



2010 in Review

The preceding year has been a productive and exciting one for VANSAs, with the organisation increasingly positioned as a key resource for the visual arts sector in South Africa. The capacity of our Johannesburg office has grown substantially, linked to a rapid growth in projects and new directions for the organisation, with more than R1,4 million being directly invested in creative projects across the country. Thanks in large part to the World Cup, Cape Town kicked art-ass with employment for 80, training for 250, and an additional R750 000 channeled into artists pockets!

We are getting out accurate, timeous and useful information to the visual arts community regarding opportunities for work, residencies, scholarships, funding opportunities and competitions. Our effectiveness has been greatly enhanced by changing to a bi-monthly national newsletter. This has led to the traffic on our website trebling during the course of the last year. A dynamic new website has been developed for the organisation nationally. The site - which will consolidate and strengthen our on-line presence and include an on-line map of visual arts infrastructure in South Africa - is set to go live in January 2011.

Other highlights have included:

Projects

With the support of the NLDTF, our Johannesburg office launched a major public art programme, Two Thousand and Ten Reasons to Live in a Small Town, taking contemporary arts practice into new territories. Through a Call for Proposals process and 5 briefing/proposal writing workshops with 135 artists across the country, 19 artists from across the country have been commissioned to develop eleven projects that involve reimagining the public spaces of rural towns, from Musina in Limpopo through to Hermon in the Western Cape. An exhibition and publication are planned for 2011.

In Cape Town two of the three works commissioned by IDASA for their new Democracy Institute have been unveiled. Brendhan Dickerson and Petra Kleinhorst's *In the Balance* was unveiled at the launch, with Ed Young's *Arch*, a joyous celebration of democracy depicting a hyper-real Archbishop Tutu gleefully swinging from a chandelier being unveiled by the esteemed Arch himself!

A public sculpture competition was also commissioned by the City of Cape Town and Kevin Brand's "THE HORSES" won which is currently being cast and will be unveiled early 2011 on Sea Point Promenade.

The City of Cape Town commissioned VANSAsWESTERNSCAPE to run 6 projects for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. While the City's focus was on youth development and community activation, with projects including Face Painting, Soccer Shots (photography), 3D Pavement Art and Murals, Forest of Flowering Lights, Artists Enhancement and Giant Puppets, the net result for visual artists was that 60 artists were employed, including 17 from our mentorship programmes. In terms of skills development 250 people received some training. And possibly on the most rewarding level: financial, VANSAsWESTERNSCAPE channeled over R500 000 to visual artists through 2010 World Cup related projects.

Through other commissions, project management positions and prize money another R250 000 was paid out to artists.

Western Cape's SPIN STREET Project Space held several exhibitions including the high profile Damien Schumann's *Process* a retrospective of 10 years of his work and *Southern Ink*, part of The Cape Town Tattoo Convention, which was their most successful opening yet: highest number of sales and over 150 at the opening. In our judgment this reflects the effort, and money they put into marketing the exhibition. In addition to SPIN Space they produced the VAN-guard Winelands Exhibition Series, at 5 beautiful wine farms with the help of Distell, BASA and The City of Cape Town. 14 artists took part in the 5 exhibitions, which included a full colour catalogue.

Research

The Johannesburg office developed a draft Gauteng City Region strategy for the visual arts for the Gauteng provincial department of Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture. The process involved workshops with more than 140 visual arts people across Gauteng aimed at developing a plan for consolidating the position of Gauteng as a crucible of contemporary arts practice on the African continent. VANSAs also made a significant contribution to a national study on the visual arts sector undertaken by the Human Sciences Research Council, which has been made available for public comment – for the report and details for how you can submit comment and feedback. VANSAGAUTENG was also commissioned to undertake a mapping of the contemporary visual arts in South for the Mondriaan Foundation – which will lead to the development of an on-line portal aimed at facilitating exchange and collaboration between Dutch and South African artists. Research and position papers relating to copyright collection, artist resale rights, export incentives and international promotion for galleries and artists and low-cost studio space are planned for 2011.

Professional Development

The Western Cape office staged a highly successful SPRING School for the visual arts community, which included Art Source's Profession Practice Workshop, a weekend workshop on Creative Literacy, and a much needed Guide to Pricing Yourself In and Out of the Market, presented by Art Insure's Gordon Massie. The City of Cape Town and DCAS have again funded SPRING School for 2011. Brand new will be a 12-week course for Art Buyers. An exciting new programme is planned – see [<http://www.vansawesterncape.org.za/news/call-for-applications-curatorial-workshops-in-cape-town>] for more details.

7 HDI artists took part in VANSAWESTERNCAPe's JUMP St>Art Mentorship Programme, leading to dramatic improvement in skills and work opportunities. The programme has been further refined and developed, and will be presented again in 2011, this time running for 3 months.

The Johannesburg office has led the development of Artright, an on-line platform for professional practice for the visual arts, providing people working in the industry with advice, tools and templates relating to legal, financial and general business practice (www.artright.co.za <<http://www.artright.co.za>>). Printed resources, workshops and a legal helpdesk are planned for 2011. VANSAGAUTENG also coordinated the second year of a highly successful internship programme (funded by Africalia) for ten young arts administrators, placed in visual organisations across the country for a period of six months during the course of 2010.

Our fledgling KZN office (hosted by ArtSpace) has staged a number of professional

development workshops for artists in areas such as exhibition installation and Photoshop for artists.

We want to thank our funders and the entire visual arts community, for making this incredible year possible:

- Africalia
- Business and Arts South Africa
- The City of Cape Town
- Distell
- The Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation
- the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Recreation and Culture
- the Western Cape Departments of Cultural Affairs & Sport and Economic Development and Tourism
- the National Arts Council
- the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
- Santam