



UP MUSEUMS *e-NEWSLETTER*

May 2020 ISSUE 1

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF UP MUSEUMS

Welcome to the first online University of Pretoria Museums e-Newsletter. Our aim is simple: to inspire, share and expand our communication about what we do and how we do it. An e-newsletter remains cost effective and affordable (saves paper and the planet) with great communication potential and outreach to the community, both internal and external and widens our museum reach to new audiences including our dedicated patrons as well as visitors locally and globally.

We stand collectively with our ICOM and UMAC global partners, supporting the accomplished efforts of university museums worldwide, standing in solidarity with the hashtag movement [#UniversityMuseumsFromHome](#).

We hope to synergise with society and raise awareness of university museums to art lovers, enthusiasts, students, staff, novices, fanatics, academics, fellow museologists, alumni, patrons, possible future donors and the much needed, benefactors to support our services, offerings and the immense efforts we go to ensure that the UP Museums not survive but thrive.

The UP Museums have just concluded their strategic master plan for 2020-2025 and we look forward to sharing it soon.

To our dedicated UP Museums team, thank you for your dedication, support and ongoing commitment.

We will keep you all connected to stories, artworks, archives, initiatives and projects to share THE UP WAY and to demonstrate that all great universities have great museums!



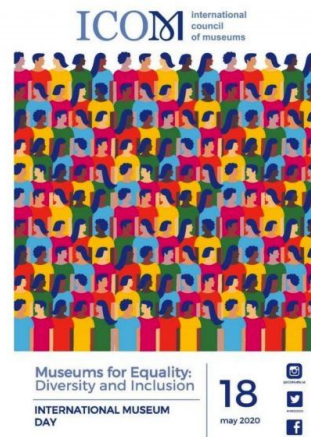
Sian Tiley-Nel
Head of UP Museums

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

NEWS

UP Museums digitally mark International Museum Month

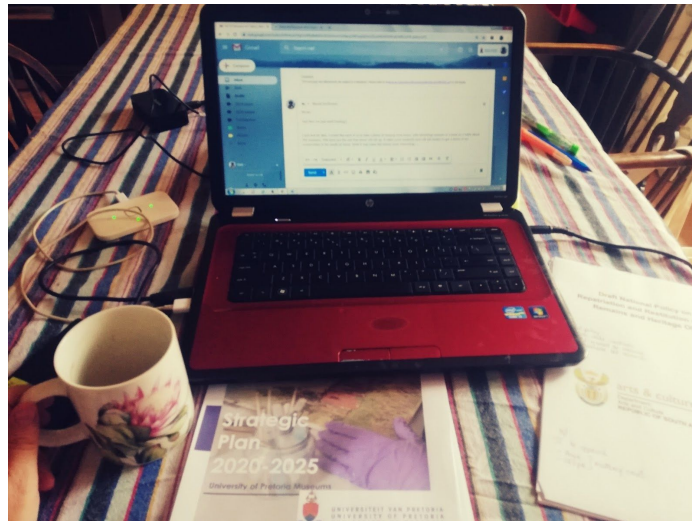
The UP Museums join our local museums and global museum network in celebrating International Museum Day on the 18th of May 2020. This year, #IMD2020 is going digital and co-ordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and we shine a spotlight on the theme, “Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion”.



This is the 40th anniversary of ICOM, and worldwide 20 000 museums are participating in celebrations from over 138 countries. As institutional members of ICOM, the UP Museums have launched this first e-newsletter as we collaborate and join hands with fellow museum professionals in sharing a diversity of perspectives that make up the communities. We wish to promote how museums are still social spaces (physical or digital) and serve as catalysts for the cultural and tourism sector. Museums are exploring, learning and engaging online, identifying and offering collections on display and sharing knowledge by specialists to widen outreach to all communities on the importance of museums.

During unprecedented times whilst facing Covid-19, the web has demonstrated the resilience and perseverance of museums, the art cultural and heritage sector. Museums remain the vanguard of collective memory and even in times of crisis and rallying to showcase their veritable place in society. Please join this movement with the University of Pretoria Museums, along with other museums from around the world. Read more [HERE](#). If you are looking for some inspiration visit the UP Museums regular weekly feature Artwork 4 the Week and watch this space for exciting access to UP Collections using [online puzzles!](#).

Museums and individuals are invited to share their #IMD2020, #DiversityAndInclusion, #StayAtHome, #MuseumsFromHome digital initiatives and experiences on other social media platforms with the hashtag #MuseumsAndChill.



NEWS

#UniversityMuseumsFromHome

The University of Pretoria Museums is joining the global museum community to best amplify public engagement online through social networks and websites to be somewhat accessible during the lockdown period following the Covid-19 pandemic. This global pandemic will not stop us from curating from home and doing what we do. While there is social distancing, we are aiming to bring our collections closer to the public, out of isolation from storage and temporary exhibitions which are currently closed but available on our website. We do not have the luxuries for 3-D experiences or virtual reality museums at our disposal, but these amazing experiences can still be viewed at some of the world's greatest museums with over 2,500 virtual tours online. Explore these virtual museums [HERE](#).

As small university museums, while our resources remain limited, yet not enough to hold webinars or Zoom events, we are creatively bringing the UP Museums collections and galleries with regular updated features, news items and highlights of our collections and exhibitions to continue to roll our public and curatorial programmes. April in South Africa was a celebration of Freedom Month and the UP Museums showcased a selection of artworks from our SA Landscape series, part of a temporary exhibition at the Rectorate. The landscape in this exhibition explores arts potential to depict a nation's ideals of individualism, freedom and opportunity- South Africa is picturesque and has some of the world's most beautiful and diverse landscapes both with natural, cultural and artistic beauty. The UP Museums team are professional members of global networks such as ICOM-SA and UMAC and we wish to share our network more widely. Universities across the globe are switching to remote learning and university museums and professionals are #workingfromhome. UMAC is inviting all university museums to share (1) the challenges of remote work (2) the challenges of keeping the engagement and (3) the challenges of solidarity.



NEWS

Art Conservation Covered@Home

The Covid-19 pandemic may have brought the art world to a temporary halt, yet despite this global challenge nearly every major art institution has commenced with virtual art tours and one can escape from home onto online museums to be immersed in artworks from the Louvre Museum in Paris to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The disruptions caused by the virus are harmful not only to people and their well-being, but also to the crucial conservation work that they do and how the impact on museums will involve post-crisis planning. Follow the OECD Webinar, "Coronavirus (COVID-19) and museums: impact, innovations and planning for post-crisis" held on April 10, 2020, in collaboration with ICOM.

Amid the worldwide crisis, the UP Museums is making plans to ensure that we continue to curate and conserve, as well as research and campaign for the invaluable work our staff are able to continue from home. Where possible, we are supporting staff to be committed and enthusiastic about their responsibilities and our part-time art conservator, Sandra Markgraaf is continuing conservation from a fully functional and professional home art conservation studio, known as Art Revive. She was asked a few questions from a novice point of view, about what art conservation is and what it entails. Get the full article [HERE](#).

STAFF FEATURE

Museum Commentary

Nicole Hoffmann as the Museum Interpretive Officer and a specialist in Heritage and Cultural Tourism from the University of Pretoria Museums shares valuable insight and professional commentary on the South African Tourism Webinar – Tourism Recovery Plan held online on 14 April 2020, hosted by Sisa Ntshona, CEO of South African Tourism. The impact of tourism has greatly affected the economy of South Africa since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and museums globally



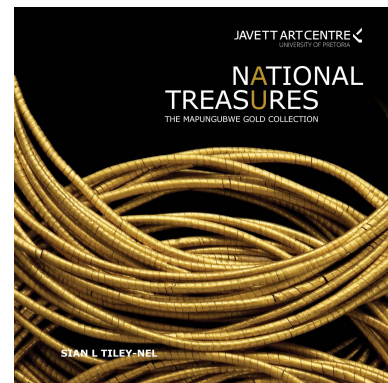
have been affected and a recovery plan for tourism and museums-alike will need consideration as the year progresses.

During this second part of the online webinar hosted by South African Tourism, the panel of tourism industry experts spoke about expectations and difficulties that are being experienced and lessons that were learned from other countries and from within South Africa. The facilitator and host asked all participants to vote on when they expect the tourism (and aviation) industry to normalise again. Most of the roughly 1700 participants of the webinar maintained that they expect tourism to return to the good 2019 levels only by the first or second quarter in 2021. Read the full article [HERE](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Book Nook

The UP Museums have a range of [publications](#) available for sale, featuring the range and diversity of the collections of the University of Pretoria. Recent titles cover the spectrum of coffee-table quality exhibition catalogues and detail some of the most significant pieces of the UP collections ranging from ceramics to sculpture.



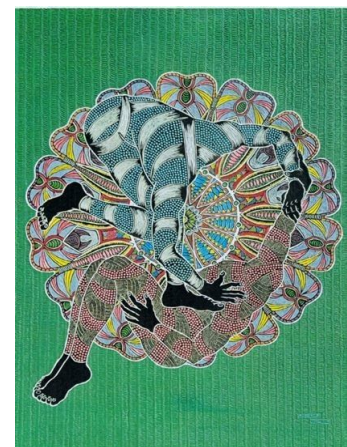
Recent titles focus on the University of Pretoria's Mapungubwe collection and include the commemorative publication of *85 years of the Mapungubwe Archives* (2018) and *National Gold Treasures of the Mapungubwe Collection, second edition* (2019).

UP MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Explore the Art Collection

While the UP Museums is temporarily closed to keep everyone safe from the spread of Covid-19, we are bringing our community online with [Artwork 4 the Week](#). This is a regular curatorial feature, showcasing and bringing you inspiration from some of the University of Pretoria's finest South African artworks.

***Umshikashika*, 2017**
Sthenjwa Luthuli (1991 -)
Carved and painted board
1840mm x 1300mm
920784





MUSEUM GALLERIES

Online interiors

We feature this month's interior of the UP Museums [Eastern Ceramics Gallery](#) which features the largest collection in South Africa of East Asian ceramic porcelains, glazed earthenwares, stonewares and celadons originating from China and Japan, with select examples of Taiwanese and Vietnamese ceramics. This spacious and domed gallery features more than 347 ceramics in a single space and is dedicated to the depth and variety of signature Chinese ceramic motifs with themes ranging from the traditional blue and white, to human and animal motifs, single glazes, monochromes to the beautiful white glazes of blanc de Chine wares. The ceramics on display cover each dynasty within a timeline up to the present. View our galleries online and book your in person visit to the galleries in advance once our doors re-open after the lockdown. Social distancing will apply and your safety and enjoyment of our museum galleries will be a priority.

Keep watching the UP Museums website to see when we will be open to the public for a truly enticing museum experience. For more information or interesting UP Museums stories please visit our [website](#).