

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUMS

e-NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025 ○ ISSUE 13



HOD's MESSAGE

I am honoured to present the 13th issue of the University of Pretoria (UP) Museum's e-newsletter, your go-to digital source for updates on exhibitions, donations, and collection insights into our university museum community. With over 1,500 subscribers as of March 2025, we're deeply grateful for your continued support and thank you for making this journey with us.

This season, we're proud to unveil our latest exhibition: *Bokgabo ba mašela: Art of Textiles*, which opened on 7 March and will run until 17 October 2025. This phenomenal showcase celebrates the artistry of textiles, brought to life by our dedicated team of curators and conservators. Their passion for sharing our institutional collections ensures these treasures remain accessible to everyone.

We're also celebrating remarkable growth in engagement. Our visitor numbers have increased by 76% in person and by 73% online, with 1,000 more visitors compared to this time last year. This growth underscores the vital role university museums play in serving communities. Museums, as non-profits with social responsibilities, go beyond research, teaching, and training, and they inspire, educate, and connect.

But how do museums thrive amidst financial challenges and sector-wide pressures? According to a recent Boston Consulting Group study, museum performance can be measured across four dimensions: artistic contribution, public benefit, learning and growth, and finance and governance. At the UP Museums, we've embraced these principles, adapting and transforming to ensure we deliver meaningful value while engaging our audiences and stakeholders. Success, we believe, is about more than meeting objectives. It's about staying true to our core business of education and research by means of engagement, curation, collections management, and

conservation aligned with that of the University of Pretoria's strategic plan while reimagining our impact.

This issue highlights our commitment to the UP Museum's mission and vision, sharing some recent donations and new acquisitions that enhance our diverse collections and fill gaps of once marginalised artists. These stories reflect the trust, value, and dedication we continue to foster as a small, yet impactful university museum.

Here's to the next season of engagement, growth, and connection.

Dr Sian Tiley-Nel
Head of UP Museums

BOKGABO BA MAŠELA: ART OF TEXTILES EXHIBITION

Bridge Gallery

7 March to 17 October 2025



We are excited to announce the public opening of the [Bokgabo ba mašela: Art of Textiles exhibition](#) in the Bridge Gallery at the University of Pretoria. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Francis Petersen, had the honour of welcoming over 180 guests on the opening night of 6 March 2025. The University of Pretoria Museums were indeed further honoured to have the Registrar of the University of Pretoria, Prof. Caroline Nicholson, serve as master of ceremonies for the launch, and the brilliant guest speaker, Prof. Puleng Segalo, currently serving as the Chief Luthuli Research Chair and a professor of psychology at the University of South Africa.

UP ARCHIVE ACQUISITIONS



The UP Museum Archive recently acquired a two-page archival document handwritten in the original IsiZulu language by the artist Jabulani Ntuli (1898–1988), brother of the South African sculptor Hezekiel Ntuli (1912–1973).

The archival document was acquired as part of the museum's acquisition of eight artworks by Jabulani Ntuli. The original manuscript, written in 1964, provides context to each of his eight artworks purchased by the UP Art Committee. Receiving such invaluable context for the artworks is indeed a rare privilege.

This historical document is intended to be exhibited alongside the eight Jabulani Ntuli works in the upcoming [Hezekiel Ntuli retrospective exhibition](#) that will be launched later this year in the Old Arts Building.

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS



Mpho Mokgatlhe b1986

Udu Drum, ca 2010

Burnished terracotta

305mm x 300mm



Jabulile Nala b1969

Uphiso with relief, 1996

Burnished earthenware

320mm x 350mm



Euriel Damann b1952

Rorkes Drift Jug, 1987

Reduction stoneware

200mm x 160mm x 140mm

DONATIONS

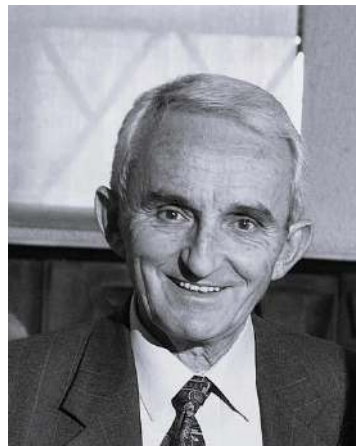


The UP Museum Archive was privileged to receive an in-kind donation of 19 publications on the subject matter of textiles from Mr. Jan F. Mutton, the former Belgian Ambassador to South Africa. This donation provides excellent context to curatorial and archival research for the recent *Bokgabo ba mašela: Art of Textiles exhibition*.

Some of the publications include *De Vlaamse Wandtapijten van de Wawelburch te Krakau* by Jerzy Szablowski (ed.) (Mercatorfonds, 1972), *Paisley Patterns* by Valerie Reilly (Peregrine Smith Books, 1989), *Shoowa Motieven* by Georges Meurant (Gemeentekrediet, 1986), and *Persische Seiden* by Reingard Neumann and Gerhard Murza (Seemann, 1988). The [UP Museum Archive](#) welcomes all donations that will contribute to the archival reserve of knowledge that complements our museum collections and to further research.

IN MEMORIAM

André Breedt (1940-2025)



It is with immense sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. André Breedt (1940-2025). André was a highly respected gentleman, former head of Cultural Affairs and a proud UP alumnus. He was responsible for establishing the museums at the University of Pretoria.

His acute sense of humour, seriousness, life-long dedication, and love for the University of Pretoria, museums, music, and the arts (as well as his obsession with donkeys) and penchant for switching to speaking French will always be remembered by all.

On behalf of the University of Pretoria Museums staff, we would like to offer our condolences to his family, close friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His song has ended, but his melody lives on.

Photo courtesy of UP Archive

MUSEUM CORNER SHOP

The UP Museums are offering their coffee table catalogue titled *Artology*, which features over 300 pages of artworks from the University of Pretoria art collection, marked down 25%. Now available for only **R500.00** each.

Available in the small UP Museum Corner shop, conveniently located in the Old Arts building, room 1-9, during museum hours (08:00-16:00).

The shop offers an array of bespoke UP Museum merchandise, including mouse pads, pens, mugs, canvas bags, water bottles, notebooks, T-shirts, exhibition catalogues, books, and many more featuring the iconic Old Arts Building.

For all enquiries about what is on offer in the UP Museum corner shop or to purchase *Artology*, email kgomotso.mathole@up.ac.za and get your copy before they are sold out. Limited prints only.



ARTOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUM COLLECTIONS 1922-2022



DONATE AND SUPPORT

The University of Pretoria Museums relies on support from those who enjoy the collections and treasure the contents of our diverse galleries. Please make a donation today to support our continued digital strategy, maintain marketing visibility, support art conservation efforts, and care for our high-quality exhibitions and new gallery upgrades. In 2025, we aim to roll out the Fund-a-Frame initiative for the acclaimed Rorkes Drift collection, a recent donation and bequest of over 300 other important artworks that require conservation and framing in order to be exhibited. The University of Pretoria has several convenient ways in which you can support the UP Museums and benefit. All manners of giving are secure and only take a few minutes. Click here to [Donate to UP Museums](#).



The University of Pretoria Museums

Open **Monday to Friday, 08:00 - 16:00**

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