

Professor Federico Freschi

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Federico Freschi was reappointed Executive Dean of the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture in October 2023, a post that he held from 2013-2019. In the interim, he was Professor and Head of College of Te Maru Pūmanawa | Creative Practice & Enterprise at the Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga in Dunedin, New Zealand. In his PhD thesis, Federico considered the political iconography of South African public buildings in the 1930s in relation to the political tensions between nationalism and imperialism at the time. As an ongoing research project, the scope of this work has subsequently expanded to encompass post-Second World War as well as post-apartheid public architecture and the extent to which the decorative programmes of public buildings are implicated in the construction of imaginaries of national belonging. A secondary line of research has been into the construction of the canon of modern South African art, and more recently, how the art market is implicated in this. He was most recently rated C1 rating by the South African National Research Foundation. In 2016, Prof Freschi was the South African curator of the exhibition 'Henri Matisse: Rhythm and Meaning', at the Standard Bank Gallery Johannesburg, the first exhibition devoted to Matisse on the African continent. He has active relationships with several professional bodies and has served on various boards. He is a former Vice-President on the board of Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA); formerly held the position of President of SAVAH (South African Visual Arts Historians; was a member of the editorial board of *De Arte* (University of South Africa Press) and is on the advisory committee of *Forum Kunst und Markt* (Technische Universität Berlin), and a member of the Cultures, Histories, and Identities in Visual Studies Research Network (University of Otago, New Zealand). Recent publications include the edited volumes *Troubling Images: Visual Culture & the Politics of Afrikaner Nationalism* (Wits University Press, 2020) with co-editors Brenda Schmahmann (University of Johannesburg) and Lize van Robbroeck (University of Stellenbosch) and *The Politics of Design: Privilege and Prejudice in Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia and South Africa* (Otago Polytechnic Press, 2021) with co-editors Farieda Nazier (University of Johannesburg) and Jane Venis (Otago Polytechnic | Te Pūkenga). In addition to his academic and administrative commitments, Prof Freschi is an accomplished classical baritone who has an ongoing creative practice as a concert soloist and opera singer.

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