



Site_Specific Press Release 20 Feb 2013 • Woordfees 2013, Stellenbosch, South Africa
Hiernamaals • Hereafter Exhibition & Installation

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Heavenly Land Art Installation at Woordfees

Site_Specific, champions of land art in South Africa, is pleased to announce that two of South Africa's land artists, Anni Snyman and PC Janse van Rensburg, will be creating an installation between 1 and 3 March 2013 at the University of Stellenbosch's 'Woordfees' (Word Festival). Translating this year's Woordfees theme of 'Hemel' (Heavenly) into land art which can be viewed at the festival terrain behind the Sasol museum in Stellenbosch.

Held once a year, Woordfees attracts nearly 40 000 people who come to experience its wide range of forms and expressions through poetry, prose, debate, theatre, music, and visual arts. The festival promotes the joys and freedoms of language in its various incarnations to gather people around a positive impetus and experience.

Anni and PC's land art installation at last year's festival centred on the theme of 'The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil' where hundreds of apples were creatively displayed in a 40 year old Plane tree outside the Sasol museum. The same tree will be utilised for this year's installation.

Anni Snyman, a director of Site_Specific and one of the artists at the 'Woordfees' installation says, "The theme of 'Heavenly' implies a hereafter, something that has died, or has been lost - at the very least, transformed from an earthly state. Our intention with this installation is to bring attention to the need to honour and mark our experience of loss and grief. We are expecting many volunteers to join us when we start creating our installation on 1 March and we certainly encourage the public to join us to get a glimpse of the accessibility of land art. We will work through Friday and Saturday nights to complete our art work by day break on Sunday 3 March, when South Africa's most famous beach calligrapher, Andrew van der Merwe, will create a design in the ground at the foot of the tree. Our installation will conclude on 3 March with a public closing ceremony at 15:00.

Participation at Woordfees commences Site-Specific's 2013 events which will culminate in the second Site_Specific International Land Art Biennale to be held in Plettenberg Bay between 10th and 17th of August when international artists will join their South African compatriots in creating unique land art installations. The names of invited artists to this year's event will be announced at a national launch in Johannesburg in April 2013.

For the Duration of the Woordfees, Site_Specific will be hosting an exhibition entitled 'Hiernamaals' (Hereafter) at the Slee Gallery in Dorp Street, Stellenbosch. This show of land-related artwork is aimed at raising awareness and funds for the Site_Specific Land Art Biennale and includes works by Angus Taylor, Jan van der Merwe, Gordon Froud, Hannelie Coetzee, Strijdom van der Merwe, Rina Stutzer, Simon Max Bannister, Shany van der Berg, Carol Nathan-Levin, Andrew van der Merwe, Eduard Haumann, Erica Lüttich, Myfanwy Bekker, Charles Levin, Anni Snyman, PC Janse van Rensburg, Katie du Toit, and Janet Botes.

Anni continues, "The 'Hereafter' exhibition delves into the transience of the natural world. It takes many forms: at times a requiem, a song of mourning, even a wish or a memory, the patterns of flow. We would certainly like to encourage Woordfees festival-goers to experience both our 'live' land art installation as well as the larger context provided by the 'Hiernamaals/Hereafter' show in the beautifully designed space of the Slee Gallery.

The 'Hiernamaals/Hereafter' exhibition opens at 17:00 on Sunday, 3 March until 10 March with a special preview for festival goers on 2 March.



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About Site_Specific

Site_Specific Land Art Events promotes land art in Africa, facilitating communities to care for and appreciate their environment, as well as supporting and coordinating artists, environmental conservation groups and patrons.

They are a not-for-profit association of people who are passionate about site specific art which they describe as a form of communion with the land that changes one's perceptions of given surroundings. Even after the art has been reabsorbed into nature, the memory of it persists and informs one's interaction with the landscape. Site_Specific is dependent on the generosity of donors and the South African public for contributions.

Beacon Island Resort and Site_Specific received the coveted BASA Arts and Environment Award in 2012.

For further information please visit: www.sitespecific.org.za/

About the Artists

Anni Snyman is an artist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. She works in various media ranging from traditional prints, photography, digitally manipulated images to three dimensional sculptures and collaborative constellations (juxtapositions of different creative disciplines in public spaces - 'kunstallasies'). Since 2009 she has been exploring Site_Specific works in various landscapes in collaboration with her brother, PC Janse van Rensburg.

PC Janse van Rensburg is an Architect and Developer. He lives and works in Cape Town. Since 2000 he has also been creating oil paintings and exhibiting works as part of the Izak Vollgraaff Studio. Anni and PC are founding members of Site_Specific along with Strijdom van der Merwe and Heather Greig.

About 'Woordfees'

The Woordfees festival strives to promote the joys and freedoms of language in its various incarnations, gathering people around a positive impetus and experience. As an Afrikaans language festival it attracts geographically or linguistically related languages from Africa and countries such as the Netherlands. The festival's aim is to be as inclusive as possible – focusing on students, scholars, as well as the general public. Part of the festival is the 'Woorde Open Wêreld' (Words Open Worlds) project which focuses on educators and disadvantaged learners.

Woordfees takes place from 1-10 March 2013 in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

For more information please visit: www.woordfees.co.za/

About Slee Gallery

Slee & co. architects is a multi-disciplined architecture and design studio operating throughout Southern Africa from their offices in Stellenbosch. The philosophy behind their design is to incorporate and respect the diverse aspirations and heritages of our clients; to learn from advanced technologies and to create a vernacular architecture, embracing our unique people, skills, climate and space.

For more information please visit: www.slee.co.za



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Definition

“Site-specific art is artwork created to exist in a certain place. Typically, the artist takes the location into account while planning and creating the artwork. The actual term was promoted and refined by Californian artist Robert Irwin, but it was actually first used in the mid-1970s by young sculptors, such as Patricia Johanson, Dennis Oppenheim, and Athena Tacha, who had started executing public commissions for large urban sites (see Peter Frank, “Site Sculpture”, Art News, Oct. 1975). Site specific environmental art was first described as a movement by architectural critic Catherine Howett (“New Directions in Environmental Art,” Landscape Architecture, Jan. 1977) and art critic Lucy Lippard (“Art Outdoors, In and Out of the Public Domain,” Studio International, March–April 1977).” Wikipedia

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IMAGES & CAPTIONS

Download press-ready images at <http://sitespecific.org.za/woordfees2013/>
(see bottom of the page - Press Release)



Los_Angus-Taylor_Site_Specific-2011.jpg

Los (Loose) - figure installation by Angus Taylor in Piesang River Lagoon
at Plettenberg Bay for Site_Specific 2011.



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Tree-of-Knowledge-II_Anni-Snyman_PC-fvRensburg.jpg

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil II - installation by Anni Snyman, PC Janse van Rensburg and friends at the Stellenbosch Woordfees, March 2012.



am/pm-Shadow-Lines_Strijdom-vdMerwe.jpg

am/pm Shadow Lines : Earth Work Installation by Strijdom van der Merwe: 7000 tons of earth moving. 100 meters in diameter x 2 meter high. Near Koingnaas, De Beers Namaqualand mines, West Coast, South Africa. A work commissioned by De Beers to rehabilitate the landscape as a large scale art work. Only 'disturbed' land were used in the process of creating the art work.



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Konynkonstellasie_Anni-Snyman.jpg

Konynkonstellasie in Richmond, Anni Snyman en vriende - 'n ligtekening van die bedreigde rivierkonyn op 'n oop erf in Richmond. 'n Site_Specific installasie tydens die Richmond boekfees Oktober 2012. Photo composite by: Daron Chatz, Jade Holing, katty vandenbergh and Anni Snyman.



Beach-Calligraphy_Andrew-vdMerwe_Site_Specific-2011.jpg

A wave washes over some Beach calligraphy by Andrew van der Merwe at the 2011 Site_Specific International Land Art Biennale in Plettenberg Bay. Photo: Elizabeth Olivier Kahlau.