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Association
for Visual Arts

A long and remarkable **LEGACY**

Arguably South Africa's oldest arts organisation, the Association for Visual Arts (a.k.a. the AVA) is a non-profit, artist-focused arts organisation whose primary aim is the advancement and promotion of contemporary art and artists.

1850

South African Fine Arts Society is founded in Cape Town.

1851

The Society arranges the first-ever exhibition of fine art in South Africa.

1871

The Society becomes SA Fine Arts Association. Members resolve to establish a permanent gallery & collection for the residents of the Cape Colony.

1872

The National Collection is founded in part by a bequest of paintings by the art patron Sir Thomas Butterworth Bayley.

1875

The Association purchases a premises on Queen Victoria Street which temporarily houses the collection (now known as Iziko National Gallery).

1945

Becomes the South African Association of Arts (SAAA), embracing existing art societies all over the country.

1971

SAAA headquarters in the Western Cape moves into its current location at 35 Church Street.

1995

SAAA headquarters in the Western Cape transforms itself into the Association for Visual Arts (AVA), an independent and autonomous organisation.

2001

AVA forms a partnership with Spier, who through the donation of the AVA's premises becomes its major sponsor.

Membership-based all these years, the AVA has offered a much-needed space for unconstrained art-making, daring ideas and maverick conversations to flourish.



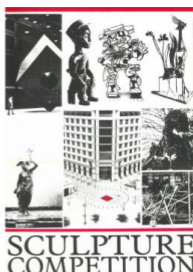
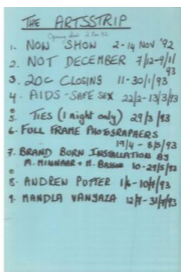
Deborah Weber, *Everybody Hurts Sometimes*, 2023 (detail)

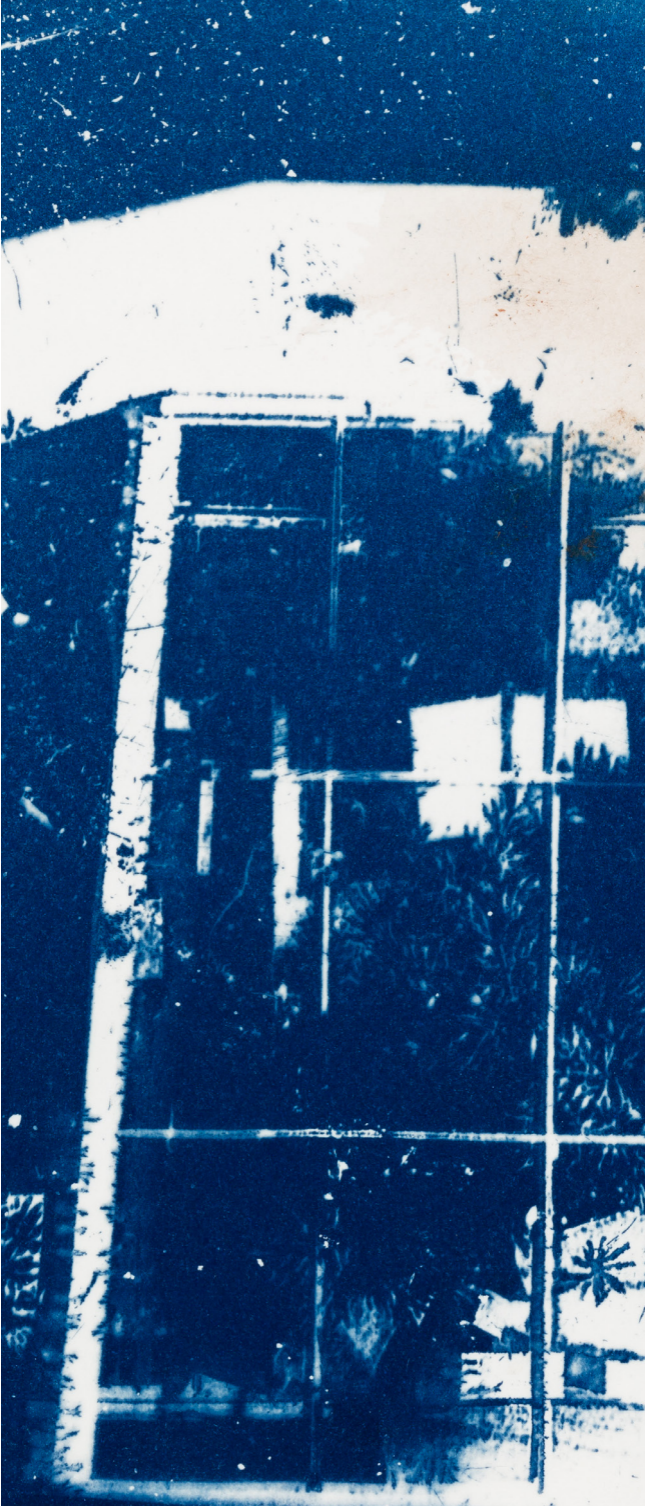
5 DECADES OF AVA ARCHIVES

Five decades of archives are currently stored at the AVA. Its contents include notes, correspondence, exhibition documents, administration records, financial data, letters, minutes of board meetings and AGMs, media communications, architectural plans, visitors books, membership details and other paraphernalia.

Writer, researcher and artist Kim Gurney immersed herself in the archive to create a work of creative non-fiction, **Flipside: The Inadvertent Archive**, published by iwalewabooks. In *Flipside*, Gurney follows the trail of particular archival artefacts, or documents of care, and where they lead to compose a polyvocal storyline interrupted by voices from the stacks. Its chapters move thematically through the rooms of the former house in which AVA resides, making deliberate connections between space and (re)imagination. Copies of the book are available at the AVA for R590.

Selections from the archive from the 1970s to now have been digitised in partnership with A4 Arts Foundation, supported by the National Heritage Council. A custom-made website hosts the wide variety of documents as a living archive, aimed at offering public access and research opportunities for current and future generations. You can find the living archive at archive.ava.co.za.





Kathy Robins, *Trace_II*, 2023 (detail)

EXHIBITIONS

AVA is committed to our mission to support and advance contemporary art and artists. We work with both private and institutional funders to keep the AVA exhibition programme open and accessible to as many artists as possible.

AVA's home trained crew installs around 30-40 exhibitions across our various spaces per year. Principles of experimentation, collaboration and shared decision making are at the heart of the AVA.

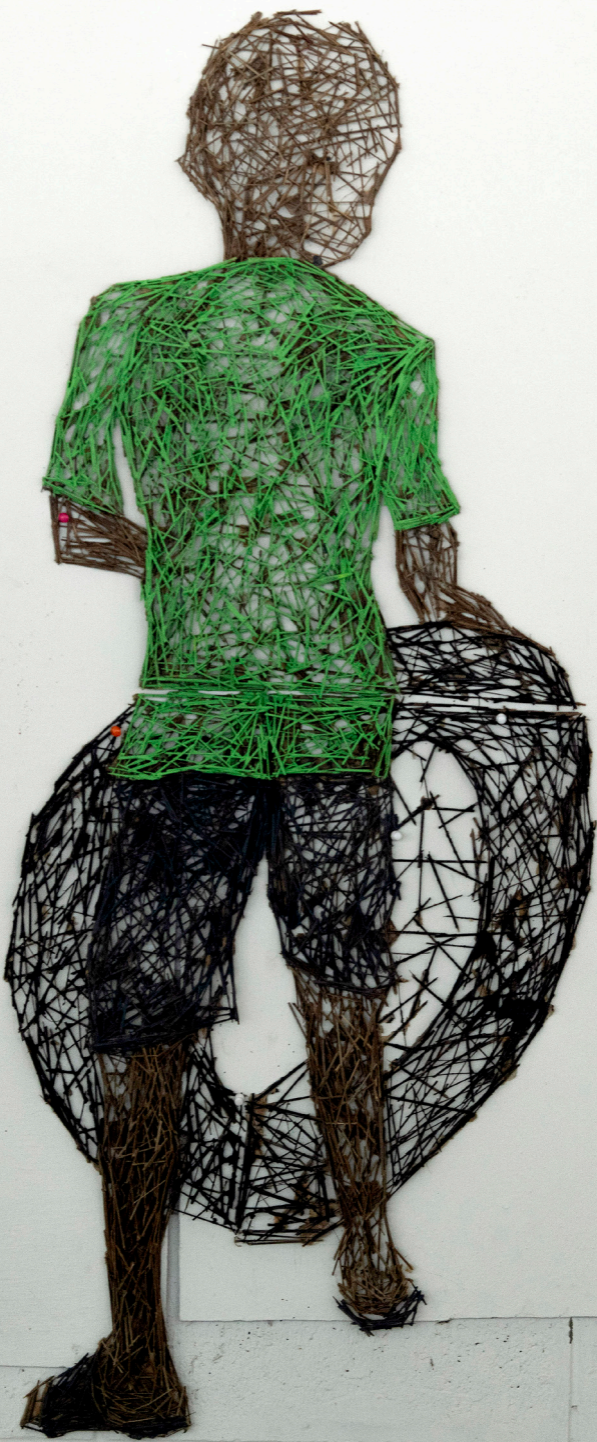
Access to exhibiting in a professional gallery in the heart of Cape Town, with the reputation and following that AVA continues to enjoy, has become a recognised rite of passage and a gateway to a professional career for many South African artists.



How to apply

Artists or curators interested in having a solo or group exhibition at the AVA need to submit an exhibition proposal at a certain time of the year. An open call for submissions is published in June.

Details on www.ava.co.za/faqs or subscribe to our mailing list and/or follow our social media feeds for calls for proposals.



Rudy Nzongo (DR.Congo), *Untitled*, 2023 (detail)

AVA IS OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS

Membership packages are open to all

General Members' benefits

- A right to vote at Annual General Meetings.
- An opportunity to nominate board members.
- Invitations to all private viewings, exhibition openings, artist and curator walkabouts.
- Opportunity to show work in AVA curated exhibitions.
- 5% discount on all artwork at the AVA Gallery.
- A negotiated discount on venue rental for functions, events and exhibitions.
- A complimentary glass of wine from Spier on First Thursdays.

Circle Memberships

Limited to only 50 members, Circle provides art collectors with an opportunity to connect over their shared love of art while participating in exclusive art events. Circle commemorates 50 years since the AVA moved into its premises on Church Street in central Cape Town. Membership fees go towards the establishment of an endowment fund that will ensure the AVA's ongoing sustainability in the rapidly growing Cape Town visual arts eco-system.



To find out how to join, visit: www.ava.co.za/join



Michael Beckurts, *Red road*, 2023 (detail)

January

18.01.24 - 29.02.24

Main Gallery / New Media

Home Affairs by Pamela Bentley

Front Gallery

(un-) homely entanglements by Carola Friess

Long Gallery

DOPPELGÄNGERS, FUTUREGÄNGERS, UBERGÄNGERS by Stefan & Luke Carstens

March

07.03.24 - 18.04.24

Main Gallery

Offcuts curated by Xanthe Scout Lardner-Burke (group show)

Front Gallery

Field of Possibility by Deborah Weber

Long Gallery

Woman and Nature by Many Libuta

Mezzanine

Vivacity by Michael Beckurts

New Media

Homunculus Serie by Heinrich Minnie

April

25.04.24 - 06.06.24

Main Gallery / Mezzanine

Community over clout hosted by Rafiki and Patrick Bongoy (group show)

Front Gallery

Portals into Domestic Worlds by Vida Madighi-Oghu and Zenaéca Singh

Long Gallery

vs. The Machine curated by Denzel Nyathi (group show)

July

04.07.24 - 15.08.24

Main Gallery

Infinite Threads by Nina Kruger

Front Gallery

Miili Yao (Their Bodies) by Naisula

Long Gallery

Ityala aliboli by Vusumzi Nkomo

Mezzanine / New Media

News From Elsewhere by Vincent Bezuidenhout

August

22.08.24 - 03.10.24

Main Gallery

Reminiscences and Pathways by Kathy Robins

Front Gallery

Baking Stories in the Sun by Staša Hlava & Christel Liebenberg

Long Gallery

Songs to cry to by Mthetho Sono

Mezzanine

Unbinding Histories curated by Cagla Demirbas (group show)



Phillip Newman (Boytychie), *Bank broke boytychie*, 2023 (detail)

October

10.10.24 - 21.11.24

Main Gallery / New Media

Art not Oil by The Printing Girls (group show)

Front Gallery

Conversations in Colour; a Departure Point by Melissa Fontini

Long Gallery

Love Unbound by Freya Willemoes-Wissing

Mezzanine

Destruction, Resilience, Namaqualand curated by Ulric Roberts (group show)

November

28.11.24 - 09.01.25

Main Gallery

The Fabric of Society curated by Christina Fortune (group show)

Front Gallery

DALA WHAT YOU MUST by Phillip Neuman (Boytchie)

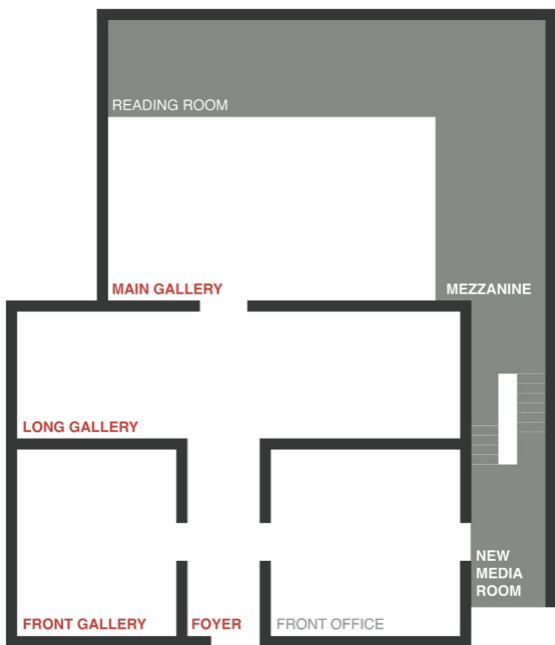
Long Gallery / Mezzanine

Time as Method (Collaboration)
by Zayaan Khan and Catriona Towriss

New Media

Elsewhere or Apprentice by Clara van Or

FLOOR PLAN



BECOME A MEMBER

Complete the form below or visit www.ava.co.za/join to become a member, enjoy access to the membership programme benefits and have a voice in the Association.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Single Membership: | R 150 |
| – Two years: | R 280 |
| – Five Years: | R 550 |
| Couple: | R 280 |
| Organisation: | R 300 |
| Pensioners & Students: | R 75 |

Name:

Address:

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Postal Code:

Email:

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Telephone:

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Banking Details:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Account Name | Association for Visual Arts |
| Bank | First National Bank |
| Branch Code | 250655 |
| Current Account | 628 3313 6733 |

VAT, NPO and PBO Details

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| VAT Registration | 483 025 1536 |
| NPO Registration | 035-161 |
| Public Benefit Organisation | 930 002 912 |



OUR PARTNERS & DONORS

Long Term Partners:



JOAN ST. LEGER
LINDBERGH
CHARITABLE TRUST

Programme Partners:



A4 Arts Foundation



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD



We Adhere To:



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