



UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA MUSEUMS



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

OUR MISSION

The University of Pretoria Museums actively curate the collective memory of the institution's collections and archives for the purposes of conservation, wider engagement, interpretation and research in order for society to enjoy and access our creative spaces and galleries.

OUR VISION

The University of Pretoria Museums will strive to be innovative, inspirational and progressive leaders as the university museum of quality and choice.





■ OUR VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

To preserve, interpret, curate and promote museum collections entrusted to and inherited by the University of Pretoria;

To maintain and conserve collections and hold them in trust on behalf of the University of Pretoria and for the benefit of civic society;

To hold primary evidence in its museum collections and archives for research and furthering knowledge;

To provide opportunities for the appreciation, enjoyment, engagement, understanding and management of museum collections;

To hold resources that provide opportunities within and beyond the museums and for society;

To offer a specialised service to the University of Pretoria, the public and work in collaboration with diverse communities and researchers;

To operate in an ethical and professional manner, compliant with the applicable legal and regulatory framework.

The University of Pretoria Museums are members of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) and the International Council of Museums Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC) and the South African Museums Association (SAMA).



■ INTRODUCTION

The University of Pretoria Museums manage, conserve and curate a diversity of museum collections and associated archives that are held at various university locations. Key museum collections are displayed in two historical buildings the Old Arts Building (1910) and the Old Merensky Building (1937) on the Hatfield campus. These university museum collections are iconic since they are unique and valuable comprising of a vast art collection (South African and European), ceramics from southern Africa and around the world, South African sculpture, including the world renowned and nationally declared archaeological Mapungubwe Collection.

To honour our long 110-year history, the past decade has focused on wider public engagement and access to these heritage collections beyond academia and for society to engage with, enjoy and appreciate. The museums continue to support the academic, training, research and teaching drives within the institution and continue to strive to improve, expand and contemporise the university museums as a greater social responsibility.

The museums are proud to have eight high-quality permanent gallery spaces dedicated to the Mapungubwe Galleries, the Ceramics Galleries and the Sculpture Gallery. New plans are underway to develop and enhance more galleries devoted specifically to the museum art collection and museum archives on the northern wing of the Old Arts Building and to contemporise and upgrade the Sculpture Gallery.

Today, the UP Museums link down the historical Tukkie Lane, a cultural spine towards the university's south campus into the newly launched Javett-UP Art Centre. Here the Mapungubwe Gold Collection on a *National Treasures* exhibition and the formidable masterpiece by Alexis Preller, *Discovery* is on long-term loan courtesy of the University of Pretoria Museums.



DISCOVER • ENGAGE • ENJOY

■ MUSEUM BUILDINGS

Old Arts Building - 1910

The main university museum building is an iconic feature on the campus landscape. This beautiful sandstone building features a central clock tower and Oregon Pine floors and slate staircases. It was the first building completed on the campus of what was then the Transvaal University College (TUC), which initially housed the entire University in 1910. The foundation stone was laid on 3 August 1910 and it was opened in August 1911 by General Jan Smuts. The interior still exhibits its original stained glass windows, including an exquisite stained glass window of the original TUC coat of arms. Designed by the architect, Percy Eagle, a student of Sir Herbert Baker, its architecture reflects different styles and elements of Cape Dutch and Neo-Romanesque. The building was declared a National Monument in 1968 and was officiated a university museum. The water fountain in front of the building is a campus landmark featuring a bronze life-size work of two Red Lechwe by the South African artist Coert Steynberg.

Old Merensky Building - 1937

In 1933 it was decided to construct a separate building to house the university library, which was then still located in the Old Arts Building. With a contribution of £5000 from the mining geologist Dr Hans Merensky, the Old Merensky Building was constructed on 11 October 1937. General Jan Smuts laid the foundation stone and the building was opened officially on 15 April 1939. In its design, the South African architect Gerhard Moerdyk was influenced by various styles ranging from Art Deco, Neo-Classicism, African architecture, as well as local styles such as Cape Dutch and Regency.

Today, the Old Merensky is a declared national monument dedicated to housing the museum sculpture collections with upper levels reserved for the library collections.



■ MUSEUM GALLERIES PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

OLD ARTS BUILDING

The South African Ceramics Gallery

This small but significant gallery serves as the main foyer and displays a selection of 20th and 21st century factory production ceramics and studio ceramics including contemporary fine art ceramics. This area exhibits the newest and latest ceramic acquisitions to the museum collections. Ceramics include signature Ardmore and other works from well-known ceramicists such as Henriette Ngako, Hym Rabinowitz, Ingrid Meier, Stanley Nkosi, Andrew Walford, Esias Bosch, Margot Rudolph, Dale Lambert, Digby Hoets and Zanele Nkosi.

The World of Ceramics Gallery

Comprising of five gallery spaces, the World of Ceramics Gallery exhibits more than 2000 ceramics from across the world, with the oldest ceramic dating back to the Neolithic period in China (3100-2700 BC). The entrance is dedicated to Japanese ceramics and is flanked by the Eastern Gallery devoted to a permanent exhibition of the largest Chinese ceramic collection in South Africa. The Western Gallery displays signature commemorative War ceramics and popular European ceramics and highlights recent acquisitions with ancient ceramics originating from pre-Columbian, Mayan, Egyptian, Mesopotamia and Roman pottery.

The Eastern Ceramics Gallery

This newly upgraded large gallery features the largest collection in South Africa of Chinese ceramic porcelains, glazed earthenwares and stonewares originating from China and Japan with examples of Taiwanese and Vietnamese wares. This gallery is dedicated to the depth and variety of Chinese glazes and traditional motifs and represents Chinese ceramics throughout each dynasty within a timeline up until the present.

The Western Ceramics Gallery

Presents a rare collection of Dutch commemorative war ceramics, Gouda wares inspired by Art Nouveau and Art Deco, as well as a

unique assemblage of Dutch tiles including 18th through to 20th century ceramics from Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and England among many more beautiful wares from other European countries.

The Tin-Glaze Ceramics Gallery

This small display gallery remains dedicated to blue and white ceramics typical of tin-glazed earthenware such as recognisable delftware, majolica, lead-glaze ware, lustre ware and faience examples.

The Van Tilburg Art Collection Gallery

Forming part of the southern wing of the Old Arts Building, this gallery space exhibits a selection of 17th to 20th century Dutch masterpieces as well as items of historical furniture donated to the University of Pretoria by J.A. Van Tilburg in 1976. This gallery offers a beautiful and exclusive meeting space with a central historical table surrounded by landscape paintings and a key highlight, is a 16th century merchant's chest, one of the oldest items of historical furniture in South Africa.

The Mapungubwe Gallery

The Mapungubwe Gallery displays the largest Iron Age ceramic collection from the world heritage archaeological sites known as K2 and Mapungubwe Hill dating from CE 1000-1300. Included are other unique archaeological collections of clay figurines and clay spindle whorls. A permanent exhibition titled *Letsopa* meaning 'clay' in Sepedi celebrates the art of indigenous ceramic making, and the gallery highlights more than 115 ceramics as well as ethnographic and historical ceramics and contemporary ceramics by the South African ceramicist, Nic Sithole. The Mapungubwe Gallery remains dedicated to the Mapungubwe Collection and in future will feature a unique indigenous bead gallery.

The Mapungubwe Archive

A dedicated repository has been recently allocated to house the country's most comprehensive collection of historical documents and photograph records associated with the University of Pretoria's research and curatorial efforts at Mapungubwe. Owing to a generous grant from the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation in association with the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, has enabled the development of a permanent repository. This future depository will serve as an institutional Mapungubwe memory bank where it manages, curates, maintains and preserves primary records.

OLD MERENSKY BUILDING

The Sculpture Gallery

Arriving at the impressive staircase to the Old Merensky Building, one enters the museum Sculpture Gallery, more popularly known as the Edoardo Villa Museum. Containing the western, eastern and central wings of the museum are some of the finest sculptural works comprising more than two hundred classic and modern sculptures. The oldest museum sculpture dated to 1881 is titled, *Bird catcher* by the South African sculptor, Anton Van Wouw (1862-1945). Many of the new additions to the museum gallery share a particular enriched narrative and reflection in relation to sculpture within a South African context. Such narratives are evident in the recently acquired works such as the art by Collen Maswanganyi, Lwandiso Njara, Martin Tose, Zelda Stroud, Theophilus Rikhotso, Nikita Pereira and Jan van der Merwe. This open public display and ever-expanding collection is considered one of the largest permanent sculptural collections at any university in South Africa.

Art Beyond Walls: The Sculpture Route

The museums curate a very diverse sculptural collection on public display across all campuses that garner immense art interest and appreciation. In response, the museums recently launched a sculpture route for students, staff and the public to explore, engage and experience. These sculptural works are made by distinguished South African artists such as Izaak Seoka, Guy du Toit, Abraham Makhabula, Angus Van Zyl Taylor and Anton Smit among many others. The meander along the sculpture route provides two options: a shorter route that is about thirty minutes and wheelchair friendly and a longer extended route that takes about an hour and a half. This new route aims to introduce the sculptural collections and hopes to humanise campus spaces and stimulate thought, debate and engagement with museum collections beyond traditional walls. Some works are situated in the beautiful gardens and can be found among the historical buildings and down Tukkie Lane stitched to the new Javett-UP Art Centre and the sculptural art corner on south campus. This sculpture route is an initiative unique to the University of Pretoria and starts and ends at the University of Pretoria Museums.

MORE ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA ART COLLECTION

The University of Pretoria Museums curate a vast 20th century and contemporary South African fine art collection that has been acquired from as early as 1922 through purchase, gift, bequest or donation. In 1957, the University Council constituted a Committee for Exhibitions and Collections and later in 1974 allocated annual budgets for actively acquiring art. By 1979, a new committee known as the Arts Committee was formed solely for purposes of purchasing artworks to enhance its institutional art collection. Since then, the University of Pretoria has been privileged with large donations and significant bequests and the current Art Committee remains very active. They endeavour to purchase new acquisitions in order to continually enhance the South Africa art collection under the curatorship and art conservation by the University of Pretoria Museums.

Today the art collection is impressive and exhibited primarily by the museums and exclusively in the Principal's Foyer in the Administration Building. The extensive art collection expands annually and includes signature and distinctive works by South African artists such as Maggie Laubser, Sydney Kumalo, William Kentridge, Irma Stern, Walter Battiss, Alexis Preller, Helen Sibidi, Noria Mabassa, Gregoire Boonzaier and Christo Coetzee. The art collection further procures artworks from its graduate students and prominent alumni artists, but also from young and upcoming local and national artists within South Africa. The museum art collection continues to accumulate and build on a rich and complex art legacy to contribute to a more transformed South African art heritage.



■ GENERAL INFORMATION

Research Access

The University of Pretoria Museum collections and associated documentation such as the archival collections are available for research, teaching, training, exhibition and educational purposes. The nature and conditions of use and access must be consistent with the Museum's endeavours to safeguard and preserve its collections. Access for research is provided upon written request as a registered researcher, to schedule appointments. Allow at least two weeks advance notice and submit your requests by contacting museums@up.ac.za.

Photography and Filming

Visitors may not take photographs in the galleries using hand-held cameras, video cameras or cell phones, limited personal use such as for social media is acceptable. Flash photography or the use of a tri-pod is not permitted in any of the museum galleries. Formal, commercial and professional requests for filming access, interviews or photographs of individual objects or collections must be motivated in writing for permissions and copyright purposes to museums@up.ac.za for further information.

Opening Hours and Admission

Open Daily Weekdays:

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

Closed:

Weekends, Public Holidays & December

Appointments preferable

Access via a one-time pin | Entrance is free of charge | Secure parking | Wheelchair and disabled friendly | Wi-Fi friendly zone | Book and stationary shop | ICT friendly with LED TV screens and digital frames | Available restaurants and take aways | Nearby coffee shop, ATMs and other facilities | Eating and drinking in galleries is not permitted

Contacts

General information

(012) 420 5181

Interpretative Museum Tours

(012) 420 2178

UP Campus Access

museums@up.ac.za

Email:

museums@up.ac.za

Website

<http://www.up.ac.za>

Physical Address

University of Pretoria Museums, Hatfield Campus

Old Arts Building & Old Merensky Building

GPS Coordinates: 25°45'14.9"S 28°13'48.7"E

Safe parking on campus in Engineering 3 paid

parking from University Road entrance

Public transport is encouraged with the nearby Gautrain,

Hatfield Station, Bus H1 Brooklyn, Stop 2.

