

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARTS ASSOCIATION OF BELLVILLE

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 2022

Laurette de Jager

Welcome to members, artists and patrons of the arts alike and thank you for attending the 64th Annual General meeting of the Bellville Arts Association.

1. Introduction:

During the past year the Bellville Arts Association continued to build upon and expand our reach, which commenced during the 2020 Covid 19 Pandemic: Many of the protocols and resources implemented during 2020 have attributed to the growth and increase in reach of the association over the past year. We now have an efficient courier company, which assures that we can host exhibitions featuring artists from all over the country. Simultaneously we have had entrants from as far afield as Limpopo entering our Annual Vuleka competition. Art.b now functions as a fully operational online art gallery complete with e-commerce, largely thanks to our dedicated webmaster; Warren Kirkland. Our Social Media marketing Team which was led by Lizl Bode have insured that our online presence remain consistent, which in turn have also attributed to a greater reach. In general, the consistent professional manner in which each exhibition have been planned, presented and executed remains of the highest standard and serves as inspiration for the future.

2. Staff and Management

Art.b currently employ Daleen Louw on a month-to-month basis to manage the general administrative tasks in the gallery.

The *City of Cape Town* is still supplying us with one staff member: Sive Tinzi, who assists with the general administrative work in the gallery, worked for us until mid-April.

3. Exhibitions May 2021 – May 2022:

After May 2021, we were finally able to host regular physical exhibitions in the gallery space again. With the exception of our annual Tiny Treasure Exhibition which was installed in the gallery in July but had to be exhibited virtually after another level 4 lockdown WAS implemented. Notable exhibitions include:

5 June: *Violent Femmes* – curated by Laurette de Jager showcasing the work of a diverse selection of female artists incl.: Anina Deetlefs, Antoinette du Plessis, Carla Botes, Ilse Nieman, Jo Roets, Larissa Mwanyama, Laurette de Jager, Lebohang

Motaung, Lee-Ann Ormandy-Becker, Lerato Motau, Lizl Bode, Marike Kleynscheldt, Shenaz Mahomed, Talitha Deetlefs & Yvette Hess

3 July Tiny Treasures VII – as mentioned before installed in the gallery but hosted online as a virtual exhibition. 62 Artists and a total of 236 works

4 August: Vuleka – This past year was the first year where we hosted the Vuleka competition as an online competition. We've had just under 300 entries from across the country and can pride ourselves on an absolutely fair and impartial process: as this also marks the first year where adjudication was done in such a way that not even the three judges were aware of each other's identities. We would like to extend our gratitude to Ilse Schermers, Alexander Knox and Lauren Palte for bringing their individual expertise to the adjudication process. The first Prize remains the *Conrad Theys Prize* in honour of his longstanding contributions to the competition, the committee decided to name the Second Prize *The David Liknaitsky Award* in honour of Mr. Liknaitsky's generous posthumous donation to the Bellville Arts Association which effectively sponsored this prize.

The winners were as follows:

First Place: Themba Mkhangel, *Second Place:* Veronica Reid, *Third Place (Joined):* Prince Mawuli Nusenu and Sasha-Lee Lawrence. *Merit Awards:* Maria van Graan & Kate Scott.

7,8,16 Sept: Sasol New Signatures - The art.b gallery space acted as collection and feedback point for this years *Sasol new Signatures Competition*, which strengthened our ties to the Pretoria Arts Association and brought a fair number of new feet to the gallery.

22 September: CeraMIX - curated by Koos van Bergen, a highlight of our calendar: opened by Theo Kleynhans featuring amongst others: Theo Kleynhans, Hennie Meyer, Martin Swart, Koos van Bergen, Sonia Kastner, Antoinette du Plessis, Catherine Brennon, Lee-Ann Ormondy Becker, Alessandro Pappada, Anne Marais, John Bauer, Susan Grundlingh, Santi du Bruyn and a selection of works from the specialised trade of wood turners amongst others; Jurie van den Heever. The Committee unanimously agreed that Koos should curate *Ceramix* every year.

6 November: The Secret History – curated by Laurette, a retrospective exhibition of works produced by students of Dr Gregory Kerr from 2016 – 2021, featuring artists from as far afield as Johannesburg, Plettenberg Bay, and Gqeberha. We were fortunate to have Dr Kerr open the exhibition in person, and the live streaming of the opening drew viewers from Europe and North America, increasing our reach dramatically.

15 January: Breath of an Era -curated by Daleen Louw and Sive Tinzi, featuring a wonderful selection of Emerging Artists.

5 February: Imiqhondo Yabantu – Group exhibition curated by Anne Wells and Lehlohonolo Mkhasibe, featuring Artists from as far as Soweto, and the Eastern Cape.

5 March: Members Exhibition Our annual members exhibition drew around 100 entries this year featuring some well know and familiar names as well as new participants. It is good to see an increase in the number of works after a decline during the pandemic.

2 April: Ordinary Light a duo featuring *Melissa Tabisher & Adelle Van Zyl*, This exhibition was opened by the illustrious Dr Gwenneth Miller Senior Lecturer in Visual Arts at Unisa.

4. Forthcoming Exhibitions:

During August 2021 art.b hosted its first Open Call for submissions for proposals for Solo / Duo / Group exhibitions in the 2022/23 calendar. The applications were of such a high standard that we were able to fill our exhibition calendar for the following year. We are keen on making this selection process an annual event. The upcoming exhibitions for the following year follows:

- 7 May Marelise Van Wyk & Rosa Snyman Wessels
- 4 June Tiny Treasures VIII
- 2 July Redefined Group Exhibition
- 6 August Vuleka 2022
- 3 September Cuaderno Group Exhibition
- 8 October CeraMix
- 5 November Locus of Control Group Exhibition
- 10 December Replay - Collectors expo
- 4 February Hanli Theron & M Meier

5. Closing remarks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the members, and there is a reason I refer to you as artists and patrons of the arts, we cannot all be artists, but we can all be patrons; without your continued support and interest in this association the Bellville Arts Association cannot continue the dynamic work we have been doing.

Art.b has consistently proved itself to be an entity of the future, whilst building on the firm foundation from our past. I spoke to Anne Wells earlier about why we serve on this committee; art.b plays a crucial role in offering opportunities to emerging artists of all ages, across all genders and cultural backgrounds to find their feet in the artworld.

We occupy that liminal space between commercial and community galleries where we can host exhibitions catering for the established artists in order to open a space for the emerging artists to follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current committee for their consistent, diligent and selfless service; Koos van Bergen, Clea Witte, Warren Kirkland, and most importantly; Anne Wells; Anne has been and continues to be the treasurer and stalwart of this association, she has consistently offered support, and often managed this association through sheer will power for many years. I would also like to thank past committee members Lizl Bode, who have had to resign the committee early this year due to personal circumstances and Janine Besler, who have served on the committee for the past 8 years. A note of special gratitude towards Daleen Louw and Sive Tinzi, who manages the administrative side and to Stephen Smith who is our master of installation.

I have learned much serving on this committee over the past two years and encourage everyone who would like to broaden their scope and knowledge of art in all its spheres, to volunteer their time and expertise here, you will be amazed at what a group of likeminded individuals can accomplish when driven by passion and a vision for the future of art in our community.

Laurette de Jager

7 May 2022