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# UP MUSEUMS e-NEWSLETTER

**December 2021 ○ ISSUE 6 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
MUSEUMS**



**Message** - Dr Sian Tiley-Nel Head of UP Museums

Ever wonder what university museums do? Well, they are ultimately centred around people. They serve as platforms for discussion, engagement, experiences and partnerships. The University of Pretoria (UP) Museums deliver inclusive access, and services to unique and diverse permanent collections. These collections and archives, as well as the devoted museum team behind them, demonstrate that the Museums are part and parcel of the campus landscape and impact the appreciation and education of art. They make integral contributions to transdisciplinary research, teaching and training, directed towards the academic programme.

This last issue of our sixth e-newsletter gives a glimpse of a few major highlights. This covers our success such as the penultimate chapter of the AFCP preservation grant to the Mapungubwe Archive and we immensely look forward to its formal launch in February 2022. The Corobrik Gallery was opened in November, with a private previewing with several key partners and will be the main opening exhibition for next year. Several loans for 2021 highlight major works from South-32, Nedbank and these add to the 70 additional acquisitions by artists such as Mashifane Makunyane, Jackson Hlungwane and Zubenathi Filana to enhance the institutional art collection.

The museum's greatest achievement for this year was the immediate pivot towards the digital. Now, UP globally shares over 700 works and five online exhibitions or stories on the Google Arts & Culture platform. Google statistics show that in just four months, this ongoing curatorial project reached 146 806 views from the continent and around the world. Google Arts deepens UP's global impact and accessibility to ensuring greater sustainability in order to be flexible and adaptable in a fast-paced digital future.

Over 2021, the UP Museums appreciate all our readers' attention and to our social and digital media followers. Please stay subscribed and join the other 611 subscribers to keep updated. Sharing the e-newsletter and its contents aims to raise visibility and awareness of university museums, their research value and other contributions to the arts and cultural sector. The Museums will continue to make intentional changes on how we connect, how we impact and intend on looking forward into the future with intensity, creativity and a strong direction with a sound strategic plan.

Please look forward to the reopening on 17 January 2022 and book your experience. The UP Museums remain thankful, with gratitude to the University of Pretoria for their unwavering and continued support. Remain safe, sanitised and we encourage vaccination for a healthy, restful and mindful festive season.

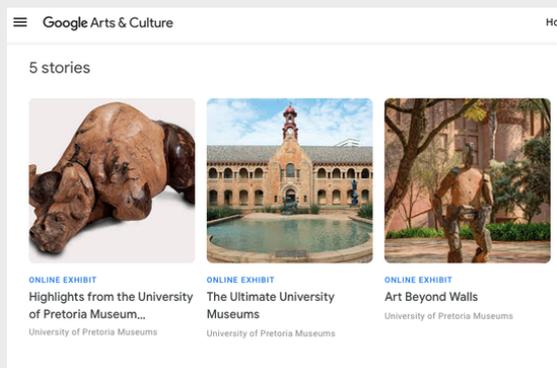
## Highlights from 2021

### GOING VIRTUAL: GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

If you cannot visit the UP Museums in person or in a time of global restrictions and further potential lockdowns, simply search "University of Pretoria Museums". More than 700 works in the museum collection are a click away, as well as an array of five online stories are available on the Google Arts & Culture app, available to download on Android and iOS. The UP Museums signed a partnership with the Google Cultural Institute in 2020. After months of research, digital image content and endless metadata, we successfully launched on 11 August 2021 on the virtual global platform for Google Arts & Culture.

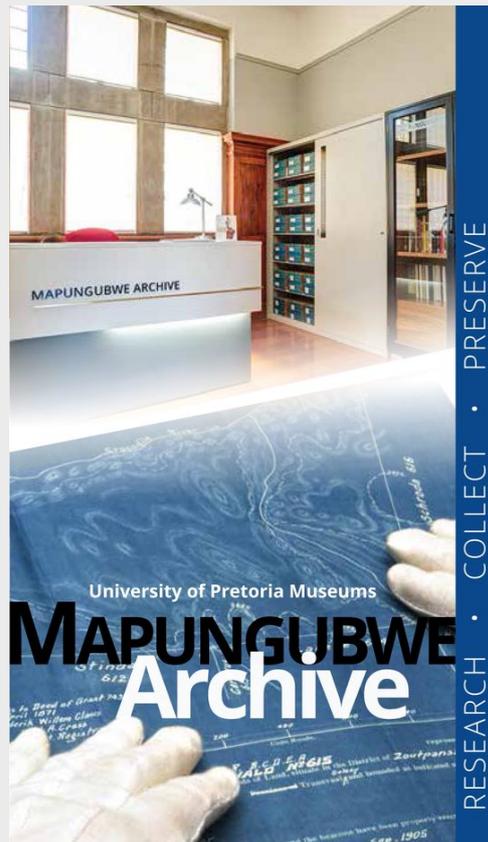
[Read more](#)

[Explore UP Museums on Google Arts & Culture](#)



## A NEW AFRICAN REPOSITORY: THE MAPUNGUBWE ARCHIVE

The U.S. Embassy in Pretoria through the Ambassadors Grant for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) from September 2018 to August 2021 awarded \$57 735 to create the continent's only Mapungubwe Archive at the University of Pretoria. The grant supported the preservation of an incalculable amount of primary historical photographs and more than 60 000 documents from the Mapungubwe Collection and established a quality repository. The ultimate aim, is to open up this national and globally significant archive by making archival holdings more accessible to researchers. The UP Museums are honoured to finally close this chapter in 2021. After three years of dedication, a world-class, leading African archival repository in the Old Arts Building on the Hatfield campus was produced. For further information, email: [maparchive@up.ac.za](mailto:maparchive@up.ac.za).



## THE COROBRIK CERAMIC COLLECTION

With great appreciation to our partners, Corobrik (Pty) Ltd, Ceramics Southern Africa and the City of Tshwane's Pretoria Art Museum, the UP Museums launched the Corobrik Ceramic Collection in November 2021. This comprehensive collection of over 284 contemporary ceramics are by some of South Africa's most well-known ceramicists, aesthetically curated in a dedicated new Corobrik Gallery. The exhibition titled, *Unspoken* offers a wide array of ceramic works that speaks to diverse audiences and provides some glimpses of the artist's identity and social commentary in the modern art world. The theme, *Unspoken*, pushes discomforts of ceramics as not just functional vessels, but also as sculptural forms. This long-term, rich exhibition is not to be missed and adds further depth to the institution's other ceramic collections. For further information, email: [museums@up.ac.za](mailto:museums@up.ac.za).



*The house of conscience*, Catherina Pagani  
Wood-fired Stoneware/Porcelain, 150mm x 450mm

## New acquisition



**Marikana, 2016**  
Mashifane Makunyane  
Wood  
1020mm x 490mm  
Art Collection

## Staff news

Kgomotso Mathole joins the University of Pretoria Museums in the position of the Senior Administrative Assistant. We are thrilled to appoint another UP graduate to join the arts ranks. She is an honoured UP Alumni, with majoring in criminology and psychology. Kgomotso will be responsible for delivering a complete, efficient and effective secretarial, administrative and finance function. Her role includes, serving as Meetings Officer on several critical committee's such as the Heritage Committee, Art Committee, UP Museum Committee and UP Museum Management Committee. Kgomotso brings, "views of her authentic self and leans towards being flexible, adaptive and an innovative individual with a positive mind-set and towards learning new skills" to set a future trajectory of "intentional administration". The UP Museums welcome her adapting to the new normal within the university museum, cultural and art environment.



Towards the end of this year, the UP Museums bid farewell to Nicole Hoffmann, the Museum Interpretative Officer. She has made major meaningful contributions since joining the team in 2017 as a UP graduate. She set in motion many educational online offerings, adapted online tours and developed excellent bespoke tours applying the method known as the IPOP theory. Nicole pursued archaeology, heritage tourism and was a former UP Campus Tour guide and is since completing her PhD on looted heritage. On behalf of her colleagues, she is venturing towards new employment and expanding her tourism horizons in Germany. Nicole has set steadfast planning and groundwork that the UP Museums will continue to expand on and grow, making it one of the best tourism choices in Gauteng and a must-see experience above all other South African university museums.



## Make a contribution

The University of Pretoria Museums rely 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 engagement, and to maintain our high-quality exhibitions, gallery upgrades and efficient services. 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. Please support the UP Museum's efforts by following this link:

[Make a contribution to UP Museums](#)



**The University of Pretoria  
Museums wish you a safe and  
festive holiday season**

We will be closed from the  
13th of December 2021 and will  
reopen on the 17th of January 2022

We look forward to your visit

[museums@up.ac.za](mailto:museums@up.ac.za)





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