ought. "Mistress-Pieces" riffs on "Old Mistresses", the ironical term that Roszika Parker and Griselda Pollock used within the title of their important volume first published in 1981. This conference does not seek to develop a history of women artists in the West, however, but rather focuses on artworks informed by feminist and gender discourses that have emerged since the 1970s in an international context.

Iconic Artworks by Feminists and Gender Activists

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)

P R O G R A M M E

8 NOVEMBER

12.00 – 1.00 *Registration and light lunch.*

1.00 – 1.15 *Welcome*

PANEL 1 COMMUNISM AND POST-COMMUNISM: GENDER POLITICS IN EASTERN EUROPE

1.15 – 2.00 **Joanna Inglot**, "Natalia is Sex": The Pleasures of Politics and Feminist Art under Communism in Poland.

2.00 – 2.45 **Elena Korowin**, Lost Cultural Translation or Gender Aspects in the Zoo.

2.45 – 3.30 **Hilary Robinson**, Bodies, borders, and law: Tanja Ostojčić: *Looking for a Husband with a EU Passport.*

3.30- 4.00 *Tea and coffee break.*

PANEL 2 ARTISTS TALK ABOUT THEIR WORKS

4.00 – 4.30 **Ayobola Kekere-ekun** (Nigeria).

4.30 – 5.00 **Usha Seejarim** (South Africa).

5.00 – 5.30 **Senzeni Marasela** (South Africa).

All three artists introduce works involving engagement with feminism and gender.

5.30 – 6.30 Reception at **Hilary Keegan's** exhibition, *Reconstructing profane womanhood*, at 33 Twickenham Avenue.

6.30 *Supper at 33 Twickenham Avenue.*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9 NOVEMBER

PANEL 3 FROM ECO-FEMINISM TO ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTS

- 8.30 – 9.15 **Laura Castro**, *Women-Earth-Life* (1977) – a feminist artwork under censorship, concealment and vandalism.
- 9.15 – 10.00 **Alexandra Kokoli**, *The Aesthetic Labour of Protest: The Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common* (UK, 1981-2000).
- 10.00 – 10.30 *Tea and coffee break.*

PANEL 4 GENDER VIOLENCE

- 10.30 – 11.15 **Paula Birnbaum**, *Re-producing the Maternal: Swoon's Medea* (2017) as Feminist Intervention.
- 11.15 – 12.00 **Karen Cordero Reiman**, *Monica Mayer's The Clothesline (El Tendedero)*, 1978-2018.

PANEL 5 RACE, GENDER AND IDENTITY

- 12.00 – 12.45 **Sherry Buckberrough**, *Mendieta's Silueta Series: In and Out of Feminisms.*
- 12.45 – 1.45 *Lunch*
- 1.45 – 2.30 **Jacqueline Millner & Catriona Moore**, 'Middle fingers up, put them hands high': *Tracey Moffatt's Scarred for Life.*
- 2.30 – 3.15 **Refilwe Nkomo**, *Being Her(e): A Meditation on African Femininities.*
- 3.15 – 4.00 **Roxy do Rego**, *The Monstrous Feminine: Minnette Vari's Chimera* (2001) and the Voortrekker Monument.
- 4.00 – 4.30 *Tea and coffee break.*

PANEL 6 DOMESTIC CRAFTS AND MASCULINITIES

- 4.30 – 5.15 **Simone Koller & Mara Züst**, *Doris Stauffer's Peniswärmer (Willy Warmers)* – *Stockings Against Male Domination.*
- 5.15 – 6.00 **Angel David Nieves**, *Alternative Feminist Icons of Township Political Struggle: Calico Doilies, Senzeni Marasela, and Memories of Stompie Seipei, 1989-1998.*
- 7.00 *Conference dinner at the Lucky Bean Restaurant in Melville.*





10 NOVEMBER

PANEL 7 BODY POLITICS

- 9.00 – 9.45 **Marissa Vigneault**, Hannah Wilke's *S.O.S. Starification Object Series* in the Moment of #MeToo.
- 9.45 – 10.30 **Pamela Allara**, *The Invisible Icon: the aged, black female nude*.
- 10.30 – 11.15 **Jessica Lindiwe Draper**, Zanele Muholi's disruptive performance of gender on the public stage.
- 11.15 – 11.45 *Tea and coffee break.*
- 11.45 – 12.30 **Karen von Veh**, The iconic status of Jane Alexander's *Stripped 'Oh Yes' Girl*.
- 12.30 – 1.15 **Irene Bronner**, Transfiguring grief in Lindi Arbi's *Unearthed*.
- 1.15 – 2.00 *Lunch*
- 2.00 *Outing to Artist Proof Studio.*

