

UP MUSEUMS e-NEWSLETTER

April 2023 ○ ISSUE 9 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUMS



MESSAGE

The University of Pretoria Museums have had a successful and productive start to 2023. The first three months of the year have passed quickly, and over 5 567 visitors visited our galleries during that time. We are constructing on a solid base provided by the UP Museum Strategic Plan and positive outcomes from the previous year. In January, the UP Museum Archive and the Mapungubwe Archive joined the [International Council on Archives](#) (ICA) with the goal of increasing research direction to these primary materials and keeping our commitment to the international community.

Deep curatorial impact, expanding museum art conservation, and maintaining archives continue to be our core priority areas within the strategic topic of [Artology](#) and within the scope of our purpose. New initiatives for 2023, including adding more bespoke tour offerings, now offering 12 new tour packages. At the end of January, the Museums also signed an MOA with UP Alumni Relations to roll out the [GLAM](#) - Gardens, Galleries, Archives and Museums Alumni tours. We recently added Whatsapp Business, Google Review and TripAdvisor to streamline wider social communication with diverse audiences and notably within the UP community.

Additionally, the *Artology* exhibition at the Javett-UP Bridge Gallery has just begun. From [20 April through 31 July 2023](#), the public will have access to the exhibition. The release of our new book titled, "*Artology: select works from the University of Pretoria Museum Collections 1922-2022*" earlier this year was a noteworthy development. A wonderful compilation that tastefully and beautifully presents works in 300 pages chosen from the larger 20 000 pool of items in the permanent collections, is finely curated into a high-quality coffee-table book. Highly recommended for everyone who enjoys art or visits museums. Since we remain in celebration mode of 100 years of collecting we want to continually improve our services and enhance growth and sustainability aspects as university museums of excellence in higher education.

We have made good headway with our dedication to the UP digital transformation strategy. Although 932 pieces have been digitised to date, we have been able to add more of our collections to [Google Arts & Culture](#), bringing 815 works online. About 575 of them are purely representative of South African art. This continues our digital expansion to much more audiences.

As we prepare to observe International Museums Month, the forthcoming month of May will continue to be a significant calendar event. The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has designated "Museums, Sustainability and Well-Being" as its theme for [#IMD2023](#). We are excited to present for the first time a Museum outreach initiative to four other UP campuses throughout the month and partner with the Employee Wellness Programme (EWP), Student Health Committee (SHC), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Hub at UP to mark IMD Day on 18 May 2023.

Thank you for your sustained support, and we look forward to the coming productive months.

Making the change, being the change.

Handwritten signature of Sian Tiley-Nel.

Sian Tiley-Nel, Head of UP Museums

WHAT IS ARTOLOGY?

Artology: select works from the University of Pretoria Museums is an exhibition inspired by a word not yet defined in any dictionary. The term *Artology* is a curatorial perspective and an investigative tool that probes into the University of Pretoria's collections by actively researching its archives, conserving and curating its collections and interacting with audiences within the framework of a university museum setting. It is by means of *Artology*, that the UP Museums will continue to curate and collect in order to build upon a strong legacy and reimagine the future of the University of Pretoria's permanent collections. [Read more ...](#)

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... The study of art or an object as art. A branch of knowledge or research strategy applied to curatorship in a university museum context, including practical and theoretical perspectives. A variety of responses and methods to art-making, physical or visceral experiences. The innovative ability to transform information into a thing, ideas, processes and new knowledge into the visual or art. A specialised fusion of mutually creative, research and a transdisciplinary approach to objects in collections and archives.

MUSEUM CONSERVATION AT OUR CORE



The University of Pretoria's art collection is curated and cared for by the UP Museums. The Museum Art conservators worked on more than 65 paintings to prepare for the exhibition, which excluded cleaning, reframing and changing hanging mechanisms. This level of dedication of care, preservation and remedial conservation towards the collection is unparalleled at any university, and is evidently clear by the pristine condition of the *Artology* exhibition.

The Art Collection comprises an extensive list of works created by prominent South African artists dating as far back as 1922, with a 1915 linocut of a portrait of Paul

Kruger (1825–1904). The work created by Hendrik Pierneef (1886–1957) was donated by the artist to the former Transvaal University College which in 1930, it became the independent University of Pretoria. *Artology* brings together a number of works that reflect on the contentious timeline of making art within South Africa.

The works selected for this exhibition reveal complex historical narratives that are articulated from collective and personal experiences of both yesterday and today. The artworks within *Artology*, not only speak to the audiences of this exhibition, but they are also in conversation with each other. These intended and sometimes accidental moments of adjacency open up avenues for extended readings that may go beyond the intended. The UP Museums curate a remarkable collection of nearly 10 000 artworks. An institutional collection of this magnitude and spanning a time frame of more than a century of collecting in South Africa can never be perfect or concise. There are obvious gaps and omissions given the shifting social, economic and political histories and as a result of divergent and even contentious histories.

The permanent collection is regularly expanded through new additions made through purchases, donations, bequests, gifts, fieldwork, or long-term loans. *Artology* aims to rethink and reframe how university museums actively work to fill narrative, identity, and representational gaps, while simultaneously capturing an institution's memory of the past and present. Gathering data and conducting active curatorial research further reveal numerous shortcomings, flaws, blemishes, and deficiencies as seen through the prism of shifting times that span the institution's lifetime.

The UP Museums collection is one of the most remarkable collections within institutions of higher education in South Africa. *Artology* acts as a witness to the history of its growth. The exhibition showcases the iconic, the unexpected, as well as lesser-known works, all of which serve to make a statement about a century of creative outputs and originality of works by artists working in South Africa. *Artology: select works from the University of Pretoria Museums* includes works by Irma Stern, Lucky Sibiyi, Sydney Kumalo, William Kentridge, Diane Victor, Nandipha Mntambo and Maggie Laubser only to name a few.

UP MUSEUM ARCHIVES JOIN GLOBAL ARCHIVES NETWORK

The University of Pretoria Museums is pleased to announce that the Mapungubwe Archive and UP Museum Archive have joined the International Council on Archives (ICA) <https://www.ica.org/en> as of January 2023. The International Council of Archives promotes that effective records and archives management is an essential precondition for good governance, the rule of law, administrative transparency, the preservation of humankind's collective memory, and access to information by citizens. The ICA is dedicated to the effective management of records, and the preservation, care, and use of the world's archival heritage through its representation of records and archive professionals across the globe. Collectively, the UP Museum Archives is a trusted research resource, as archives constitute the memory of museum collections and those of the institution. Joining ICA improves our global standing and reputation. [READ MORE ...](#)



RECENT ACQUISITIONS BY UP ART COMMITTEE



The Big Move, 2022

Lelani Nicolaisen (b.1988)

Acrylic on canvas

500mm x 700mm



Pink and White Flowers, 2022

Lelani Nicolaisen (b.1988)

Acrylic on canvas

500mm x 700mm



Order the UP Museum Artology book NOW

Copyright © 2023 University of Pretoria First Edition
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University of Pretoria Museums Cost R750 ea.

ARTOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUM COLLECTIONS 1922-2022

Email: museums@up.ac.za



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. Please support the UP Museum's efforts by following this link: Make a contribution to UP Museums here.

CONNECT - WE ARE MORE DIGITAL

Follow us, join, like, browse, rate us and 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.



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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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