CURRICULUM VITAE

NESSA MARGUERITA LEIBHAMMER

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**Jackson Hlungwane retrospective exhibition at the University of Johannesburg, 2014.**

**Fellowships**

Current Research Fellow of the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town.

Heritage Objects Specialist Advisor to South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

2012-3 Visiting Research Fellow at Center for African Studies, Cambridge University, UK

participating in *Cambridge/Africa Research Programme – Art and Museums in Africa.*

**Awards:**

2017 *Tribing and Untribing the Archive: Identity and the Material Record in Southern KwaZulu-*

*Natal in the Late Independent and Colonial Periods* - Choice award for

Outstanding Academic Publications

2009 *Dungamanzi/Stirring Waters* project shortlisted for a BASA award.

2003 Arts and Culture Portfolio of the MTN Foundation received the Mail & Guardian/Nedbank Arts and Culture Trust Award for the ‘*Organisation in Support of Developmental Arts and Culture’.*

### 1999 Nominated for the President’s Award for exhibition and catalogue *Evocations of the*

### *Child: Fertility Figures from the southern African region.*

1999 MTN Art Institute was the BASA winner of the ‘Best use of a Commission of New Art’.

1. Standard Bank Group Foundation of African Art Scholarship award.

**Education**

2001 Master of Arts in Pre-colonial Studies (with distinction), University of the Witwatersrand.

1990 BA Fine Arts (Honours) University of the Witwatersrand.

1970-2 B. Architecture. University of Cape Town

**Professional positions**

2014-9 Independent consultant and researcher (current)

2015 Project manager and independent consultant appointed by SAHRIS for audit

of the Traditional Collections at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

2005-14 Curator of the traditional southern African collections at the Johannesburg Art

Gallery.

#### 2004 Independent consultant and researcher

## 2002-3 MTN Foundation manager of the Arts and Culture Portfolio. This portfolio included:

## curation and management of the MTN Art Collection (a collection focusing on South African and African Art)

## research, writing and publication

## MTN Artists-in-Residence

## MTN School Art Awards

## project management of exhibitions such as *MTN New Contemporaries Award* and *Break the Silence* exhibition on HIV/AIDS.

## 2001 Overall curator of the MTN Art Collection and Director of Research in the Arts and Culture Portfolio.

1998 MTN Art Institute Head of Research and African Art curator.

1997 Consultant for MTN Art Institute (later MTN Arts and Culture Portfolio).

1994-6 Curator of the Traditional Southern African Collections at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

1992-3 Curator in the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

* 1. Part-time curator at the University Art Galleries, University of the Witwatersrand working

with the African art collection.

1974-84 Employed in business in managerial position.

**Art curation and consulting**

2019 - 20Guest curator for the ***Threading and Unthreading Mandela*** exhibition in

collaboration wth Totem Media for an international travelling show opening date

to be confirmed.

Guest curator for the ***Woman Activating Change: Ndebele Architecture***

***regenerating Identity***exhibition in collaboration with architect Peter Rich.

Opening date to be confirmed.

Guest curator for ***Alt and Omega*** the Jackson Hlungwani retrospective exhibition

at the Norval Foundation scheduled to open in November 2020.

2017-8 External examiner for Wits Masters of Arts by Research in Fine Arts

2016                    External examiner for Wits Masters and Honours Degrees, Art and Science and

African Art History for Wits School of the Arts

                             African art consultant to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK

2014-5 Consultant for the Mmpebatho Cultural Museum in Moruleng, Pilanesburg (a BaKgatla ba Kgafela community museum), 2014-5.

2013-14 Guest curator for the Jackson Hlungwane retrospective exhibition at Polokwane Museum, Limpopo and at the University of Johannesburg.

2012 External examiner for UCT Master’s thesis *Representing Africa Differently: An Analysis of the Proposed Sale of the Africa Collection at the Wêreld Museum Rottedam* by C.N. Frank.

Peer reviewer of ‘Battle of the Icons: Art, Gender and Ritual Pedagogy in Southern Africa’ for *De Arte* Journal published by UNISA Press (forthcoming)

2011 Contributor to the ***Water the [Delicate) Thread of Life*** exhibition at the Standard Bank Gallery

2010 Lead curator of ***Transformations: women’s art from the late nineteenth century to 2010.***

Curated ***Gae Lebowa/ Home North*** by photographer George Mahasha at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

2009 Curator of ***Matters of Spirit*** at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Lead curator of ***L’Afrique*** exhibition in memory of Leo Spiegel and Maria Stein-Lessing

at Museum Africa, Johannesburg.

2008 Consultant to Heritage Agency for archaeological heritage survey of Rooikoppies Farm, Northwest Province, South Africa.

1. Lead curator and project manager of ***Dungamanzi/Stirring Waters*** an exhibition of Tsonga and Shangaan art.

Consultant to African Development Economic Consultants (ADEC) for craft skills development program for network of small exporters in Mpumalanga Province.

2006 External examiner for post-graduate Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy and Management Course at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Curator of exhibition ***Art and Storytelling*** at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Curator of exhibition ***Art from the African Continent***at the Johannesburg Art Gallery coinciding with the launch of the MTN Resource Book 3 of the same name.

Consultant to the ***Picasso in Africa,*** a collaborative exhibition by Standard Bank Foundation and the Musée National Picasso, Paris at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town.

Consultant for the ***Picasso in Africa*** and ***Battiss*** educational resource books for Standard Bank Foundation, Johannesburg.

2004 Artwork commissions consultant for the Origins Center at the Rock Art Research Institute, University of the Witwatersrand.

Display committee member for the Origins Center at the Rock Art Research Institute, University of the Witwatersrand.

Invited proof reader for the official Gauteng Tourism website.

Contributor to educational poster on Mapungubwe world heritage site, Limpopo Province.

Curated ***What Makes Me Happy / Okungijabulisayo***exhibition at Gallery @157. This was an exhibition of embroidered and appliqué textile made by a poverty relief project from KwaZulu-Natal.

Consultant to Gallery @ 157, a commercial art gallery in Johannesburg.

## 2001 Lead curator of exhibition *Shifts . . . in consciousness: a changing heritage* for MTN Art

## Institute at Camouflage Gallery, Johannesburg.

Invited selection panel member for the TAXI Art Book series on contemporary South African artists.

1999 Consultant for education material for exhibition ***Africa meets Africa*** a collection of African

art from the Museumvoor Volkenkunde, Rotterdam at the African Window Museum, Pretoria.

1997-98 Invited as visual archaeologist to do research at the archaeological dig at Catalhöyük, Turkey.

1. Co-curated, with Karel Nel, ***Evocations of the Child***, a travelling exhibition of child figures from the southern African region for the Standard Bank Foundation and the Johannesburg Art Gallery. The exhibition opened at the Grahamstown Festival of the Arts and then travelled to major centers in South Africa.

1. Curated display ***Women, Culture, Costume and Fertility***that formed part of a larger exhibition ***Clothing and Identity***,a permanent display at the University Art Galleries, University of the Witwatersrand.
2. Part of a working group that designed the theoretical component for the Masters course in Public Culture and Heritage at the University of the Witwatersrand.

1996 External examiner for Museums and Material Culture Honours Courserun by the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

1. Curated permanent exhibitions ***Secular and Spiritual: Objects of Mediation*** and ***Views from Within*** at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.
2. Curated ***Transformed Fibers,*** a travelling exhibition of African objects made from plant fiber, for Standard Bank, which opened at the Grahamstown Festival of the Arts and then travelled to major centers in South Africa.

1992-94 Co-taught the Museums and Material Culture Honours Course with Carolyn Hamilton in the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand.

1. Co-curator for the exhibition ***The Collection of W.F.P. Burton*** at the University Art Galleries, University of the Witwatersrand. This is a collection from the Luba people of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Co-curator of ***Convention, Context and Change*** an exhibition of African art from the collection at the University Art Galleries, University of the Witwatersrand.

**Publications**

##### 2019   *Zulu woodcarving from the KZN region*. Cape Town: Print Matters (forthcoming).

# ‘Considering the Consequences of Light and Shadow in Some Nineteenth, Twentieth

# and Twenty-First Century South African Images,’ to be published as part the papers

# presented at the 2016 Cambridge/British Museum conference: *South Africa the Art*

# *of a Nation* (forthcoming).

‘Modalities of meaning: light and shadow in archaeological images’ in *The Oxford*

*Handbook of Light in Archaeology: Interdisciplinary Studies in Experience and Perception (eds.)* Graeme Earl and Konstantine Papadopoulos. Oxford University Press (available online).

2016 *Tribing and Untribing the Archive: Identity and the Material Record in Southern KwaZulu-Natal in the Late Independent and Colonial Periods,* edited by Carolyn Hamilton and Nessa Leibhammer, University of KwaZulu-Natal Press.

2016. See more at: http://www.apc.uct.ac.za/news/stop-press-tribing-and-untribing-archive-published#sthash.2fSHT6nJ.dpuf

“Negotiating a South African Inheritance: Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century

‘Traditional’ Collections at the Johannesburg Art Gallery” in *Tribing and Untribing the Archive: Identity and the Material Record in Southern KwaZulu-Natal in the Late Independent and Colonial Periods,.* University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Forthcoming 2016.

With Carolyn Hamilton: ‘Ethnologised Pasts and their Archival Futures: Construing the Archive of Pre- and Early Colonial Southern KwaZulu-Natal’ in *Tribing and Untribing the Archive: Identity and the Material Record in Southern KwaZulu-Natal in the Late Independent and Colonial Periods,*University of KwaZulu-Natal Press. Forthcoming 2016.

Content generator for the 500 YEAR ARCHIVE - a pilot website project of the Archive and Public Culture Reseach Initiative at the University of Cape Town.

2014 ‘Fertility, Felicity, and Flora in Southern African Customary Practices’ in *Exact*

*Imagination: 300 years of botanically inspired art in South Africa* the catalogue for an

exhibition of the same name curated by Cyril Coetzee for Standard Bank,

Johannesburg (October to December 2014)

‘Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Comb(ination)s from South East Africa’ for a catalogue to accompany an exhibition on Combs at the Fitzwilliams Museum, Cambridge

Invited reviewer of the pubication *African Dolls: the Dulger Collections* by Frank Jolles for African Arts published by the University of California, Los Angeles.

With Carolyn Hamilton: ‘Salutes, Labels and other Archival Artefacts’in *Uncertain Curature: in and out of the archive* a publication edited by Carolyn Hamilton and Pippa Skotnes (forthcoming 2013).

2012 ‘Picture This’ a pictorial essay in the Arts Council of the African Studies Association

(ACASA) newsletter No 91, Spring/Summer 2012, pg 20.

2011 ‘Fluid of the Ancestors: Water and the Spirit Realm in Past and Present Black Southern African Thought and Practice’ in *Water, the [Delicate] Thread of Life* exhibition catalogue edited by Federico Freschi.

With Philippa Hobbs ‘Water and space: unravelling meaning in the weavings of Allina Ndebele’ for *De Arte,* No. 83.

With Philippa Hobbs “Liminality and magic in the tapestries of Allina Ndebele” in Art South Africa, Vol. 09, Issue 04.

Author of chapter ‘Dominant and contrasting patterns: the representation of black South Africa by white South Africans (1907- 1948)’. For *Visual Century* publication sponsored by the Department of Arts & Culture, and based within the Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town.

Together with Vonani Bila, author of ‘Re-evaluating traditional art in a South African context’ for *Visual Century* publication.

*Matters of Spirit* in JAGGED the Johannesburg Art Gallery Educational Booklet to accompany Looking and Learning exhibition at JAG

Contributor to *Pathways though the Interior* a resource for FET and tertiary level learners published by Africa meets Africa.

2010 Author of chapter ‘Filling the Spaces / Contesting the Canons’ on the traditional collections at the Johannesburg Art Gallery in *100 Years of Collecting: the Johannesburg Art Gallery,* published by Anglo American.

2008-9 Author of chapter ‘A fragmented picture: the collections of Maria Stein-Lessing and

Leopold Spiegel’in *l’Afrique* a publication to accompany a memorial exhibition on

their life and work. Johannesburg: David Krut Publishers.

Co-author, together with Helene Smuts, of educational supplement for ***l’Afrique*** exhibition.

Essay ‘Originals and Copies: a phenomenological difference’ in Patricia Vinnicombe memorial volume *The Eland’s People* published by Wits University Press.

1. Editor of *Dungamanzi/Stirring Waters* catalogue on Tsonga and Shangaan art and culture. Johannesburg: Wits University Press and Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Introduction and essay ‘Tsonga and Shangaan: the making and molding of identities’ for *Dungamanzi / Stirring Waters*. Johannesburg: Wits University Press and Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Consultant for publication on South African artist Irma Stern. Irma Stern Museum, Cape Town.

Review, together with Professor PG Raman of *African Basketry: Grassroots Art from Southern Africa* by Anthony Cunningham and Elizabeth Terry. De Arte Journal. Pretoria: Unisa (University of South Africa).

1. *Primary author of MTN* Live Art Resource book *Art from the African Continent,* Heinemann Publishers.

2005 ‘Technologies and Transformations: Baskets, Women and Change in Twentieth-Century KwaZulu-Natal’. In Arnold, M, and Schmahmann, B., (eds) *From Union to Liberation.* Aldershot: Ashgate Publishers.

Essay ‘Present Continuous: Tracing the Traditional in Contemporary African Art’ in *Messages and Meanings*, MTN Collection catalogue. Johannesburg: David Krut Publishing and the MTN Foundation.

Essay ‘Beadwork from the African Continent’ in *Messages and Meanings*, MTN Collection catalogue. Johannesburg: David Krut Publishing and the MTN Foundation.

2004 Contributor to the *Travel into History* series of maps for Gauteng Tourism Authority.

Author of an educational supplement for exhibition that celebrated pioneers of non-violence and Nobel Prize winners of the world for PEACE Project.

##### 2003 Contributor to University of the Witwatersrand publication *Voice-overs: Wits Writings Exploring African Artworks:* *The Standard Bank Collection of African Art.* Johannesburg: University of the Witwatersrand Art Galleries.

Review of the catalogue *Nigerian art: the Meneghelli collection*. In *De Arte,* Vol. 01 no.86, 2003 (pp 73-76). Pretoria: Unisa (University of South Africa).

Co-authored with Philippa Hobbs ‘Allina Ndebele and the Increasing Picture’ in Addleson J. (ed.) *Veterans of KwaZulu-Natal.* CD Rom. Durban: Durban Art Gallery.

* 1. Co-author of educational resource material for a travelling exhibition of African art titled *Soul of Africa* from the Völkerkundemuseum, University of Zurich at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town.

Review of *Art Routes: A Guide to South African Collection* by Becker, R., and Keene, R., for *De Arte* Magazine. Pretoria: Unisa (University of South Africa).

Contributor to TAXI Series, *Samson Mudzunga: Artist’s Book.* Johannesburg: David Krut Publishing.

Contributor to TAXI Series, *Jeremy Wafer: Artist’s Book.* Johannesburg: David Krut Publishing.

With Kellner, R. Catalogue for exhibition ***Shifts…in consciousness: a changing heritage****.* Johannesburg: MTN Art Institute.

* 1. Contributor to monthly publications *The Better Connection* and *Hello the Future* issued by MTN (Mobile Telephone Networks) Corporate Relations.

Contributor to MTN Art Institute web site.

Contributor to *ArtTalk* quarterly newsletter published by MTN Art Institute.

2000 ‘Tracking the ‘Traditional’ in Contemporary African Art’ a paper for Diesel Clothing Research Project.

‘Rendering Realities’*,* in *Towards Reflexive Method in Archaeology: the Example of Catalhöyük,* Ian Hodder (ed.), Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

1. Co-author with Hobbs, P., Holland, S., Loukakis, R. and Croucamp A., A *Printmaking* *Resource.* Johannesburg: MTN Art Institute.

Research consultant for *Africa meets Africa*, an exhibition guide or the exhibition ***Africa meets Africa,*** a collection of African art from the Museumvoor Volkenkunde, Rotterdam at the African Window Museum in Pretoria.

1. With Nel, K., ‘The Puzzle of the Pendant Figures’ in *Evocations of the Child: Fertility Figures*

*of the Southern African Region.* Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg: Human and Rousseau.

With Nel, K., ‘Evocations of the Child’ in *Evocations of the Child: Fertility Figures of the Southern African Region.* Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg: Human and Rousseau.

Coordinator, together with Karel Nel, of the catalogue *Evocations of the Child: Fertility Figures of the Southern African Region.* Cape Town, Pretoria, Johannesburg: Human and Rousseau.

1996 ‘The Anglo Trust and Traditional Southern African Art’ in *A Decade of Collecting: The Anglo*

*American Johannesburg Centenary Trust 1986 – 1996.* Johannesburg Art Gallery

*Making Links: a resource book on the traditional southern African collection at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.* Johannesburg Art Gallery.

With Rankin, E., Review of the ***Africa 95*** Festival in *South African Review of Books, Issue 42, March/April 1996.*

With Rankin, E., ‘Scrambling (for) Africa: Art Exhibitions at London’s *Africa95* Festival’. *African Studies, Volume 55, No. 2, 1996 (p 182 – 198).*

1. Review of the exhibition *Ezakwantu: Beadwork from the Eastern Cape*in *African Arts*, Winter 1995, XXVIII, No. 1. Los Angeles: University of California.

Entry on ‘Nyoga’ in Phillips, T. (ed) *Africa: The Art of a Continent.* Royal Academy of Arts London. Munich: Prestel.

1. ‘Redemption and Reconstruction: The Burton Collection’ in *The Collection of W.F.P. Burton,* University Art Galleries, University of the Witwatersrand (with Fiona Rankin-Smith)

Papers Presented

2016                   *Light: unpacking metaphors of representation in 19th, 20th and 21st century*

*South African images* at the conference South Africa: 3 Million Years of Art? Reconsidering Ontologies, Technologies and Agents conference

                            organised by the British Museum and the University of Cambridge Center for Africa

Studies.

2015 *Modalities of Meaning: light and shadow in archaeological and ethnographic images*.

Presented at ‘IZITHUNGUTHU: Southern African Pasts before the

Colonial Era, their Archives and their Ongoing Present/Presence. Conference

organised by the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative, University of Cape

Town.

2013 *Pins, Politics, People and Performance: the archive of southern Natal c. 1850 – 1910* final project workshop for the Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research programme 2012-2013 - Collections and Collaboration: Art and Museums in Africa.

## *The Challenge of the Traditional Collection and the possibilities of "Tribing and Untribing the Archive: the Material Record of the Thukela-Mzimvubu region, c. 1750-1910”* presented to:

* SCOLMA – the UK Libraries and Archives Group on Africa.
* Staff seminar at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge, UK.

*Existence in three dimensions: the Collection of the missionary W.F.P. Burton* - lecture given to 3rd year theology students at Cambridge University.

## 2012 *The Challenge of the Traditional Collection and the possibilities of "Tribing and Untribing the Archive: the Material Record of the Thukela-Mzimvubu region, c. 1750-1910”* presented to Seminar Series: Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research programme 2012- 13.

Invited participant in panel discussion “Finding Contexts in Visual Century’ for Wits University Press as part of Wits Arts and Literature Experience (WALE) at Wits University.

2011 Presented working draft of review of the exhibition *The Art of Daily Life: portable objects from southeast Africa* presented at the Archive and Public Culture Research Initiative at the University of Cape Town

Inclusion, exclusion, dispossession and magic in the tapestries of Allina Ndebele with Philippa Hobbs at the colloquium on Space, Ritual, Absence: Liminality in South African Visual Art, University of Johannesburg.

*Ethnologised Pasts and Their Archival Futures: Construing the Archive of Pre- and Early Colonial Southern KwaZulu-Natal* with Carolyn Hamilton presented to the colloquium organised by SAVAH under the aegis of the Comité International d’Histoire de l’Art (CIHA) hosted by the Wits School of Arts and the Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER) at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 12 – 15 January 2011.

2010 Invited participant to the Visualisation in Archaeology workshop at Southampton

University. Presentation titled *Light and Logic: considering the archaeological image*.

2009 *The fluid of the ancestors: water and its significance as a medium of transformation.* Presented at the Origins Centre, Wits University and at the SAVAH conference at Pretoria University.

### *Dungamanzi / Stirring Waters: water and its significance as a medium of transformation*. Paper given at the CAA Conference, Los Angeles, Feb 2009.

2008 Presentation to Walt Disney Imagineering on rock and mural art in southern Africa.

2007 *The Glossary Project*. Paper given at the South African Visual Art Historians Conference on collaborative project with Professor Pattabi Raman and Philippa Hobbs on the writing of a glossary of art and architectural terms from a South African perspective.

Presentation to the South African Archaeological Society titled *Renderings and Representations: Understanding Archaeology’s Images from the Neolithic Site at Çatalhöyük, Turkey.*

2006 *Dungamanzi / Stirring Waters*. Paper given at the South African Museums Association Conference on the exhibition of Tsonga and Shangaan art.

*Imagining Africa in the 20th and 21st Centuries*. Paper presented at the Picasso in Africa Conference, Cape Town.

2005 *Interrogating the Narrative: Mother Goddesses and Fertility Figurines*. Paper given at the South African Art Historians Conference.

1. *Transporting the Traditional: Moving Contexts of Display in Contemporary African Art.* Paper given at the South African Art Historians Conference.

1998 *African Art from the MTN Collection.* MTN educational program, MTN Head Office, Sandton, Johannesburg.

1. *Bodies of Sculpture: Traditional Sculptural Forms from Southern Africa*. Paper givenat the Third South African Sculpture Symposium, Technikon Pretoria.
2. *Transformed Fibers: not just nets* presentation at the Johannesburg Art Gallery.
3. *Transformed Fibers: the Exhibition.* Paper given at Craft in Education Conference, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.
4. *Beadwork as Art*. Paper given at SAMA Conference, Cape Town.