

Meet the 2018 PPC Imaginarium Awards judges

This year's PPC Imaginarium Awards judges, helping showcase some of South Africa's top rising talent in art and design, are established in a range of disciplines. These include research, design, curation, activism and education. They bring a wealth of skills as well as several decades' worth of collective experience.

Regional judges select finalists from the work submitted in all categories, excluding architecture. Regional judging takes place in Cape Town, Durban, Pretoria, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein and Johannesburg. All judging is blind and unbiased.

Regional winners and runners-up of the PPC Imaginarium Awards take part in the annual travelling exhibition in late 2018. Finalists' work will be featured in a range of shows, including the Turbine Art Fair and 100% Design South Africa. From the regional winners, national judges pick the overall winner of the 2018 PPC Imaginarium Awards.



Here are this year's judges:

Johannesburg

Rolihlahla Mhlanga: Mhlanga is currently the curatorial project manager of Assemblage Studios in Gauteng. He has curated several large shows, including Fresh Produce (part of the annual Turbine Art Fair). In 2014, he co-founded the Eyethu Gallery in Soweto, of which he is former head curator.

Mary Sibande: Sibande is an award-winning sculptor, photographer and visual artist. Her work explores issues of race, class and gender, among others. To date, her work has been featured in France, Italy, South Africa, England and the United States.

Durban

Eugene Hlophe: Hlophe is an award-winning artist whose work frequently explores violence, human rights and communication. In 2018, he received a commendation award at the KZNSA Members' Exhibition for his oil-on-canvas piece 'Whose Heritage?'

Port Elizabeth

Mellaney Ruiters: An artist, Ruiters is the recipient of numerous awards including the New Signatures Award (Epsac Community Art Centre NMMU Exhibition) and Best Student Award at the Regional Ceramic Exhibition of Ceramic South

Africa. She teaches drawing and ceramics at Lovedale TVET College in Alice, Eastern Cape. In the past, she lectured and worked as the studio master's assistant in the Ceramics Department of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU).

Bloemfontein

Adelheid von Maltitz: Von Maltitz is a PhD candidate at the University of the Free State. She is also a junior lecturer in UFS's Department of Fine Art. She was a runner-up in the Sasol New Signatures art contest in 2014.

Pretoria

Raimi Gbadamosi: Professor Gbadamosi is an artist, writer and curator with degrees from Staffordshire University, Slade School of Fine Art and Manchester Metropolitan University. He has published widely on themes such as race, culture and politics. His work has been featured in Europe, Africa and Scandinavia. He currently sits on several boards and is a member of the interdisciplinary research group 'AfroEuropeans'.

Cape Town

<>Tumelo Mosaka: Mosaka returned to South Africa in 2017, having spent two decades in the United States, where he worked as a major curator. He is currently the main curator of the annual Investec Cape Town Art Fair.

National judges

Stephen Hobbs: Hobbs is a South African multi-disciplinary artist and co-founder of The Trinity Session, a public art consultancy and artistic collaborative. He curated the Market Theatre Gallery (Johannesburg) from 1994 to 2000 and co-directed the Gallery Premises at Joburg Theatre from 2004 to 2008.

Daniel van der Merwe: The founder of the PPC Imaginarium Awards, Daniel van der Merwe is also the contest's lead organiser. He is PPC's technical specialist and a qualified architect. Van der Merwe lectures regularly in architecture departments across South Africa, but mainly at the University of Johannesburg. Van der Merwe judges the national and all regional entries in the 2018 PPC Imaginarium.



Daniel Van der Merwe, technical specialist, PPC

Film

Wessel van Huyssteen: Van Huyssteen is a filmmaker and visual artist. He is a former education officer at the Kettlehong Art Centre and principal of the Visual Arts and Crafts Academy. In 2008, he joined Big Fish School of Film Making as head mentor for the first-year documentary course. His credits include SABC 3's thirteen-part drama series *Covert*.

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