

OPENLab 2016
Richmond

OPENLab 2016

Fourteen of South Africa's most promising emerging and mid-career artists took part in OPENLab 2016, a national laboratory for creative practitioners interested in making art in the public realm. OPENLab: The Art of Being Social, is an open and intensive artist residency platform aimed at generating new strategies and ideas in site specific, experimental and interdisciplinary practice. The Lab was led by national and international facilitators Paul Gazzola (Australia), Ella Ziegler (Germany), Abrie Fourie (Germany/South Africa), Khanyisile Mbongwa (South Africa) and Lesiba Mabitsela (South Africa).

"OPENLab is a fantastic opportunity to meet and network with other artists. I look forward to sharing ideas, developing my career and challenging myself," said Johandi du Plessis, one of the artists participating in the Lab.

OPENLab 2016 took place over ten days from 14 July – 24 July 2016 at the University of the Free State (UFS) in Bloemfontein alongside Vrystaat Arts Festival. It also involved a weeklong studio held at Modern Art Projects South Africa (MAPSA) in Richmond, Northern Cape.

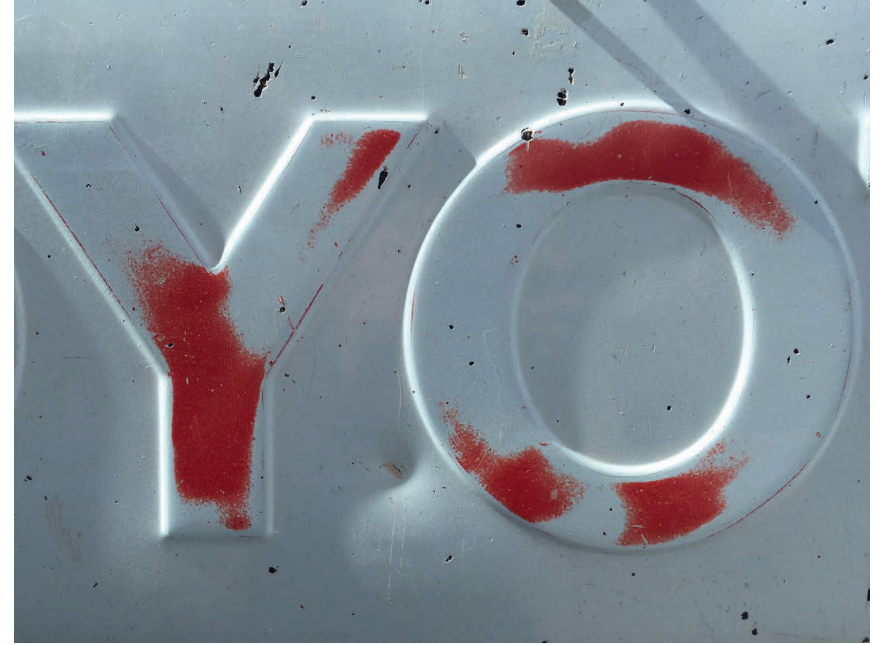
Paul Gazzola, lead facilitator says: "OPENLab is a place for free experimentation and open dialogue. It is a nurturing, supportive and responsive space for artists and facilitators to share, exchange and challenge each other. In the Lab we will explore spaces for performance and installation; interdisciplinary collaboration; concept development; audience interactivity and intercultural dialogue. OPENLab is an investment in future thinking, creative networks and professional development."

OPENLab is a national opportunity for participating artists to explore new approaches to site based practices working across different communities, disciplines and geographical contexts. The emphasis is on participation, critical thinking, discussion and the creation of new ideas.

OPENLab was initially developed in 2014 by Australian creative practitioners Paul Gazzola and Carli Leimbach as part of the Programme for Innovation in Artform Development (PIAD). PIAD is an initiative by the Vrystaat Arts Festival and the UFS. OPENLab 2016 was generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and supported by MAPSA, Open Space Contemporary Arts and Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen.

OPENLab 2016 participating artists were:

Janet Botes (Cape Town)
Sikelela Damane (Johannesburg)
Lehlohonolo Dube (Springs)
Johandi du Plessis (Bloemfontein)
Yazeed Kamaldien (Cape Town)
Kai Lossgott (Johannesburg)
Wezile Mgibe (Port Elizabeth)
Nomusa Mtshali (Cape Town)
Kivithra Naicker (Durban)
Kathleen Sawyer (Cape Town)
Karin Tan and Skye Qualding (Johannesburg)
Victoria Wigzell (Johannesburg)
Scott Eric Williams (Cape Town)



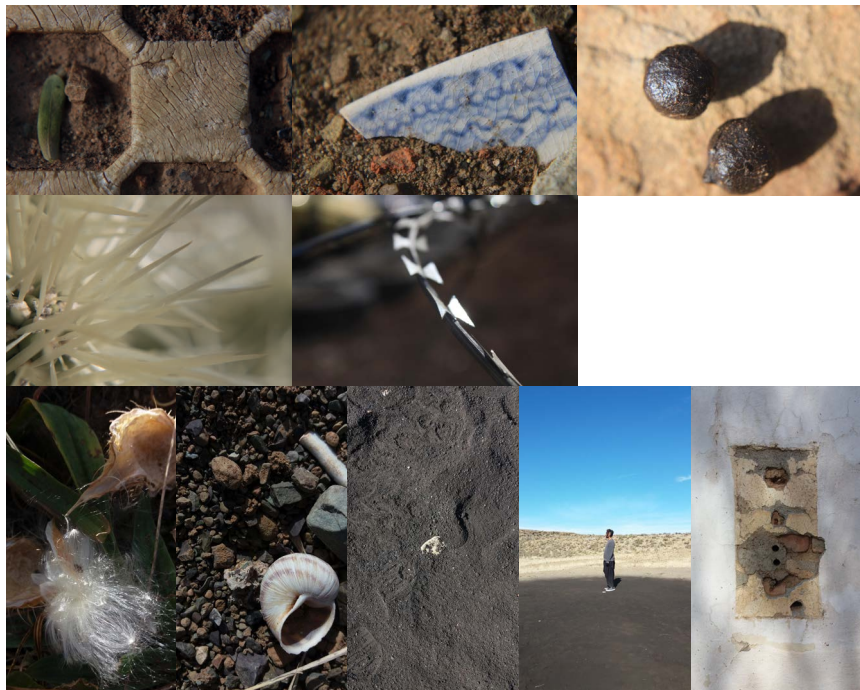
Monday 18 July 2016

workshop:
*framing/ street walk/ fact finding/ gathering/
observations/ mapping/ performing for the camera*
group participation with facilitator: Abrie Fourie



Monday 18 July 2016

workshop:
*framing/ street walk/ fact finding/ gathering/
 observations/ mapping/ performing for the camera*
 group participation with facilitator: Abrie Fourie



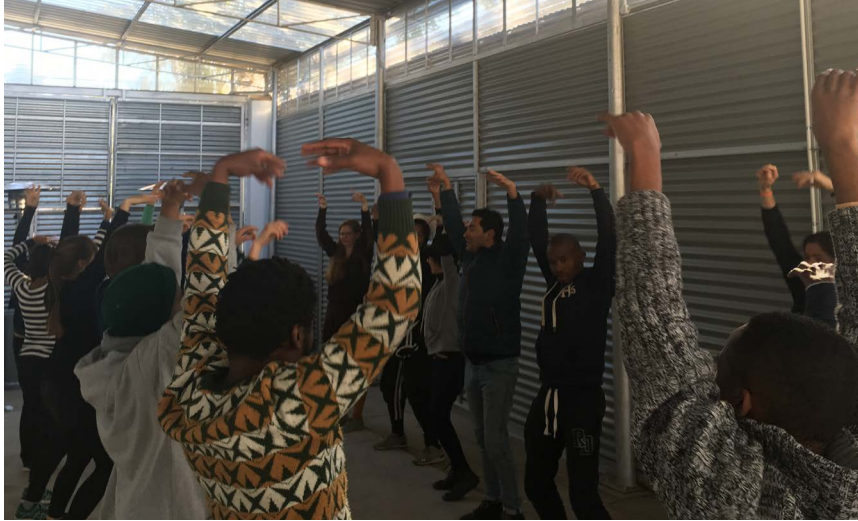
Monday 18 July 2016

workshop:
*framing/ street walk/ fact finding/ gathering/
 observations/ mapping/ performing for the camera*
 group participation with facilitator: Abrie Fourie



Monday 18 July 2016

workshop:
*framing/ street walk/ fact finding/ gathering/
 observations/ mapping/ performing for the camera*
 group participation with facilitator: Abrie Fourie



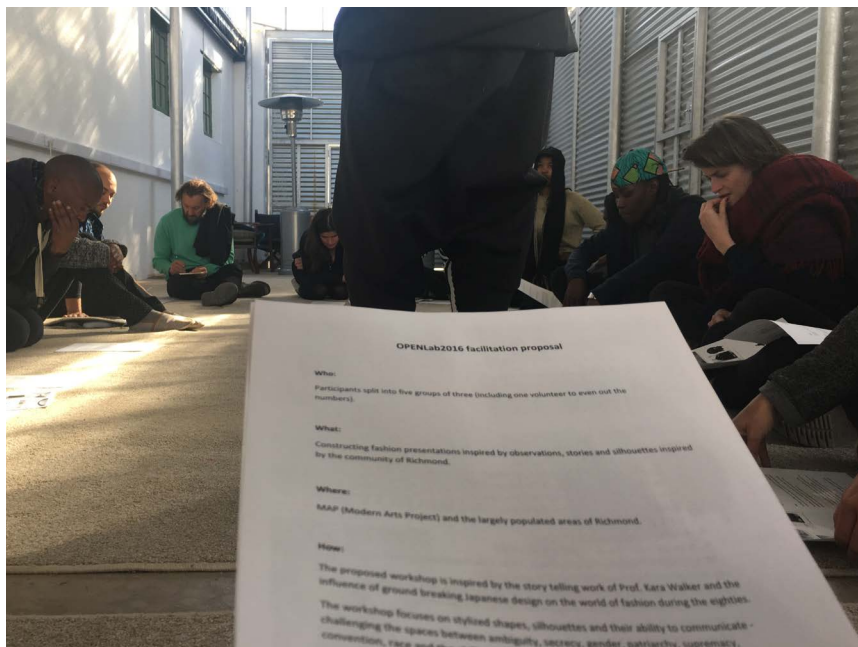
"The Lab was one that instilled confidence in myself and my work. This was due to the constant interrogation of my work and my practice. It was good to be put in situations, and be given tasks, that I may have been uncomfortable or unfamiliar with."

Karin Tan



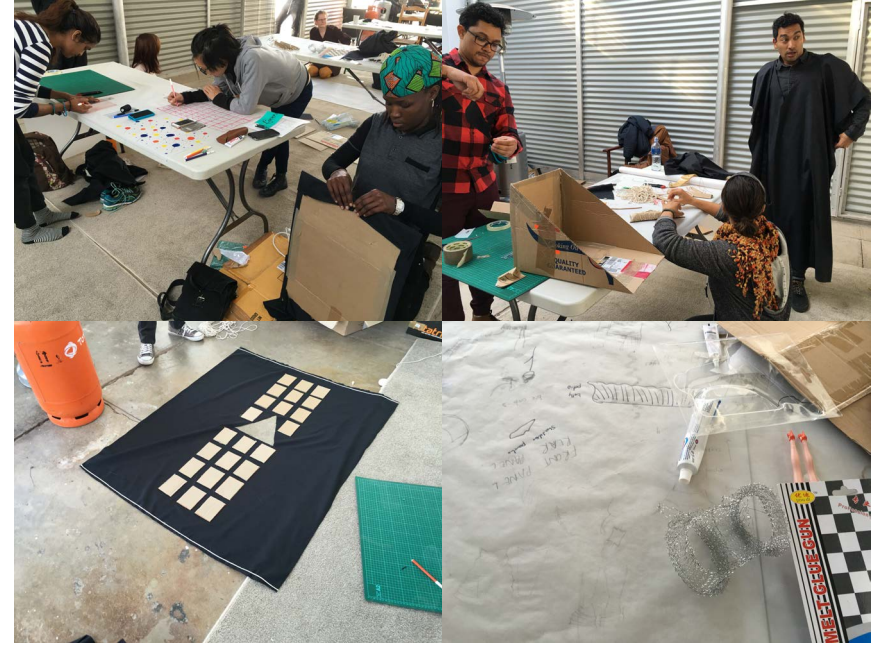
Tuesday 19 July 2016

daily morning warm-up session:
body/ awareness/ process/ interrogation/ site/ analysis
group participation with lead facilitator: Paul Gazzola



Tuesday 19 July 2016

workshop:
*silhouettes/ flatten/ space/ fashion/
 costume design/ collaboration*
 group participation with facilitator: Lesiba Mabitsela



Tuesday 19 July 2016

workshop:
silhouettes/ flatten/ space/ fashion/
costume design/ collaboration
 group participation with facilitator: Lesiba Mabitsela



"The Lab has contributed to the development of long-term projects that take their points of departure from the location, experience and ideas generated during this time."

Victoria Wigzell



Tuesday 19 July 2016

workshop:

*silhouettes/ flatten/ space/ fashion/
costume design/ collaboration*

group participation with facilitator: Lesiba Mabitsela



Tuesday 19 July 2016

workshop:
*silhouettes/ flatten/ space/ fashion/
 costume design/ collaboration*
 group participation with facilitator: Lesiba Mabitsela



Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
text/ site-based/ intervention
group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



"I felt that my personal artistic practice was influenced in terms of spontaneity and sense of play. We were given the opportunity to break our own traditions and challenged to experiment, create and explore."

Kathleen Sawyer



Janet Botes & Kathleen Sawyer

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Kai Lossgott



Scott Eric Williams

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Lehlohonolo Dube

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Nomusa Mtshali

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Johandi du Plessis

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Victoria Wigzell



Sikelela Damane

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Kivithra Naicker

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler



Skye Qualding & Karin Tan



Yazeed Kamaldien

Wednesday 20 July 2016

workshop:
Karoo/ site-based/ table/ intervention
 individual & group participation with facilitator: Ella Ziegler





Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
 group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



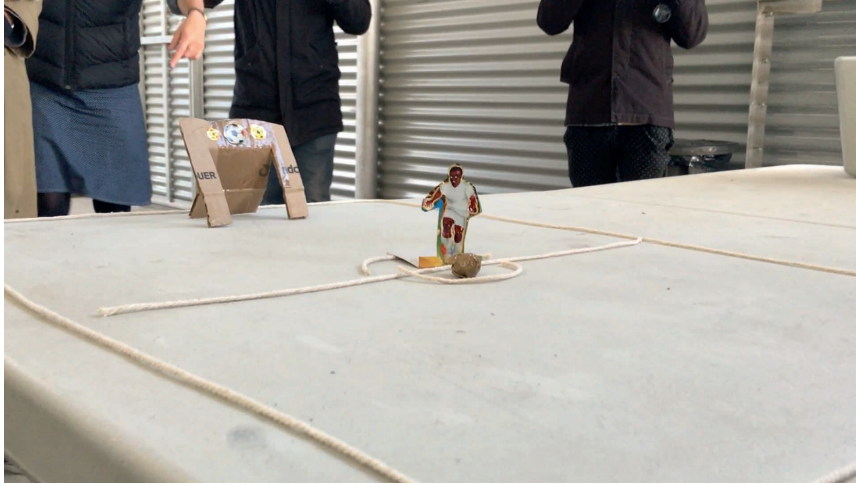
"It was a great experience overall, which I am extremely grateful to have been able to attend."

Kai Lossgott



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
 group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
 group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
 group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
 group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Thursday 21 July 2016

workshop:
body/ memory/ the politics of our actions/ objects
group participation with facilitator: Khanyisile Mbongwa



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Johandi du Plessis



"The Lab really was a period for creative play, expanded my networks, but also challenged me and the idea of my art."

Johandi Plessis



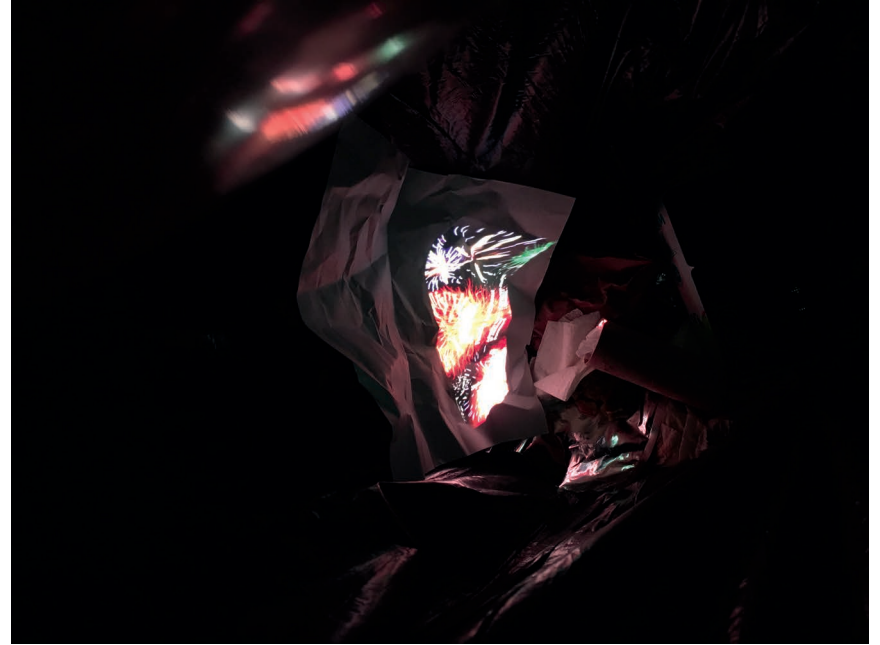
Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Johandi du Plessis



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Kai Lossgott



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Kai Lossgott



"The lab has opened my mind on what one can possibly do in public space."

Sikelela Damane



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Sikelela Damane



"The guidance supplied by the facilitators in combination with exploration of new methods makes this a program without equal."

Scott Williams



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Scott Eric Williams



"The residency opened-up a new world and with it new possibilities."

Nomusa Mtshali



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Nomusa Mtshali



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Nomusa Mtshali



"The facilitated workshops and exercises made me feel much more comfortable and confident in accessing public space, communicating with people and expressing ideas in public spaces."

Janet Botes



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Janet Botes



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Janet Botes



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Kivithra Naicker



"The Lab taught me to test my limits and challenge my own practice. It allowed me to express myself honestly and sincerely and it is because of this, I found it magical to be able to constantly produce work...be it short and even just the beginning of an idea."

Kivithra Naicker

Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Kivithra Naicker

"The Lab has greatly contributed to my understanding and approach on doing a site-specific piece or an installation; it also offered me new vocabulary in my practice as a dancer, choreographer and a movement teacher. I also got to meet artists and got to understand their practice within the arts and made contacts who will keep the relationship going."

Lehlohonolo Dube



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Lehlohonolo Dube



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Lehlohonolo Dube



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Skye Qualding & Karin Tan



Saturday 23 July 2016
artist presentation:
Skye Qualding & Karin Tan



"I have grown from a perspective of confidence to work with other creative people. I feel that I was able to explore my own creativity and ideas."

Yazeed Kamaldien



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Yazeed Kamaldien



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Victoria Wigzell



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Kathleen Sawyer



"The Lab demonstrated the skills and abilities of my work and what I'm capable of as an artist. It offered me a space to break my boundaries and explore."

Wezile Mgibe



Saturday 23 July 2016

artist presentation:
Wezile Mgibe



Sunday 24 July 2016

farewell from left to right:

Abrie Fourie, Skye Qualding, Nomusa Mtshali, Yazeed Kamaldien, Khanyisile Mbongwa, Kathleen Sawyer, Morné Ramsay, Kai Lossgott, Paul Gazzola, Lehlohonolo Dube, Victoria Wigzell, Ella Ziegler, Harrie Siertsema, Bongani Njalo, Janet Botes, Johandi du Plessis, Wezile Mgibe, Scott Eric Williams, Kivithra Naicker, Karin Tan, Lesiba Mabitsela



Modern Art Projects South Africa • PO Box 39 Groenkloof 0027 South Africa
info@map-southafrica.org

Published in 2018 in South Africa by Modern Art Projects South Africa
All images courtesy Modern Art Projects South Africa

All rights reserved.

© 2018 Modern Art Projects South Africa
© text Paul Gazzola 2016

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission by the publisher.

ISBN 978-0-9946884-9-1



"I wish we could all do it once a year!"

Skye Qualding



Cullinan - Gauteng



Dullstroom - Mpumalanga



Graskop - Mpumalanga



Pretoria - Gauteng



Richmond - Northern Cape