

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUMS

e-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024 ○ ISSUE 10



HOD's MESSAGE

On behalf of the University of Pretoria Museums, I am pleased to reintroduce our new and updated e-newsletter for 2024. Last year went quickly, with our total visitor figures reaching more than 30,067. This number has been recovering steadily since the Covid 2020 pandemic as the UP Museums maintain a strong foothold within the university community, tourism is gaining momentum and online audiences keep growing exponentially. Our digitisation efforts on **Google Arts & Culture** continue to progress, with 1085 artworks online and we launched our sixth online exhibition, **All Gold is Gold** featuring the Mapungubwe Gold Collection.

We welcome the new year with a celebration of 30 years of democracy in the *To Not Forget* exhibition. For the highlight of this exhibition, we have partnered with the Department of Architecture in a student internal design competition to integrate a free-standing timber installation on the iconic historical slate staircase in the Old Arts Building. The project is supported by the Timber Research Chair and the ProtoBuilding Team, 10 students and interns have developed a creative platform through which timber, co-design, and museums' commemorate the major milestones of South African democracy from 1994 to 2024. Another collaboration is a new partnership with the non-profit organization Creative Education South Africa to enhance the learner educational programme coming from 10 Pretoria-based schools, aligning wider access to the Mapungubwe collection and the Grade 6 curriculum. Such collaborations are what a university community is all about.

While we have laid firm strategic plans emanating from our annual UP Museum Lekgotla, we remain open to "bending easily without breaking" to what 2024 may bring. For now, we continue to work hard with a dedicated small team of phenomenal professionals and practitioners. We have just expanded our small team of nine to ten, with the newly appointed Museum Curator of Art Exhibitions & Galleries, Uthando Baduza. He has just started this critical role in April, and we are excited about the prospect of how his dynamics will change and flex within the museums. As always, we value your support and, thank the dedicated newsletter subscribers (and many followers) as our patrons who continue to support the University of Pretoria Museums. Happy browsing and reading.



Dr Sian Tiley-Nel, Head of UP Museums

UPCOMING EXHIBITION

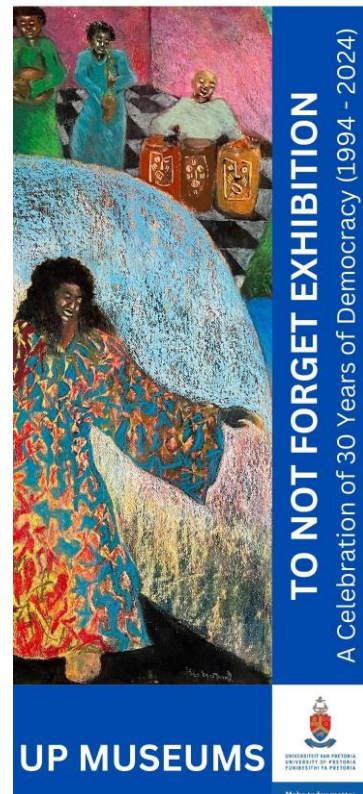
To Not Forget

30 April 2024 - 30 December 2024

This signature commemorative exhibition of the University of Pretoria Museums observes and honours thirty years of democracy. *To not forget, 1994–2024* features more than 30 South African artworks curated over three decades of over 2515 new acquisitions by the University Art Committee. The selected works acquired by means of purchase, donation, gift, or bequest, suggest transformation moments that propelled the UP Museums in new directions after 1994. The chosen title of the exhibition is derived from the work by the South African-born artist, Sfiso Ka-Mkame (b. 1963), *How could I ever forget*. This artwork was selected to highlight the exhibition as it was the first acquisition made by the University of Pretoria in 1994 to honour democratic freedom.

To Not Forget also reflects a journey through 30 years of democracy, as the museums played a pivotal role in the transformation of the University of Pretoria. Selected works by Sello Malemane, Velapi Mzimba, Nqaba Sipunzi, Dumisani Mabaso, Mashifane Makunyane, Collen Maswanganyi, Thulani Mntungwa, Willem de Sanders Hendrikz, Hezekiel Ntuli, Isaac Seoka, Ramarutha Makoba, and Nic Sithole.

Featuring female artists include: Diane Victor, Jabu Nene, Viola Greyling, Henriette Ngako, Elizabeth Roos, Sara Noche, Lerato Ntli, Bonnie Ntshalintshali and Susanna Swart. The UP Museum collections have greatly expanded the depth and diversity, filling gaps, and narratives, injecting gender, correcting imbalances, and being more inclusive. The *To Not Forget* exhibition is open and remains a curated work in progress. Visit the Old Arts Building on Hatfield Campus, and in the coming months, the exhibition will also be available online 24/7 in a pocket gallery.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

Wayne Barker (b.1973)

Chris Hani, 2024

Digital print, enamel on canvas

550mm x 550mm



Thero Makepe (b.1996)

Robben Island University, 2024

Photographic print on Hahnemuhle paper 890mm x 1190mm

WHAT'S NEW

THE UP MUSEUM CORNER SHOP

A new small in-house UP Museums Corner

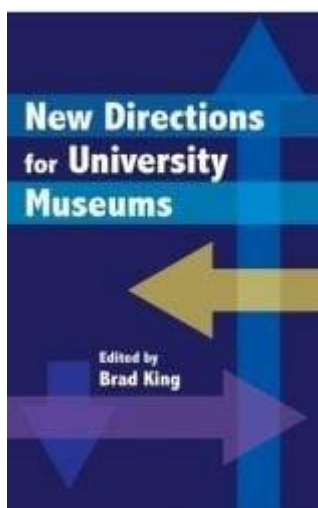
Shop in the Old Arts Building is beginning to take shape. Currently, we are stocked with limited items specifically relating to our collections, ideal for visiting scholars. Gifts and souvenirs such as exhibition catalogues and books, as well as branded practical merchandise such as notebooks, pens, lanyards, and the popular 3D lithophanes of the heritage buildings are available. There is a new series of postcards available representing a selection of our South African artworks.

We aim to gradually expand the unique gift offerings with merchandise inspired by the university collections. All purchases will directly support the UP Museums, to keep the objects, art and fascinating institutional collections accessible and available.

For more information, please contact Kgomotso Mathole +27 12 420 5181, e-mail: kgomotso.mathole@up.ac.za or visit the Hatfield campus, Old Arts Building, Room 19 to view what is currently available.



RECOMMENDED READING



New Directions for University Museums

(2024) edited by Brad King (Rowman &

Littlefield), is a recent publication with a sole focus on university museums. The book is intended to guide university museum leaders to help them plan strategically in the context of the issues and needs of the 2020s by examining trends affecting them and directions in response to those forces. It will lay out a series of potential directions for university museums in the 21st century, using examples from the field.

Although university museums are similar to other museums in their topic areas (art, natural history, archaeology, etc.), they are a unique category that requires special consideration. This book unpacks university museums today in the 21st century and

expands on grappling with new forces that are affecting their future. Click the link to **Purchase the book here**

DONATE TO THE UP MUSEUMS

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 visibility, and care for high-quality exhibitions and new gallery upgrades. 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**.

CONNECT - WE ARE FULLY DIGITAL

Follow us, join, like, browse, rate us, scroll our multiple social media platforms or continue to the website for updates and more information. The UP Museums have joined Whatsapp Business, **TripAdvisor**, and **Google Reviews** and now have a YouTube channel to improve our service.



CONTACT US

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For more click here - **Booking information and Rates**

By appointment, and an access pin to Hatfield Campus is required for all external visitors University of Pretoria Museums, Old Arts Building Room 1-9 and Old Merensky Building, Level 3, Hatfield Campus, entrance at University Road.

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 08:00 am to 16:00 pm

Closed December, weekends and public holidays

Email: museums@up.ac.za

