

## MEMORANDUM

Your ref: media: PR160  
Our ref:11/2/3/1  
Date: 12 June 2023  
Who deals with this: Emma

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### PRESS RELEASE

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality through the Red Location Art Gallery and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum have three exhibitions on show for the public to view. The public is invited to attend our two opening functions.

#### **THE ART AND LEGACY OF GEORGE PEMBA – A CONTEMPORARY RESPONSE EXHIBITION**

The Red Location Art Gallery and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum commemorated the legacy of George Pemba by inviting contemporary artists to submit artworks for an exhibition.

Artists were challenged to make new works that reflect, revision, reinterpret, reimagine, excavate, interrogate, celebrate, contemplate, reconsider; re-examine; interact with; inquire; remaking; honour George Pemba in any medium. 25 artists were selected to be a part of the exhibition.

R 50 000 will be presented to the best work on show and R 10 000 towards most promising on exhibition. Winners will be selected by a special committee and announced at the opening function.

The exhibition's opening function will be held on the 17 June 2023 at 10:00am at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, 1 Park Drive Central.

#### **MASTER BEADING EXHIBITION**

The Red Location Art Gallery and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum sent out a call for professional experienced beaders living in Nelson Mandela Bay to be part of a great initiative that focused on traditional Eastern Cape beads.

The master beading workshop sessions included peer to peer learning, sharing of skills and knowledge, theoretical knowledge, demonstrations, talks by invited guests. The 20 participants produced beadwork pieces over a 4-week period for an exhibition. Their first beadwork piece is a replicate of the City's historical beadwork collection and the second piece is a contemporary piece that incorporated their own interpretation.

The exhibition's opening function will be held on the 24 June 2023 at 10:00am at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum, 1 Park Drive Central.

## **IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY ART COLLECTION  
Exhibition at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda

A selection of artworks was chosen from the City's Collection and will be on show in an exhibition, titled 'In the eye of the beholder' as from 22 June until 2 July 2023 at the Albany History Museum, 40 Somerset Street Makhanda.

Public collections are important reflections of society and provide an opportunity for each generation to add their unique voices and viewpoints to an ongoing appreciation of art. The art collection of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality tells the story of art in the Eastern Cape and South Africa more broadly. Highlights have been selected to celebrate this unique regional collection.

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum has been the custodian of the collection since its inception in 1956. Over the past 68 years the collection has grown from a small collection of historical images of the city into a vibrant collection of over 8000 objects representing some of South Africa's top 20th century and 21st century visual artists. The current head of the institution, Emma O'Brien, is passionate about continuing the museum's legacy which includes one of the country's largest contemporary ceramic collections and an exceptional collection of Southern Nguni traditional wear and beadwork.

In recent years a new contemporary art space, the Red Location Art Gallery, was added to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's roster of cultural venues supporting the arts. While this space is currently closed, the Chief Curator, Uthando Baduza, and his team have added new energy and insights into a new selection committee and acquisitions project to ensure the art collection of the City of Nelson Mandela Bay continues to grow.

In the past two years, 36 new contemporary Eastern Cape voices have been added to the collection and a few of these works will be selected to be part of the current offering on show at the 2023 National Arts Festival.

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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**ENDS**