

# the fire this time

Thursday 15 September 2022 | 4.30pm  
ngoLwesine 15 EyoMsintsi 2022 | 4.30pm  
Monument on Madiba Circle, Upper Campus



5.00pm **keynote**

Uhuru Phalafala

5.30pm **umsebenzi**

Odwa Bongo | Sky Dladla  
Thiyane Duda | Xolisa Guzula  
Ukhona Ntsali Mlandu  
Athi-Patra Ruga

7.15pm **live art films**

Qondiswa James  
Grant Jurius  
Lesiba Mabitsela & Lorin Sookool  
Lukhanyiso Skosana

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*A series of live art interventions  
attending to the complex (hi)stories that  
texture the Sarah Baartman precinct  
- a key site of protest for decades.*

## In order of appearance



**Odwa Bongo** contributes to the cultural scene in South Africa, and to the Cape Town music scene in particular as instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and cultural advocate. His African music studies at UCT allowed him to explore sounds outside the spheres of classical and jazz. He took up the Uhadi bow as his main instrument and developed a unique performance style, delivering emotive, “healing” vocals in isiXhosa. Odwa has collaborated and shared the stage with Zolani Mahola, Madala Kunene, Camagwini and one of his biggest inspirations, Madosini. He was recently featured on SABC1’s youth culture programme in an explorative presentation on spirituality and men in South Africa.

Instagram [Odwabongoofficial](#)



**Sibahle Sky Dladla** is an African instrumentalist, a percussionist and marimba maker, a singer, songwriter and bow instrument maker. She grew up in Gugulethu. Her love for African instruments started with the marimba, in high school, thirteen years ago and she founded her own marimba band, Blackroots Marimbas, at the age of 19. Sky graduated from UCT with a Diploma and an Advanced Diploma in African instruments, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Music Performance.

Her most prestigious performances include tours to Brazil, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, where she performed on traditional Chopi instruments alongside Matchume Zango. She has opened for South African act Freshly Ground (2019) and has shared the stage with Madosini (2021). She completed an artist residency in Maputo earlier this year, where she appeared at the Raiz Festival during June.

Her main instrument being the marimba, Sky has also mastered the Uhadi bow, Nyunga Nyunga mbira, djembe, chitende and kayombe.

Instagram [sky\\_dladla](#)



**Nomusa Makhubu** works broadly in art interventionism, popular culture, live art and social engagement in African visual art. She was the recipient of the ABSA L’Atelier Gerard Sekoto Award in 2006 and the Prix du Studio National des Arts Contemporain, Le Fresnoy in 2014. She received the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) African Humanities Programme fellowship award and was selected to be an African Studies Association (ASA) Presidential fellow in 2016. In 2017, she was also a UCT-Harvard Mandela fellow at the Hutchins Centre for African and African American Research, Harvard University. In that same year, she was the First Runner Up for the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Women in Science Awards.

Recognising the need for broader creative mentorship, collaborative practice and socially responsive arts, she started the Creative Knowledge Resources project. She co-edited a Third Text Special Issue: *'The Art of Change'* (2013) and later co-curated with Nkule Mabaso the international exhibition, *Fantastic*, in 2015 and *The stronger we become* in 2019 at the 58th Venice Biennale in Italy. Makhubu is a member of the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS).



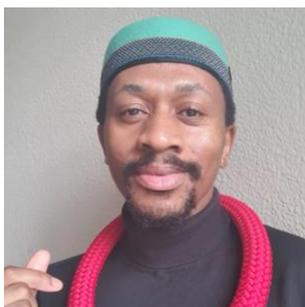
**Ukhona Ntsali Mlandu** is the director of Greatmore Studios in Cape Town and the founder and head curator of makwande republic in Goshen village, Eastern Cape. She is a 2021/22 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity and was a Global Cultural Relations Fellow in 2021. Her work is around artist mobility and mobility justice for artists and cultural goods. She also has a special interest in the politics of public space and place-making, spatial and gender justice, heritage and memory. All her work is concerned with decoloniality and holds a black radical feminist position as central to transformation and the imagining of justice, repair, care and equity.

Mlandu has curated a number of festivals, programmes and public art interventions including the live public art installation, #100AfricanReads. She insists on creating work with her children and/or finding spaces that are deliberate about acknowledging her role as a mother. For her this is 'an act of survival and resistance against an art world and a world of work that *invisibilises* this aspects of one's identity and the labour associated with it".

Instagram [makwande\\_republic](#)



**Dr Uhuru Phalafala** (PhD, University of Cape Town) is a lecturer in the English department at Stellenbosch University. She is a 2021/2022 Department of Higher Education and Technology's Future Professors Program fellow. Her research interests are in critical race studies, material and sonic cultures, black radical traditions, translation, and decoloniality. She heads a Mellon-funded research project 'Recovering Subterranean Archives', which investigates South African culture in exile, with the view to repatriate and republish it. Through this project she republished the anthology of poetry from 1981, *Malibongwe*, by ANC women in exile. Her forthcoming books are a monograph on former national poet laureate Keorapetse Kgositsile; *Mine Mine Mine*, a mythopoetic epic on the migrant labour system; and, *Bloved & Bloomd*, a meditation on political uses of love in radical community-making. She is a records collector with ongoing projects in the field of the black sonic.



**Thiyane Duda** is a researcher at the Land and Accountability Research Centre (LARC) based in the Department of Public Law at the University of Cape Town. His research focus is traditional governance and living customary law. Thiyane is also a reader of isiXhosa literature. He reads live on his Instagram account and at the live event, *Indyebo ka Ntu*, which he curates.

Instagram [thiyane\\_duda](#)



**Dr Xolisa Guzula** is a lecturer in Applied Language and Literacy Studies with a focus on multilingual and multiliteracies education at the University of Cape Town. She specialises in multilingual education, especially in teaching children to read and write in two or more languages. She is one of the founders of a network of reading clubs growing across the country starting from the *Vulindlela Reading Clubs* to *Nal'ibali Reading Clubs* and the *Stars of Today Literacy Club*.

Dr Guzula has written several children's books including the recent series of *Imbokodo: Women who shape us*, and has translated many children's books from English to isiXhosa including books by award winning authors such as Astrid Lindgren, Niky Daly, Sihle-isipho Nontshokweni and Refiloe Moahloli and Nicholas Maritz. She won an IBBY/Exclusive Books award for best translation of *The Elders at the Door* by Shale and Maryanne Bester to *linkonde eMnyango*. Her translation of Wendy Hardie's book, *The Singing Stone/Ilitye Eliculayo* made the honour list of IBBY 100 recommended books across the world. Xolisa is a member of Bua-lit Language and Literacy Collective ([www.bua-lit.org.za](http://www.bua-lit.org.za)), working on social justice in language and literacy education.

Instagram [xolisaguzula](#)



**Athi-Patra Ruga** is one of the few artists working in South Africa today whose work has adopted the trope of myth as a contemporary response to the post-apartheid era. Ruga creates alternative identities and uses these avatars as a way to parody and critique the existing political and social status quo. Ruga's artistic approach of creating myths and alternate realities is in some way an attempt to view the traumas of the last 200 years of colonial history from a place of detachment – at a farsighted distance where wounds can be contemplated outside of personalized grief and subjective defensiveness.

Ruga has exhibited and performed in London, including at the Tate Modern, in Paris and Brussels; in New York, Boston and San Francisco in the USA, at the Venice Biennale in Italy, in Holbaek, Denmark and at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain. His works form part of Private, Public and Museum Collections in South Africa and abroad, namely: the Smithsonian Museum of African Art, Washington DC; the Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris; Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, Geneva; The Zeitz MOCCA, Cape Town; Museion – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Bolzano Italy; CAAC – Pigozzi Collection; The Wedge Collection; and the IZIKO South African National Gallery.

Recent projects include a collaboration with Dior on designing two handbags for the fourth edition of the Lady Dior Art Bag. Ruga is also the co-founder of Victory of the Word, a fundraising and development project in support of the historic Lovedale Printing Press in Alice, Eastern Cape, as well as the Artistic Director of BODYLAND, an incubator residency for artists held in the Amathole Village of Hogsback.

Instagram [athipatra](#)



**Qondiswa James** is a cultural worker living in Cape Town, South Africa. She is an award-winning theatre-maker, performance artist, film and theatre performer, instillation artist, writer, arts facilitator and activist.

Instagram [blggrl.radikl](#)



**Grant Jurius** is a full-time practising artist born and raised in the Elsies River suburb in Cape Town. As a recipient of the Lionel Davis Award in 2012, Grant completed a residency at Greatmore Studios in Woodstock before co-founding the interdisciplinary collective, Burning Museum. The collective worked with obscured narratives based on the histories and heritage of segregated people and made work that was mostly installed or painted in public spaces, from the District Six Museum in Cape Town to spaces in Benin, Germany and Spain. As a member of the DJ collective Future Nostalgia, the artist works with sonic archives looking back at cultural revolutions from music and art. Grant's work as mural painter and graffiti artist with community projects, street art groups and cultural tours, has led to design exchange programmes and projects in Denmark, German, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. He will be participating in the Prohelvetia Swiss Arts Council exchange/residency in July 2022.

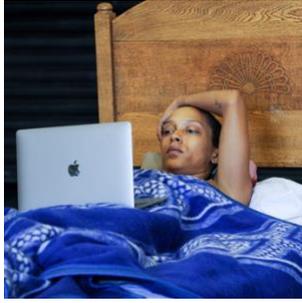
Instagram [sunofamantis](#)



**Lesiba Mabitsela** is an interdisciplinary artist, designer and Fashion Practitioner currently based in Johannesburg. Lesiba continues to explore the role of fashion designer/practitioner by incorporating fashion design with immersive technologies, critical fashion and performance studies resulting in interdisciplinary modes of engaging with and producing fashion. His work which regularly explores the subject of African masculine identities transforms the garment into an extension of one's lineage communicating one's history, culture, social hierarchy, aspirations whilst renegotiating relationships between the garment and the body.

Lesiba has presented work nationally and internationally at festivals and exhibitions. His practice is interwoven with his role as a consultant, academic and educator. He is the Co-Director of the African Fashion Research Institute (AFRI) which he founded in 2019 with Dr. Erica de Greef. AFRI advocates for critical fashion research from the African continent that is led by decolonial fashion theories and access to African fashion histories through digital means.

Instagram [lesibamabitselastudio](#)



**Lorin Sookool** is a South African formally trained dance artist with an interdisciplinary practice encompassing performance, sound, film, installation and costuming. Her work is informed by an interest in exploring the role of the artist in contemporary society. Moving in and out of public and private spaces, her work is often participatory in nature.

Sookool often explores complex South African socio-political themes, with a focus on situations of racial, gendered, systemic and institutionalized violence. Sookool's artistic practice and creative trajectory has its roots in a practice-based research that is intuitive in nature and has an emergent design. It follows a process-based approach that searches for the relationship between personal and collective themes, thereby becoming a reflective, reflexive, subject-centred practice.

Instagram [koolsokool](#)



**Lukhanyiso Skosana** is an actress, performance artist, vocalist and theatre currently completing her Honours degree at UCT. Under the guidance of Dr Sara Matchett, Fitzmaurice voice-work, the Sanskrit system of “*rasa*”, body mapping and free writing became the foundation of her performance practice. Lukhanyiso is an ancestral being, inhabiting the physical and metaphysical realm. Their performance work engages the body as site for generating images and narratives, while music sediments the ephemeral nature of their

practice.

Lukhanyiso has performed at the ITFOK Festival (2018), National Arts Festival (2018) and University of Stellenbosch Woordfees (2019). Her work for Rehane Abrahams's award-winning *Womb of Fire* won her a Fleur du Cap Award for Best Original Musical Score and Performance in 2019. She performed at the Institute for Creative Arts *Live Art Festival* in 2018 and 2019 and was an ICA Online Fellow during 2022, debuting a short film, *The Exorcism of Mary Magdalene: A Sexual Resurrection*. She presented *The Exorcism of Mary Magdalene II: A Divine Intervention* (2021) for the ICA Live Art Arcade, the National Arts Festival and the Turbine Art Fair (2021). Also in 2022 she produced the musical score for short films by Sethembile Msezane, and she is currently participating in Manyano Media's *Black Girl Live Fellowship* (2022). *She is Black. Queer. Womxn. Femme. Radical. Godded. uNdlunkulu. Namaslay...*

Instagram [undlunkulu\\_uqamatha](#)