

The Centre for Humanities Research, UWC presents two art exhibitions side-by-side at the Castle of Good Hope: 'Athlone *in Mind*' (group show) and a new site-specific installation by Jane Alexander

Curated by Kurt Campbell at the Castle of Good Hope, 10-13 August 2017 open daily from 10am to 5pm

Daily exhibition walk-about from 12-12.30pm



Labourers © Jane Alexander Photograph Mario Todeschini



Soup Stoep © Hasan and Husain Essop

'Athlone *in Mind*' is a group show of commissioned contemporary art curated by Dr Kurt Campbell. The exhibition, digital platform and book edited by Dr Heidi Grunebaum take the place of Athlone in Cape Town to explore new ways of imagining and thinking about marginalised sites of creativity and arts production.

The exhibition will be installed at the Castle to coincide with a major international humanities conference organised by the CHR on behalf of the CHCI (Consortium for Humanities Centres and Institutes). The 2017 conference titled, The Humanities Improvised

will attract international scholars, artists, filmmakers, and jazz musicians from across Africa and elsewhere.

Artist Jane Alexander is designated 'festival artist' for the 2017 CHCI event. A solo exhibition of Jane Alexander's selected works will show for the duration of the event with work that has not been previously shown in South Africa.

'Athlone *in Mind*' engages diverse artistic practices and scholarly essays to explore how artistic practice invites imaginings of place and space in ways that exceed and undo apartheid's spatial formations and temporal co-ordinates.

The commissioned artists for the show have been chosen for their diverse artistic practices creating a composite lens to think about Athlone. Zyma Amien will explore vacated parts of Athlone by using suspended sculptures and cement castings that rethink the dynamics of space and displacement. She works with ordinary objects in extraordinary ways. Husan and Husain Essop offer large format high resolution photographs that fix and disrupt our view of those who traverse Athlone on a daily basis. CHR Artist in Residence, Dathini Mzayiya will reflect on the subject of schooling in contemporary education. Berni Searle has made a video projection that invokes the cinematic procedure taking Athlone as the point of departure for her narrative. Kemang Wa Lehulere has created an installation made of found objects as meditations that question the distribution of the sensible in South African society.

Though utilising different conceptual approaches and practices of art making, the commissioned artists share an understanding of the art object as a particular projection and embodiment of desire to delineate and dream space. The artworks will explore the mobility of thought as image in apprehending Athlone, not as a destination but as a field of mobile images that are unsettled and fluid. The essays in the book commissioned from a range of writers include, *A Question of Place* by Heidi Grunebaum; *Curatorial notes on the exhibition 'Athlone in Mind'* by Kurt Campbell; *Between History and Apocalypse: Stumbling* by Premesh Lulu; *Another Athlone, dreamscapes and the aesthetic imagination of faith* by Gabeba Baderoon ; *In the tracks of jazz refuge(es): sounds cross Athlone* Lindelwa Dalamba ; *Athlone: Exploring the meaning of place through a journey of the sensible* by Michail Rassool.

The technology systems of 'Athlone *in Mind*' feature the most advanced complimentary technologies available. The exhibition will deploy a number of i-beacon transmitters, able to circulate the website and catalogue accessible to anyone in possession of a smart phone. I-beacons can be attached to almost any surface as small battery-powered sensor devices that wirelessly communicate and transmit data to apps on mobile devices using Bluetooth technology. On connection, the app on the mobile device is triggered to display content like video, voice, images and music. The i-beacon transmitters will be placed at public locations

in Athlone and Langa ensuring that the exhibition, book catalogue and archival content may be accessed and followed in real time, off site.

Jane Alexander's site specific installation shows in The Old Stable and the 'Athlone *in Mind*' exhibition shows in the Old Recruitment Office.

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Images available separately on request.



© Kemang Wa Lehulere Photograph Vanessa Cowling