NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

The University of Johannesburg acquired *The Thinker* in April 2019 from Dr Essop Pahad. Over the last decade, *The Thinker* has gained a reputation as a journal that explores Pan-African issues across fields and times. Ronit Frenkel, as the incoming editor, plans on maintaining the pan-African scope of the journal while increasing its coverage into fields such as books, art, literature and popular cultures. *The Thinker* is a ‘hybrid’ journal, publishing both journalistic pieces with more academic articles and contributors can now opt to have their submissions peer reviewed. We welcome Africa-centred articles from diverse perspectives, in order to enrich both knowledge of the continent and of issues impacting the continent.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS EDITION - All contributing analysts write in their personal capacity


Sven Christian is a writer, editor, and curator. In 2022, he was appointed curator of the Villa-Legodi Centre for Sculpture at NIROX Sculpture Park. He is the editor of Ashraf Jamal’s Strange Cargo: Essays on Art (2022); and co-editor of Coral Bijoux: Dreams as R-evolution (2020); Why Should I Hesitate: Putting Drawings to Work (2019); and Five Bhobh: Painting at the End of an Era (2018). He holds an MA in Contemporary Curatorial Practices from the University of the Witwatersrand, which focused on the curation of Dumile Feni’s scroll. The accompanying project, ‘You wouldn’t know God if he spat in your eye: impressions from Dumile Feni’s scroll’ was published through Ellipses: Journal of Creative Research. His work has also been published by The Garage Journal, and *OnCurating*, amongst others.

Phumzile Nombuso Twala is a writer and independent arts practitioner. An Independent Curators International (ICI) alumnus, her research interests are in heritage and the intersection between community engagement and museum practice. She is developing an interdisciplinary praxis based on this. As a practitioner, she has been affiliated with Funda Community College in Soweto, through the Creative Arts Incubator Programme, and has been actively developing social interventions through Soweto Museums. She is completing a BA Honours degree in History of Art at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), and is a recipient of both the 2020 Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) Heritage-related Studies Bursary and the 2020 Robben Island Museum Bursary.


Phokeng Setai is a doctoral fellow at the Centre...
Nkgopoleng Moloi is an arts writer based in Cape Town, South Africa. Her work has been featured in Artthrob, Elephant Magazine, The British Journal of Photography and post (The Museum of Modern Art’s online resource), among others.

Thulile Gamedze is a Johannesburg-based writer and otherwise undisciplined practitioner working between images, text, and history. Her work is moved by the pedagogical, social, and creative potential of radical Queer positions and Black Consciousness politics. She has an M.Phil in Fine Art from the University of Cape Town, and has published extensively for international art publications, including Documenta 14, the 10th Berlin Biennale, and iterations of Recontres’ de Bamako, as well as for local platforms like Mail & Guardian and Artthrob. She has also published in academic journals Radical Philosophy and South Atlantic Quarterly (as one of two parts of ‘gamEdze and gamedZe’) and has a forthcoming diagrammed essay in MARCH journal’s issue on ‘Black Ecologies.’

Stacy Hardy is a writer, an editor with pan African collective Chimurenga, and a lecturer in creative writing at UCKAR. Her writing has appeared in a wide range of publications and a collection of her short fiction, Because the Night, was published in 2015. She regularly collaborates with Angolan composer Victor Gama on multimedia works that have been performed around the world and her experimental performance piece, “Museum of Lungs,” created together with Laila Soliman, Neo Muyanga, and Nancy Mounir, toured globally. She is a research fellow at Chicago University and is currently working on a research and performance-based collaborative endeavour exploring biographies and geographies of breath. She is also the librettist for a new opera which won the prestigious Fedora-Generali Prize for Opera 2020 and will premier at Festival D’aix-En-Provence, France in 2022.

Abel Mputing holds a Masters of Arts in Fine Art and an honours degree in history from the University of Cape Town. Before that he was a freelance arts writer for various South African national newspapers. And a columnist for Top of the Times, a weekly Arts Supplement of Cape Times. He lectured on part-time basis a module on South African Art Narratives at Michaelis School of Fine Art and was also enlisted as a research fellow at The Centre for Curating the Archive, UCT. He is interested in South African art history with a special emphasis on South African documentary and art photography with particular reference to the black body, its archival record and the contemporary artistic practices thereof.


Nolan Stevens has had careers as an independent curator, art teacher, as well as an award-winning artist and arts writer. His written work has been published in a wide range of renowned print and online arts publications both locally and internationally. Stevens’ subject of interest interrogates the complexities surrounding modern day afro-urban life.