iziko e-news what's up at our museums

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Durban rolled out the red carpet to welcome the tourism industry – and embraced heritage and culture

Heritage & culture INDABA take centre stage @ INDABA

For months, the tourism industry had been abuzz with news that things were changing. As the CEO of SA Tourism said, "our people are at the centre of our marketing strategy". South Africa's premier destination marketing agency believes that our heritage and culture is our unique selling proposition as a nation.

The Heritage & Culture Pavilion at Indaba 2013, which was held in Durban from 11-14 May 2013, was a bold and visual testament of the strategy. The top 20 heritage tourism products in South Africa were invited to exhibit at the Pavilion. Iziko was one of these fortunate exhibitors, and was one of the three Cape-based products included along with Robben Island Museum and Andulela Tours. Tourism contributes R25bn to the Western Cape economy, and 10% to the provincial GDP.

All the products were invited to present at a special buyers workshop hosted by SA Tourism and the National Department of Tourism at Indaba. The message that was sent to them was that South Africa is an exciting destination for heritage and culture enthusiasts - a country that is constantly evolving and influenced by its African geo-location, while being a proud player in the global village. The vision of the country is to be one of the top 20 tourist destinations in the world in 2020. This will be an amazing feat, but we are already buoyed by the latest tourism statistics that indicate that we beat the downward trend experienced by other global destinations.

Phumeza Mgxashe, Marketing & Communications Manager, IA

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Please keep sending us your news,

Museum Hooks Big Fish

In what seemed scripted to align with the International Museum Day (IMD) theme for 2013, 'Museums (memory + creativity) = social change', the main event on the IMD menu at Iziko Museums of South Africa was a showcase of young people's creativity fused with long-enduring cultural practices that have been revved up and given a modern twist.

The screening of a few short films by budding Cape filmmakers at the Iziko South African Museum's TH Barry Lecture Theatre by Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking, points to an upward swing for the sector which, according Melanie Chait, CEO of Big Fish School of Digital Filmmaking, has grown by 84% in the last five years in South Africa. Ms Chait said that she was delighted that her organisation had contributed to this growth as "the incubator for empowering people".

In her welcome address, Rooksana Omar, Iziko Museums of South Africa CEO, said museums are being challenged to be agents of change and to deliver their services to new audiences. She said that, at Iziko, we are already redefining our mission and the way we interact with the public.



Tourism and Economic Development Minister, Alan Winde addresses the audience in the TH Barry Lecture Theatre. Photograph by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.

Echoing what was the key message by South African Tourism at Indaba 2013, provincial minister for Tourism and Economic Development, Alan Winde said that the Western Cape had much to explore in the heritage and culture spheres to help grow the tourism revenue in the province. "Currently, tourism makes up 10% of the provincial GDP and it is our intention to increase this to 15%," he said.

Phumeza Mgxashe, Marketing & Communications Manager, IA

Staking a Claim for Land



Curator, Pam Warne took visitors on an insightful walkabout of Umhlaba Photograph by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.

This year marks the centenary of the 1913 Land Act. On International Museum Day, 18 May 2013, visitors to the Iziko South African National Gallery joined Curator, Pam Warne for a walkabout of the exhibition, Umhlaba 100 Years: Commemorating the 1913 Land Act.

The exhibition offers more than 30 photographs depicting the impact of a land system that deprived the majority of South Africans of access to owning land – as seen through the eyes of photographers. Visitors are invited to reflect on a statement included in a wall text, quoted by former President Nelson Mandela that states: "Each one of us is intimately attached to the soil of this beautiful country". During the walkabout, questions were posed by the intimate group of individuals, related to the relevance, impact and appeal of showcasing such a tragic legacy. It provided the opportunity for visitors to examine the past in the present and determine how this will shape the future.

Umhlaba closes on 28 July 2013.

Shanique Hayward, Public Relations Intern, IA

En route to Employment Equity

The Employment Equity (EE) Forum held its second meeting for 2013 on 30 May. As Chairperson of the EE Forum, Dr Wayne Alexander reminded attendees that the Forum is a strategic consultative body specifically empowered by legislation to guide the decision-making of management in the context of its employment equity and learning and development responsibilities. The Forum is representative of Iziko staff across all categories.

The Employment Equity Plan developed is in keeping with the objectives of the Employment Equity Act:

Objective 1: To ensure that our workplaces are free of discrimination.

Objective 2: To ensure that employees take active steps to promote employment equity.

Julian Matthews, HR Director and EE Forum member, advised that the Learning & Development programme is designed around the needs of the organisation and that it is geared to producing a return on investment. During the 2012/13 year, 178 staff members had accessed training, resulting in 395 training opportunities across all employment categories in the organisation. Mr Matthews advised that employees identified in the organisation's succession plan are all from the designated groups.

The next meeting is scheduled for 25 July. Staff members are welcome to contact their representatives or the Forum's Chair to discuss matters relating to the mandate and work of the EE Forum.

Phumeza Mgxashe, Marketing & Communications Manager, IA

Panel Discussion: OR Tambo



L to R: Director EPP, Dr Wayne Alexander; Executive Director Core Functions, Bongani Ndhlovu; and Member of Parliament, Fezile Bhengu on a tour of the exhibition. Photograph by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.

The Iziko Slave Lodge tells the long story of slavery in South Africa and raises awareness of human rights. The legendary freedom fighter, Oliver Tambo, leader of the African National Congress who was in exile for 30 years, died on 23 April 1993. Fittingly, his legacy lives on at the Iziko Slave Lodge in the exhibition, *Oliver Reginald Tambo: The modest revolutionary*. His story was told through a panel discussion on International Museum Day on 18 May. Entry to the museum and the exhibition was free on the day, allowing visitors to explore the difficult journey that this hero had gone through in fighting for freedom in South Africa.

Iziko Museums of South Africa CEO, Rooksana Omar welcomed the guest speakers and visitors to the exhibition. She emphasised that museums help in interrogating the artefacts and legacies, showcasing the role that history plays in making social change.

"He taught me to be at peace with myself, before I become at peace with everyone. He left us to begin to embrace one another as Nelson Mandela would say, through the long walk to freedom, we have to reach eternity in one mass", said Fezile Bhegu, one of the guest speakers. Ryland Fisher expanded on the bond between Nelson Mandela and Tambo. He emphasised that the relationship between these two politicians was not based on status, but on playing a role in the positions they had been put in.

The late Oliver Reginald Tambo played a central role in the struggle against apartheid, and remains a true icon of our liberation history against the evils of racism, oppression and apartheid. Tambo left us a significant and enduring heritage, one which enhanced our new constitution, contributed to the inclusive and equitable policies of a new democratically elected government, and affirmed the abiding vision of the ANC. He was a truly remarkable man the youth of South Africa should look up to.

May all those who hold dignity say 'Long Live to OR Tambo'.

Zikhona Tshwaku, PR Intern, IA

Archaeology digs deep on IMD

This year's theme for the annual celebration of Internal Museum Day was Memory + Creativity = Social change. What better opportunity to illustrate what the fun part of archaeology is all about than on this very day! Memory (material culture/artefacts left behind by past societies) + Creativity (the archaeologist's imagination and ability to deduce meaning from complex assemblages) = Social Change (where are we now as a society).

The central idea behind the excavation, maritime display and rock art was to educate the public on the differences between archaeology and palaeontology, to make people think about how objects in the museum landed up there in the first place - and mostly just to have fun. Well, the last bit was not a problem at all! So many children came flooding through the gate below the Mind Space - like a scene in movies or TV series when there is a huge sale at a department store and you have a long line of customers just waiting to get in; as soon as the store manager makes the dreaded mistake of opening the store doors he is completely flattened by the excited crowd... Well, this was the scene on International Museum Day, instead of an army of shoppers, we (two Archaeology interns, one Conservation intern, one SAHRA Underwater Unit representative and two Palaeontologists) were swamped by eager and excited children of all ages... for the entire day!

Iziko Archaeology, in partnership with the SAHRA Underwater Unit prepared activities for the public. For those who wanted to get down and dirty, an excavation box was prepared. A range of artefacts from different time periods (the Stone Age, colonial period, and the present) were buried in layers of sand, waiting to be uncovered and interpreted by the eager diggers. Archaeology is a multi-faceted discipline and because the Cape is renowned for its stormy seas having caused a number of shipwrecks along the coast, we teamed up with SAHRA's Underwater Unit to illustrate the equipment that goes into excavating these shipwrecks and the artefacts found in our waters. The Western Cape is home to a number of rock art sites, and the Iziko South African Museum is one of the bigger repositories for these works. Here the public is able to view rock art and learn about the complexities that went into creating or releasing the images from the rock. The final component on the day was a blank canvas representing a rock panel that was provided along with powder paints and feathers for visitors to create their own rock art and graffiti. Interesting illustrations were produced, and it wasn't just children taking part, even some parents left their mark on our panel. At the end of a long day, it was clear that a fun day had been had by all. This programme definitely raises the bar for next year!

Keneiloe Molopyane, Archaeology Intern



Staff News

Birthdays - July

- 1 Ms Karen De Leeuw, Mr Glen Fouten;
- 4 Mr Claude November; 7 Mr Lungile Gadezweni;
- 8 Mr Nazeem Gierdien;
- 9 Mr Johan Rossouw, Ms Zaituna Erasmus;
- 12 Ms Shanaaz Galant, Riason Naidoo;
- 13 Ms Elizabeth Jacobs; 14 Nomaphato Mesele;
- 15 Ms Lieschen Jongebloed;
- 17 Ms Elizabeth Hoenson, Mr Khanya Makalima;
- 19 Mr Michael Paulse; 22 Mr Themba Matomela;
- 24 Ms Michelle Josef; 25 Mr Eddie Lawrence;
- 27 Mrs Elsabe Uys; 28 Mr Maxwell Dlali;
- 29 Ms Phumeza Mgxashe;
- 31 Ms Fikiswa Matoti, Mr Bongani Ndhlovu

Service History July 2013

Ms Faeza Allie, 24 years

Ms Nadjwa Damon, 19 years

Mr Sthembele Harmans, 18 years

Mr Majiet Isaacs, 17 years

Ms Martha Fortuin, 10 years

Hot & Happening

- Iziko celebrates **Youth Day** with an outreach project in Paarl on Saturday, **15 June**. In partnership with the Siyahluma Development Project, the Iziko Mobile Museum will be participating in Hector Petersen Day at Groenheuvel Primary School, Dal Josaphat.
- Join the Friends of the Iziko South African National Gallery and go 'Behind-The-Scenes at the Gallery' on 20 June.
 Time: 11:00. Venue: ISANG. Cost: Members R50, non-members R75
- Planetarium shows: A Basic Guide to Stargazing starts on 22 June until 20 September, and The Longest Day starts on 24 June until 12 July.
- The Friends of the Iziko South African Museum presents a lecture, 'Unwrapping Ancient Egyptian Animal Mummies' on 25 June. Time: 19:00. Venue: ISAM.
- EPP's Social History Collections division shares 'The Story of *Mendi*' on 12 July. Time: 10:00-13:00 at the Iziko Maritime Centre, V&A Waterfront. Cost: Free
- Last Chance to see: The Planetarium shows, Davy Dragon's Guide to the Night Sky and Table Mountain both end on 16 June.

For details about these & other Iziko events, please see the Iziko website or the Iziko What's On guide.

Groot Constantia Goes for Gold

Groot Constantia wines were awarded a total of five gold medals at two recent international wine awards. The Monde Selection in Brussels and the International Wine Challenge in London saw Groot Constantia walking away with three and two gold medals respectively. The Groot Constantia 2010 Grand Constance, 2010 Gouverneurs Reserve Red and 2012 Sauvignon Blanc wines achieved gold at the Monde Selection awards; whilst the 2010 Grand Constance and the 2012 Sauvignon Blanc also achieved gold at the International Wine Challenge.

This follows closely on the back of the recent awards won at the 2013 Top 100 SA Wines competition which saw four wines selected as winners. Collectively, the 2012 Groot Constantia Chardonnay, the 2010 Grand Constance, the 2010 Gouverneurs Reserve Red, the 2012 Sauvignon Blanc and the 2010 Shiraz have scooped a total of 11 gold medals since October last year, with the 2010 Shiraz having also won gold medals at the Taj Classic Wine Show and the Michelangelo International Wine Awards.

"It is thanks to our dynamic team who spend so much time and energy in the vineyards that we can lay claim to these awards. Approximately six years ago we took a new direction in the vineyards and the improvement in quality has been amazing," says Boela Gerber, Winemaker for Groot Constantia. "There are still quite a few things we would like to change and new things we plan to try in the vineyard - I am really excited by what is still to come."

Groot Constantia is South Africa's oldest wine farm, originally granted to Simon van der Stel in 1685. Today the farm is a National Monument and a living museum with the task of preserving the history and cultural legacy of the South African wine industry for the people of South Africa.

Jean Naudé, CEO Groot Constantia



L to R: Estate Manager, Floricius Beukes, and Winemaker, Boela Gerber with the award winning Groot Constantia wines. Photograph supplied by Jean Naudé.

Promise

Promise is presented in association with the University of Cape Town's Africa Month and Iziko Museums of South Africa and its Education and Public Programmes (EPP) department. It is a contemporary art exhibition of black and white painted works that commemorate and celebrate urbane Black experiences as moments where being and social belonging prevails. Curator Raél Jero Salley is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Cape Town's Michaelis School of Fine Art. His artwork, research and writing focuses on African and African diasporic art, Blackness and visual culture.

The opening took place on 22 May 2013 and included music by Bokani Dyer of Dyertribe music. Raél began the proceedings by welcoming guests, and then EPP Director, Dr Wayne Alexander and the vice chancellor of UCT, Dr Thandabantu Nhlapo gave brief statements. The intention was to enjoy the artworks, and the visitors and speakers who attended the opening spoke warmly about the event and the significance of celebrating Africa Day in an exhibition and partnership of this nature. Distell kindly sponsored drinks at the opening event, and eats were from Bistro.

Visitors have been coming in regularly, and a walkabout took place on Friday, 8 June. *Promise* runs until 21 June 2013 at the Iziko South Africa National Gallery Annexe.

Annette Loubser, Art Educator, EPP



A guest at the opening of Promise admires the artwork on exhibition.



L to R: EPP Director, Dr Wayne Alexander; Curator, Raél Jero Salley and Art Educator, Annette Loubser. Photographs by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.

IMD Tours at Iziko South African Museum

On 18 May 2013, Iziko Museums of South African hosted International Museum Day, with free entry to Iziko museums, and fun, interactive activities for adults and children, revealing the fascinating history of South Africa.

At the Iziko South African Museum, families, children, schools, communities and journalists explored the beauty of its exhibitions. The Whale Well, with its 20,5 metre blue whale skeleton, teemed with children who enjoyed learning with educator, Faried Basier, singing and clapping hands to help them remember the whale names. During a tour of 'Shark World', visitors were taught about the 400 or so different shark species. They were also taken to the African Dinosaurs exhibition, where they were shown the skeleton

of *Jobaria* with its long neck and tail, one of the African dinosaurs that lived about 135 million years ago. Children also took a mindbending journey with Davy Dragon at the free planetarium show screenings, learning about how stars and galaxies and even the universe itself changed over time.

A 15-year-old visitor, Asemahle Tabule said the tour he enjoyed most was the Whale Well exhibition: "I learnt about different types of whales and I was fascinated by how big whales are. I also didn't know that they only give birth in September, and that hence there is a Hermanus Whale Festival."

Zikhona Tshwaku, PR Intern, IA





11 events. 1 museum. 48 hours = 1 delighted client

In what turned out to be a showcase of the venues and logistics support to venue hire clients, the Department of Science & Technology (DST) held 11 events in 48 hours at the Iziko South African Museum (ISAM) on 16 & 17 May. The museum was the nerve centre for the Department's super-packed Budget Vote programme, which for the first time spanned two days.

The Minister of Science & Technology opened the exhibition, which showcased DST entities such as the Space Agency, CSIR and the National Zoological Services. This was followed by the ministerial lecture held in the TH Barry Lecture Theatre, and a luncheon at the ISAM Café. The day's proceedings were concluded with a gala dinner, attended by notable luminaries in the science community in South Africa, held in the Museum's iconic Whale Well.

The programme for the second day began before dawn, when crew from eTV's Sunrise breakfast show arrived to prepare for their live show. All DST exhibitors were ready in their respective locations for the broadcast, which started at 6:00. It helped that the ISAM Café kept a steady supply of tea and coffee and ensured that all were well fed with a yummy breakfast.

A prize handover to three high school learners who'd taken part in a science competition followed. BMW also donated a vehicle to the DST, who in turn handed it over to the Cape Town Science Centre. The vehicle, which was displayed in the ISAM amphitheatre, attracted the attention of young and old. Iziko's Education and Public Programmes department had also invited learners and two community groups. The final event was an SAFM broadcast of the Midmorning Talk, also at the ISAM.

In pulling off all these events, the Iziko team proved responsive, client-oriented and that we have the ability to think on our feet. Feedback received from the client points to their satisfaction, and following the success of the event, they were quoted saying that the Iziko South African Museum is the "DST's home in Cape Town".

Phumeza Mgxashe, Marketing and Communications Manager



Minister of Science & Technology, Derek Hanekom engages with some of the exhibitors at the event.



Head-turner - the BMW donated to the DST, on show in the Iziko South African Museum's amphitheatre. Photographs by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.



Art Collections Librarians, Ziphezinhle Gwala and Shaheeda Dante at the annual IMD book sale. Photograph by Iziko Photographer, Carina Beyer.

Iziko Annual Book Sale

The Iziko South African National Gallery, Art and Social History Collections Libraries Annual Book Sale took place on 17 May 2013 in the Gallery's Atrium.

Invitations were sent out to libraries, bookshops, galleries, educational institutions and Friends of the Iziko South African National Gallery. Posters advertising the sale were also put up at various sites. There was a very positive response, as many people came. Library staff worked very hard to organise the sale.

The Cecil Skotnes catalogue proved very popular. Other sought after catalogues included *Picasso and Africa*, *William Kentridge*, *Staking Claims*, and *Natale Labia*. Social History Library staff now realise the importance of having catalogues printed for exhibitions, as this seems to be the main attraction for people coming to the book sale. Although it went quite well, the need to provide a greater variety of items for sale is apparent from this year's sale.

Ziphezinhle Gwala, Librarian: Art Collections

Food for thought: documenta (13)

Former Iziko Art Collections Director and current Council member, Marilyn Martin shared her experiences at *documenta* (13) at the Iziko South African Museum's TH Barry Lecture Theatre on 22 May 2013. Executive Director Core Functions Bongani Ndlovu introduced Marilyn, describing her as an expert. And that was clear from her take on this complex exhibition.

Marilyn Martin, who attended her first documenta in 1992, says "we go to discover and assess what contemporary art means at that moment." She describes it as a difficult exhibition, having a very strong theoretical focus. Not merely an exhibition, adjuncts to this organistic event include seminars, workshops, screenings and performances and these are accompanied by the equally vast exhibition catalogue for documenta (13), The Book of Books. Regardless of this, Marilyn admitted that it was not very often that one goes to an exhibition that blows your mind the way that documenta (13) did. She cautions though that since every person is bound to see an artwork in a different light, that her narrative was purely her perspective.



The Fridericianum Museum in Kassel, Germany.

The exhibition is hosted in the German city of Kassel every five years, and lasts for 100 days from June to September. Though founded in Kassel, it expanded to the rest of the world, and this year there were links to three other cities - Kabul, Afghanistan, Cairo, Egypt, and Banff, Canada. This edition was curated by American born Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, and harks back to the birth of documenta in 1955, which acted in part as a means of healing the wounds of World War II Germany, and reaching out to the modern art world - and the world in general. Through thoughtful curatorship, this edition is steeped in history, and recollects the impact of war and the resilience of the human spirit in producing art amid despair.

The exhibition was dispersed throughout Kassel, in various venues including Karlsaue Park, a disused cinema, a parking garage, a sanatorium, a train station from which Jews were dispatched to concentration camps, and a bunker, to name but a few. If Kassel is the host for documenta, the

Fridericianum Museum is its centre. This museum comprises the central exhibition space, and within this, what Christov-Bakargiev calls the 'brain' - the central space occupying several floors within the Fridericianum Museum. Objects of art have multi-layered meanings, and histories, and do not merely exist in isolation, but relate to the world in meaningful ways when contextualised. This seems to have been the concept behind the artworks exhibited in the 'brain'. Marilyn explained that patrons were advised first to visit the 'brain' before venturing out to the periphery, as it were, since works found in the 'brain' were often cross-referenced and related to pieces found elsewhere in the exhibition.

Of interest in the 'brain' was a photograph taken on the very day after Adolf Hitler's suicide in 1945 of the journalist Lee Miller. posing in the bath in Hitler and Eva Braun's apartment, as well as an installation containing personal effects collected by the Miller, some of which are visible in the photograph. Eight small Afghan figurines with delicate limestone faces, called the 'Bactrian Princesses' dated around the late 3rd and early 2nd millennia BP; small vessels painted in the still lifes by Giorgio Morandi; and pieces of art transformed after having been bombed in the National Museum in Beirut, in Lebanon during the civil war, were just some of the art. objects and artefacts retrieved and reinserted in history by the curator, and that often served as thematic prequels to the artworks yet to be encountered in the exhibition.



The 'brain' at the centre of documenta (13).

Beyond the 'brain', the vast spaces in the Fridericianum held tapestries; Australian aboriginal art by Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri; the tiny paintings of apples and pears by the priest and botanist Korbinian Aigner who was exiled to Dachau; and Kader Attia's wooden busts that portray the disfigurement that soldiers endured in World War I. Also, Life? Or Theatre? A Play with Music, (1941) conceived by Charlotte Salomon who died in a German concentration camp while five months pregnant. Elsewhere, about 50

artists exhibited in specially constructed eco friendly structures, glasshouses and a sanatorium in Karlsaue Park. Here one of the most striking exhibitions encountered by Marilyn was Forest (for a thousand years) (2012), an auditory installation, staged in a forest. Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller conjured the trauma of war through the harrowing sounds of gunfire, footsteps, dogs barking, aeroplanes and the like; which was concluded with celestial music and silence to help soothe visitors after this disturbing experience.



Dada Masilo performs in William Kentridge's 'The refusal of time'. Photographs by Marilyn Martin.

Only two South African artists made the selection to participate in documenta (13). William Kentridge partnered with dancer and choreographer Dada Masilo and exhibited his audio-visual and kinetic installation, 'The refusal of time', staged in a disused railway station in the town. At the Neue Galerie, black lesbian activist and artist Zanele Muholi exhibited 'Faces and Phases', a series of black and white portraits, alongside Difficult Love, a documentary video that depicts the prejudice and violence endured by lesbians and transgender subjects in South Africa. Marilyn hinted at how, perhaps through being desensitised to our sometimes warped social contexts, other societies and cultures are sometimes more apt to internalise the pain and pathos behind the resistance art that we so often take for granted.

While it was notable that about 80% of the works were by artists that were unknown to Marilyn, thereby exposing audiences to new artists, she said that there was a lack of vibrant contemporary art at this year's show. Nevertheless, Marilyn described this as, "a documenta of questions and uncertainties and of human endeavour with a powerful connection to the past, while being firmly situated in the present." In conclusion, she said that Christov-Bakargiev, "tried and succeeded to a great extent, in making sense of the world. She made us think."

Marcia Marais, IA