

For immediate release: 27 June 2023

The NWU Gallery in collaboration with the research entity ViNCO (Visual Narratives and Creative Outputs) at the North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus, and IZIKO Museums of South Africa, proudly presents the upcoming exhibition *Stairways and Ruins*, opening in the North-West University Gallery (Potchefstroom Campus) on 17 July 2023, at 13h00.

Venue: NWU Main Gallery (North-West University, Building E7, Hoffman Street, Potchefstroom. 2530)

Exhibition title: *Stairways and Ruins*

Time: 13h00

Opening date: 17th July 2023

Closing date: 31st August 2023

The exhibition features work by 25 artists, and established as well as upcoming artists are represented in the show. Most of the Graphic Design and History of Art lecturers at the NWU (the subject groups where ViNCO is situated) also participate in the exhibition. Works featured in the exhibition include installations, two- and three-dimensional work, and moving images. ViNCO is honoured to have Andrew Lamprecht, curator of Historical Paintings and Sculpture, Iziko Museums of South Africa, as curator for the exhibition.

For the exhibition, artists were asked to produce a visual artwork using the idea of stairways and ruins, developed from the writing of Bessie Head and Sol Plaatje, as prompt. Interested artists were briefed on thematic and conceptual possibilities of this notion, including archival matters, memorialisation, myth, auto-ethnography, and (re-) imagined pasts and futures. Therefore, creative possibilities sparked by the topic of the project relate to *stairways* that invite notions of dreaming, transporting, transcending, and creating, as well as *ruins* that suggest a consideration of the past, of destruction and of wreckage.

This exhibition forms part of a large-scale, three-year collaborative practice-led research project by the same name. The project comprises three phases: a launch together with an open call to artists to participate (in 2022); the exhibition in 2023, and finally, a reflection on the project with peer-reviewed scholarly articles during the following year. Participating artists at academic institutions can also apply for recognition of creative outputs as research in this context.

Stairways and Ruins is organised by ViNCO members, and this is the fourth large-scale, three-year project undertaken by ViNCO (previous projects were *Creative Creatures* of 2007 to 2009,

Transgressions and boundaries of the page that took place during 2009 to 2011, and *Reflective Conversations* in 2012 to 2014). More information about this project and previous projects can be found at <https://humanities.nwu.ac.za/vinco>.

The exhibition features work by these artists:

Armand Aucamp, Sandi Basi, Lindi Cameron, Louise marié Combrink, Annemi Conradie-Chetty, Marna de Wet, Neo Diseko, Candice Edwards, Hénriel Fourie, Nicola Grobler, Franci Greyling, Danelle Heenop, Marina Herbst, Paula Kruger, Jean Lampen, Ricardo Liut, Colette Lotz, Kaylin Moonsamy, Lesego Motsiri, Pieter Odendaal, Juan Steyn, Kiveshan Thumbiran, Joe Turpin, Jan van der Merwe, Corné Venter and Zinhle Zulu

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About ViNCO:

The research niche ViNCO (Visual Narratives and Creative Outputs through Interdisciplinary and Practice-Led Research) contributes to current discourse on South African and African visual narratives and the histories and visions that shape them. Our students and researchers work towards creating, imagining, exploring, inquiring, and reflecting on expressions of visual narratives, imagery and design. We are concerned with acknowledging, understanding and visualising untold narratives through scholarly engagement with and through creative practice and visual culture. Current programme offerings include a Master of Arts in Graphic Design (Practice), a Master of Arts in History of Art, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Visual and Performing Arts with History of Art.

<https://humanities.nwu.ac.za/vinco>

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