

20 20



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES
ARTS FESTIVAL
TSA-BOTJHABA



DADAA

Vrystaat Kuns en Gesondheid
Free State Arts and Health
Tsa Botjhaba Le Tsa Bopela Freistata

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Vrystaat Arts Festival

The Vrystaat Arts Festival is an Afrikaans language festival that forges creative connections with English and Sotho cultures. It also contributes to the global exchange of ideas around arts, culture and society through connections with other national and international creative communities.

Our vision is centred on the principle of 'One festival, many stories,' and our mission is to support the development and presentation of great art in the Free State for all. We do this by bringing people together; supporting great art; developing artists and audiences; driving innovation; and playing on the world stage.

The festival's current strategic plan was developed after international, national, and local consultations on what the festival could achieve not just to support the local Free State economy, but also to have a significant impact on South African, African, and global creative communities.

As a consequence the festival now functions as a creative industry generator, instigating partnerships and new initiatives such as a fringe festival (vrynge); a national and international literature festival (Vrystaat Literatuurfees); public art projects (PAP and Vrywees); Arts Learning programs; a Free State Arts and Health program; the Programme for Innovation in Art form Development (PIAD); and a PanAfrican Creative Exchange (PACE).

Free State Arts And Health

The Free State Arts and Health (FSAH) Programme is a bi-lateral partnership initiative of the Vrystaat Arts Festival, and DADAA, Australia supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, the Andrew W Mellon Foundation through the Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD), an initiative of the Vrystaat Arts Festival and the University of the Free State.

FSAH is a pioneering arts and health initiative operating in central South Africa. We support and design community-centred intermediations by arts-workers with the aim of positively impacting on the health and well-being of the communities we work for. Using the arts, the project engages communities in arts practices and projects that address key health aspirations, understanding that good health is imperative in the creation of cohesive societies.

This initiative addresses the need for increased collaboration between the arts and the health communities of the Free State by connecting cultural practitioners with skills, networks and platforms interested in community well-being to engage with pressing health issues. In doing so, FSAH endeavours to mobilise communities to raise the bar on their collective health, stimulate the growth of vibrant, co-emergent forms of artistic and cultural expression in Africa, and build new audiences and models of participation for works produced.

With the help of key stakeholders and our partners (Vrystaat Kunstefees, PIAD and DADAA Australia) we hope that the future of FSAH will be First Nation, Black and Disability-led. Over-all FSAH is on the crux of breaking new ground in arts and health practice in Africa and we are very excited to see this breakthrough begin within central South Africa.



Platfontein Print Portfolio I & II

(*Ons Kom Vanaf Ons Stories / We Come From Our Stories*)

Platfontein is the residence of the !Xun and Khwe people, first-nation inhabitants from Southern Africa. Free State Arts and Health (FSAH) initiated a youth print-project, in partnership with the William Humphreys Arts Gallery and the Isibindi Youth Centre. Fourteen young artists translated traditional narratives into linocut editions during April of 2017.

At the end of 2018 the National Heritage Council of South Africa supported a continuation of the project and planning for the second print portfolio began. During the course of the project, young artists engaged in dialogue with their elders who shared some of the stories that have been passed down for generations in the oratory tradition of the !Xun and Khwe. The project allowed young artists to act as agents between the generations of their community in a manner that reaffirmed their rich cultural heritage.

The artworks were the product of a community art cultural development process that contributed to the resumption of community pride and cultural agency among the participating artists. For the youth from here, traditional folklore contends for assimilation with surrounding master narratives that are alien to them. For many of the project participants it was the first time that they heard the stories that these artworks share with us.

The project reference group included; Martha Mangumbu, Ria Reen, Charles Human, Maria Njira, Sodja Kapunda, Soletta Samba and Ellie Kameya.

This print portfolio visually encapsulates traditional stories from the !Xun and Khwe first peoples. The project was realised through a partnership between Free State Arts & Health, the National Association of Childcare Workers (NACCW) in Kimberley, Isibindi Youth Centre in Platfontein, and the William Humphrey Art Gallery (WHAG) in Kimberley. The prints were made by young artists from Platfontein as part of a generational cohesion project that facilitated the transfer of cultural narratives from the older generation to the younger

Our project partners include DADAA Australia, National Heritage Council of South Africa, William Humphreys Art Gallery and the Isibindi Youth Centre.



Artist and their community

2017

Deslee Kathiyana, Khwe
Tekla Karupangwe, Khwe
Nashada Ndango, Khwe
Siobhan Shikamo, Khwe
Karien Mundele, !Xun
Emelia Poemuru, Khwe
Jenifi Ndango, Khwe
Bradley Andre, !Xun
Elisia Arturi, !Xun
Tienna Stefanus, !Xun
Jason Jutos, Khwe
Jannie Kasonta, Khwe
Prinsloo Kapunda, !Xun
Eben Blockstan Zolino, Khwe
Marlize Ngila, Khwe

2019

Prinsloo kampunda, Khwe
Diana Kamarowa, Khwe
Silvanus Jonas, !Xun
Fanalie Calica, !Xun
Ersen Reen, !Xun
Bradley Andre, !Xun
Sakaria Mgomba Kameya, !Xun
Ezakiel Mangumbu, !Xun
Senina Avrinu, Khwe
Jason Jutos, Khwe
Siobhan Shikamo, Khwe
Luwelen Jackson, Khwe
Regan Manu, Khwe
Jennifi Ndango, Khwe