

The FNB Joburg Art Fair celebrates tenth edition

The annual FNB Joburg Art Fair returns to Johannesburg's Sandton Convention for its tenth edition from 8 to 10 September 2017.

The fair will feature over 60 exhibitions within five categories, including contemporary and modern art, solo presentations, limited editions and art platforms, with selected galleries and organisations hailing from eleven countries across Africa, Europe and the United States.

Notably, six participants have exhibited in every FNB Joburg Art Fair edition since 2008, namely David Krut Projects, [Goodman Gallery](#), [Everard Read](#), [Gallery MOMO](#) and [SMAC Gallery](#).



New and contemporary exhibitions

The contemporary section will welcome [MOV'ART](#), Luanda, exhibiting for the first time at the fair, while [Addis Fine Art](#), Addis Ababa and [Circle Art Agency](#), Nairobi joining the main contemporary section after their fair debut last year as part of the 2016 East Africa Focus.

Other new exhibitors include [50ty/50ty](#), Johannesburg in *Limited Editions*, [NWU Gallery](#), Potchefstroom and [Under Ground Contemporary](#), Kampala in *Art Platforms*.

The solo presentations are dominated by women this year, with six of the eight artists being female. South African artists include Sethembile Msezane – represented by Gallery MOMO, Johannesburg and Cape Town, Lady Skollie by [Tyburn Gallery](#) (London), Thenjiwe Niki Nkosi by the [Mariane Ibrahim Gallery](#) (Seattle) and Bronwyn Katz by blank projects, Cape Town. In [Toto Gallery](#) will showcase Ilana Seati, and SMAC Gallery will present a new body of Chemu Ng'ok's work. [SMITH Studios](#) will exhibit a unique presentation of the collective HOICK and ELA - Espaço Luanda Arte will present António Ole.



FNB Art Prize awarded to Peju Alatise

16 Aug 2017



Modern South African narratives

“In preparing for the tenth anniversary edition. We asked ourselves if we ever simply reflect on a scenario without imagining the potential outcomes, or envision a future without considering the past? So we used this natural moment of reflection and celebration as a framework for the focus of this year’s Fair – to interrogate how closely the acts of *Looking Back* and *Looking Forward* are tied. We’ll be looking back at the legacy of Modern and Contemporary African Art while looking forward to the future possibilities of artistic practices, communities and markets on the continent,” says Mandla Sibeko, director of the FNB Joburg Art Fair.

In the spirit of *Looking Back*, Dr. Zoe Whitley of London’s Tate Modern, will curate an exhibition within the fair titled *Truth, or some other abstraction*, which will look at how South African modern artists voiced their stories and how those stories shaped our contemporary understanding of history. Borrowing works not often on public display from Gauteng’s collections, Whitley’s curatorial investigation of the modern South African narrative will demonstrate the importance that our past plays on present realities.

The fair welcomes back Robin Rhode – the featured artist at the very first fair in 2008 and once again as 2017’s featured artist. Rhode’s most recent body of work resonates with the concept of *Looking Forward*. He obscures obvious age, race or even gender from his imagery, favouring instead the constants of geometry, balance and color theory. The results are eerily comforting avatars in the age of globalisation – iconography with which anyone may identify.



Robin Rhode

Discovering artistic values

“The FNB Joburg Art Fair continues to play a significant role in discovering the value that artists bring to society and has earned a reputation as the ideal place for those interested in African contemporary art. As a proudly South African bank with roots that extend into several other countries on the African continent and further afield, First National Bank (FNB) helps to sustain the support of art through this prestigious annual event,” says Mari Van Niekerk, senior communication and sponsorship manager at FNB.

New to the FNB Joburg Art Fair, Cartier will be front and centre supporting the arts, showcasing exceptional jewellery and watch creations, and a selection of artworks created but the students of Johannesburg-based art schools, [The Artists Proof Studio](#) and The Market Photo Workshop. The exhibition, part of the Maison’s support of emerging artists in South Africa, is titled *The Ordinary Becomes Precious*, and is inspired by Cartier’s Juste un Clou collection. Juste un Clou pieces magnify the precious qualities of everyday objects in a sublime take on the ordinary, embodying boldness, modernity, and innovation by offering a creative twist on a familiar object.

This is our inaugural year as sponsors to the FNB Joburg Art Fair. Cartier has always had strong ties to the world of art. In fact, the art of jewellery-making is one of the most ancient and universal forms of expression. We were driven to support the Art Fair as art and design are part of our identity. The creative spirit of Cartier resonates with that of the Art Fair,” said Sheila Anne Johnston, Cartier country manager.

Also exhibiting at the Fair for the first time, BMW will present a BMW 7 Series by Ndbele artist Esther Mahlangu. Twenty-six years ago, Mahlangu was the first woman to create artwork on a BMW 525i Sedan, and in 2016 she was once again commissioned to refine a BMW 7 Series, which was exhibited at the Frieze London art fair.



Vibrant and informative project showcase

As always, the FNB JoburgArtFair has planned a vibrant and informative series of special projects and events. Lalela will host the Educational Programme and Artinsure will host the Art Tours.

“We are excited to be involved in the walkabout program for the second year because it’s our goal to make art accessible. Professor Federico Freschi and Magkati Molebatsi will lead the walkabouts, giving art lovers an insight into some of the works on display,” says Gordon Massie, MD of Artinsure.

This year, the addition of a film programme will be headlined by the [Centre For the Less Good Idea](#), the brainchild of acclaimed South African artist William Kentridge. On Friday, 8 September, audiences can enjoy a specially curated selections of video works from The Centre Of The Less Good Idea’s first season, which will be projected on a large outdoor screen in Nelson Mandela Square.

The Talks Programme will once again take place at the Theatre on Nelson Mandela Square and highlight the exciting content at this year’s Fair. Notably, the programme includes featured artist Robin Rhode and The Armory Show, New York, director Benjamin Genocchio – each delivering a keynote – as well as a conversation that looks at The School of Anxiety, a project by Moses Serubiri, showcased at the 10th Berlin Biennale.

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