

SISONKE news

cross continental exchange South Africa - Europe

jewellery * fashion * arts * film * dance * poetry

edition 01 / 2006, nov 06

KulturAXE





sisonke music & poetry

**WE ARE ONE
THE FABRIC OF THAT IS HUMAN
IS US
OUR CREATIVE ENERGY MOVES
WITH THE FORCE OF THE OCEAN
IN MOTION
WE ARE ALL INVOLVED
WE ARE THE CELEBRANTS HERE
WE ARE ONE - WE ARE TOGETHER
SISONKE - REMMOGO**

Keorapetse William Kgositsile

SISONKE music production has started ! The words for the title song were written by legendary South African poet Keorapetse William Kgositsile. The music production was directed by Samson Mnisi and recorded at his studio in Johannesburg, Ntja-Pedi Productions. We plan to release 20 to 24 tracks for SISONKE in a collaboration of musicians and poets from South Africa and Europe. The Cross Continental Design Catwalk will be performed to this music and a special SISONKE CD edition will be produced.

sisonke partners, cooperating institutions & sponsors

list in progress

KulturAXE, transnational communication & art action, Vienna/A, www.kulturaxe.com

Imfundiso Skills Development (ISD), South Africa

New Design University (NDU), St.Pölten/A, www.ndu.ac.at

South African Embassy, Vienna/A, www.saembvie.at

Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, www.tut.ac.za / www.art.co.za

South West Gauteng College, George Tabor Campus, Soweto, www.swgc.co.za

GEMBIOSCOPE CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTRE, Troyeville, Johannesburg
http://www.joburg.org.za/2005/jul/jul22_gem.stm

CARFAX, conceptual by nature, Newtown, Johannesburg, www.carfax.co.za

Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava/SK, <http://www.afad.sk>

MACHFELD, international Arts and Culture Society, Vienna/A, www.machfeld.net

CPERU Ltd., Multimedia, Budapest/H, www.revesz.eu

DCM DECOmetal GmbH, Austria, www.dcm-vienna.com



editorial

SISONKE means 'togetherness' in Zulu language. SISONKE stands for creative exchange, synergy and dialogue between South Africa and Europe, the promotion of social equity and artistic freedom. At the heart of this project is **Imfundiso**, a training initiative in South Africa that focuses on the cultivation of young talent from historically disadvantaged communities in high quality jewellery design. Imfundiso was honoured by former President **Nelson Mandela** for its action to alleviate poverty and was celebrated at the 2006 Oscar Gala where "Tsotsi" actress Terry Pheto received her Oscar wearing a gold necklace designed and produced at the Imfundiso Soweto Jewellery School.

SISONKE was developed by KulturAXE, Vienna and Imfundiso Skills Development, South Africa and will be realized together with its cooperation partners, the New Design University (NDU), St. Pölten, the South African Embassy in Vienna and its institutional partners in South Africa and Europe.

The **CROSS CONTINENTAL DESIGN CATWALK** (CCDC) will be a high level Jewellery and Fashion Design performance incorporating music, dance, visuals, film and poetry. A unique event reflecting the theme of 'togetherness' created by 200 young designers, artists and musicians from South Africa and Europe. A collection of 110 jewellery design pieces and outfits will be presented to the theme SISONKE by twenty performers and dancers to music composed for the event, the lyrics in collaboration with poets. Design and art exhibitions, workshops, a film programme on identity and communities, and a cross continental jewellery design competition will complete the programme. In a fusion of cultures it will give voice to **personal statements on identity, visions, dreams and social reality**.

The SISONKE CCDC will be showcased at the **NDU New Design Festival in Vienna** from 26th March to 1st April 2007. In South Africa it is planned to present the SISONKE CCDC within the Johannesburg City Festival of Creative Industries Talents in November 2007.

The **SISONKE Newsletter** will inform you on the developments of the cross continental exchange, provide news and infos on this exciting path which we invite you to share with us. Enjoy and stay tuned !

Caroline Fekete-Kaiser, KulturAXE, Vienna



South African Embassy Vienna



ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS AND DESIGN BRATISLAVA



headlines & news in short

KulturAXE in South Africa

KulturAXE, represented by Caroline Fekete-Kaiser visited South Africa first week of October. We thank the South African embassy Vienna for the provision of the flight ticket! SISONKE meetings started right upon arrival on Sunday morning at the Joburg airport and ended shortly before leaving. *read more...*

SISONKE Art Directors South Africa

All SISONKE art directors in South Africa appointed! The disciplines involve jewellery and fashion design, music, poetry, dance, film and visual arts. We are thrilled by the outstanding quality these art directors will secure in their fields and thank them for their trust and motivation! Find their short profiles in this issue.

SISONKE Web News

SISONKE is on the net, you can find a first presentation at <http://www.kulturaxe.com/siso.html/>. And just created is a web portal, the Cross Continental Action Platform, hosted by Machfeld, Vienna <http://www.cca-p.net/>. It is currently being presented for the Innovation Award Vienna 06.

Cross Continental Design Catwalk (CCDC) Production Plan

The CCDC is shaping up! Centered around the presentation of unique jewellery design from South Africa and Europe, it unites all spheres of the arts to the theme of togetherness. A first outline has been worked out with artists, designers and institutions regarding the process of the event, artistic concept, time schedules. *Read more...*

SISONKE FILM

Over and above the production of visuals and video projections for the CCDC, SISONKE will feature a film programme on identity, exploring of communities and relationships and personal statements. Curated by the art directors 'film', Dumisani Phakathi, young award-winning South African film director and László László Révész, renowned Hungarian media artist.

The Red Line Art Initiative, new SISONKE partner Troyeville, Jnb

Find in this issue a special portrait on the RED LINE in Troyeville and its founders. Troyeville is one of the first suburbs in Johannesburg, Mahatma Gandhi lived here; today it is a strong art community. The Red Line is a gallery, unique meeting point and hosts a cinema. *read more...*

SISONKE Broadcasting Austria

SISONKE has been offered a cooperation with Austrian TV Broadcasting, ORF, in the form of trailers.

SISONKE Sponsorship news

We are glad to welcome DCM DECOMetal on board as a silver sponsor to SISONKE. *Portrait on p.11.*



KulturAXE in South Africa

Meetings were held with the following institutions: **the Tshwane University of Technology** (Jewellery and Fashion Departments) - a very

impressive campus for 2.500 students with remarkable facilities; the **South West Gauteng College** (George Tabor Campus, Clothing Dept) - the SWGC is one of South Africa's largest higher training institutions with seven campuses. The George Tabor Campus in Soweto hosts the Clothing Department and also the Imfundiso Soweto Jewellery School, which will be very effective for the collaboration between jewellery and fashion design; the **Red Line Gallery**, Troyeville featured in this issue; **CARFAX**, possible venue for the CCDC in Johannesburg and an amazing cultural venue located in the vibrant arts area Newtown in Johannesburg City Centre; the **City of Johannesburg** (with the Head of the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage) who offered the new Annual Festival Johannesburg for Creative Industry Talents in November as platform for the CCDC; the **Craft Council South Africa** also located in Newtown who organize exhibitions, workshops and participations at trade fairs. Further meetings included all art directors, interested journalists, possible sponsors, government officials and supporting role players. The SISONKE presentation was deposited at the **Presidency in Pretoria**, office of the Deputy President of South Africa, and was reviewed by the Advisor to the DP. We were also able to witness major cultural events - a stunning platinum jewellery show hosted by Anglo Platinum at the turf Johannesburg and the most inspiring 10th Poetry Africa Festival at the Museum Africa.



SISONKE Art Directors South Africa

JEWELLERY DESIGN

Isaac Nkwe, Designer, Founder and Director of Imfundiso Skills Development. He will work together with **Dave Newman**, Section Head, Dept of Fine Arts/Jewellery at the Tshwane University and with a selection of South African Jewellery designers.

FASHION DESIGN

Desirée Smal, Dept of Fashion Design and Technology, Faculty of Arts, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria. She will work together with **Mmatsatsi Matlon**, Acting Head, Clothing Dpt, SWGC, and a selection of South African Fashion designers.

DANCE / CHOREOGRAPHY

Moeketsi Koena, Director, Inzalo Dance and Theatre Company, Johannesburg (Internationally celebrated dancer, teacher and choreographer, he stands for a unique fusion of contemporary dance forms within the vortex of pulsating African dance. The mission of his company is to provide young people with a platform where they can express and communicate ideas and thoughts about social issues relevant to their daily lives.)

MUSIC

Samson Mnisi, artist, musician, composer and music producer, he has performed both in South Africa and abroad in New York and Paris. With his label Ntja-Pedi Productions, he has released many music CDs starring both the most renowned musicians and upcoming young talent.

FILM / VISUALS / FINE ARTS

Dumisani Phakathi, Young award-winning South African film director and stage actor, his films are screened worldwide at international film festivals and he has produced several SABC broadcastings. In his documentaries he explores his community, issues about relationships and identity. He will work together with artists such as **Wayne Barker** who participated at the South African Biennials and has a long record of international exhibitions.

POETRY

Keorapetse William Kgositsile, legendary South African poet, he was an influential member of the ANC in the 1960s and 1970s. During the 1970s he was a central figure among African-American poets, encouraging interest in Africa as well as the practice of poetry as a performance art; He was one of the first to bridge the gap between African poetry and Black poetry in the United States, and thus one of the first and most significant poets in the Pan-African movement. Currently he acts as Ministerial Advisor to Dr Z P Jordan Minister of Arts and Culture.



Moeketsi Koena
'Blame me blind'



CROSS CONTINENTAL DESIGN CATWALK

Vision



SISONKE stands for 'togetherness' as a value, promoting a better understanding between South Africa and Europe as an initiative against stereotypes, myths and prefabricated notions of cultural identity. The engagement in the mutual creative

exchange between the continents is grounded on reciprocal inspiration fostering social equity and artistic freedom. Exploring notions of identity, enhancing the coexistence on a level of equality of the heterogeneous different cultural identities. Presenting a new model of openness to learn from 'the other', interaction and visions that the world can share.

The Cross Continental Design Catwalk will give artists and designers the opportunity of a high level forum of presentation of jewellery and fashion design incorporating music, dance, visuals, film and poetry. A complex production integrating all elements of performance for a unique enthralling event reflecting the theme of 'togetherness'. The CCDC unites emerging talent with renowned role players in arts and design from South Africa and Europe. In a fusion of cultures it will give voice to personal statements on identity, visions, dreams and social reality.

Artistic Concept

SISONKE, 'togetherness', will be freely expressed in the wide range of emotions that this theme evokes from visions, dreams to social reality and daily life experience. Sisonke stands for the overcoming of borders, both mental and physical, for the outmapping of a cross continental relationship in mutual inspiration. Artists and designers will voice their thoughts to this theme, translate them into artworks, visualizing personal statements they feel of importance reflecting various states of mind. The theme covers concerns on identity, community, relationship and the controversial issue of borders.



Artistic Approach

The CCDC will be the result of a multi-disciplinary collaboration fostering innovative creative processes and freedom of expression. The focus will be set on contemporary and experimental approaches with the option to integrate traditional elements in the process. Thus encouraging a redefinition of cultural identity in a global society with the vision of equal respect for the different origins.

Process sequence

The CCDC will be a performance of 90 minutes in two parts of 45 minutes each with an intermission. The performance is planned to take place on a stage with a catwalk connected to it. In a first proposal, each part will be compiled by a sequence of nine scenes with a rough time estimate of 5 min per scene.



A sequence of nine scenes will present 55 jewellery pieces and relating outfits thus totalling to a presentation of 110 pieces for the whole CCDC. The length of the scenes can vary, some starring solo performances, some group performances. There are no breaks planned between the scenes allowing a continuous flow. The main performers on stage and on the catwalk will be dancers combined with appearances of musicians.



Jewellery pieces



It is planned to present 110 jewellery pieces at the Catwalk performance. The design and the production will be split up between South Africa and Europe. Imfundiso will produce 50 pieces involving all its schools in the Provinces of Gauteng Province, Limpopo and KwaZulu/Natal. 20 further pieces will be created by South African partners and selected designers.

40 jewellery pieces will be produced in Europe by the Sisonke partners and selected designers.

The pieces will reflect innovative design for contemporary jewellery individually produced as body pieces or facial adornment; they can also combine traditional techniques from Africa and Europe.

Fashion outfits

Fashion outfits will complement the jewellery pieces challenging the designers of fashion and jewellery to collaborate in an interdisciplinary approach. In accordance with the jewellery pieces, there will be 110 fashion outfits created for the CCDC, the design and production effected among the sisonke partners and designers in South Africa and Europe.



Working modus

All art and design disciplines will be directed by South African and European art directors who will collaborate. At a whole an estimate of 200 artists and designers will participate in the creation of the CCDC.

Venues & Opening

The CCDC will be performed in Vienna and Johannesburg. Further presentations are planned in Budapest and London. The premiere of the CCDC will be staged in March 2007 within the frame of the New Design Festival of the New Design University. The venue will be the designforum-MQ at the renowned Museumsquartier in Vienna. The festival

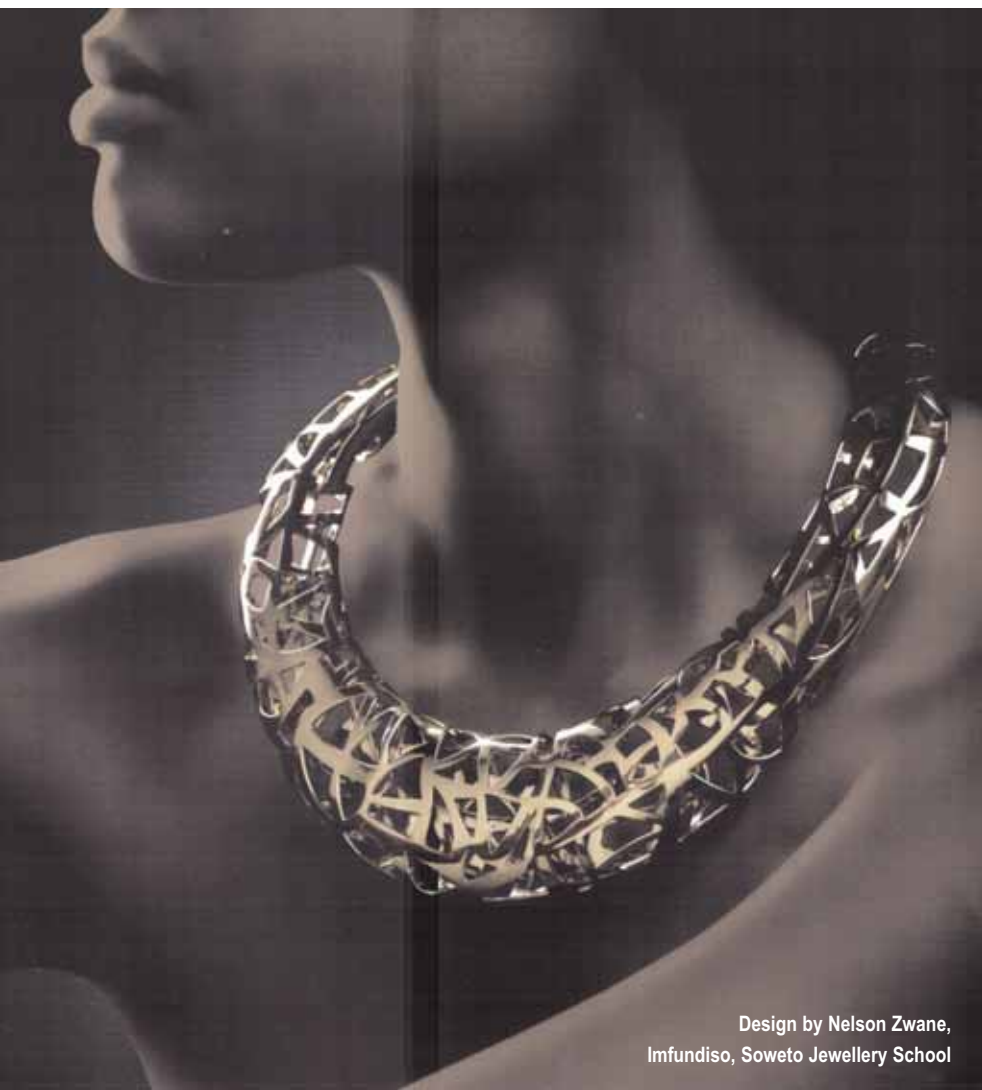


will take place from 26th March to 1st April 2007, with several CCD Catwalk performances.





Design by Ian Nienaber,
Dept of Fashion Design and Technology,
Faculty of Arts, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria



Design by Nelson Zwane,
Imfundiso, Soweto Jewellery School

Jewellery pieces designed at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria



Amber bracelet



Lisemarie Tooth



Elaine B. Hout



Marike bangle



Elaine B. Hout



Kristel B vissies



Elaine B. wood



Elaine B. detail



Christine Wagenaar

about :

The Red Line, Troyeville new SISONKE Partner Joburg

GemBioscope Contemporary Art Centre

Founded by Ethel Williams-Abrahamse and Guy Oliver, they define it as a centre "driven by arts and culture through the provision of galleries, cinema, education, creativity, community, employment creation and youth development". A catalyst for regeneration in one of the city's oldest suburbs, to benefit the local community. It runs two houses, The Red Line - gallery, crafts shop and arts café -, and the Gem Cinema.



Gem Cinema

The cinema is a large, imposing bright yellow building with Art Deco features built in 1940, on the corner of Roberts Avenue and Albemarle Street. The foyer opens into a large double-volume auditorium, with

a gallery. The cinema closed in 1976 and has been used since then for a range of purposes. Ethel Williams-Abrahamse and Guy Oliver bought the house in order to create a centre for artists and craftspeople and develop an outlet for African films and documentaries. Multi-purpose uses are planned for the art gallery space. In addition to the bioscope, the centre will offer cinema literacy programmes, rehearsal space for theatre productions, and a fringe theatre venue, a venue for poetry reading, story telling, talks and lectures, networking space for emerging and established artists, and youth support programmes.

RED LINE GALLERY

The partners have also bought a Victorian house, built in 1902, in Roberts Avenue, across the road. It was a squatter ghetto targeted for demolition. It has been renovated and its original wooden floors and doors gleam again. The original green roof and white plaster walls have been restored. It has been given a new façade, with a striking wrought iron fence and gate created by metal artist John Moltano. They have painted the eastern wall of the house a cheerful, fire-engine red, a jab at the fact that banks have red-lined the suburb.

Note: Excerpts have been used from an article of Lucille Davie, July 2005, published at the City of Johannesburg website. Read more at http://www.joburg.org.za/2005/jul/jul22_gem.stm



statement :

The Red Line Gallery is a community based organization, by the GemBioscope Arts Company.

This project, in response to the need for exhibition space, is designed to provide Troyeville and other inner city artists with networking opportunities and exhibition space. The Founders of this project view arts and culture as an engine for meaningful development and sustainability for Troyeville and its neighboring suburbs. The area is home to many nationally and internationally acclaimed artists, sculptors, writers, photographers, actors, musicians and poets.

Troyeville is one of the city's ribs. Its ridge was where the burgeoning mining town situated its first fire station to warn of any conflagrations. It is an apt metaphor for 2010 and the social implications of it. Classes and cultures have washed over this ridge since Johannesburg was forged in the mayhem and lust of gold rush. It is, by its very nature a transient city. Troyeville, in many ways has clung to traces and the remains of cultures and class. Its angled streets are not its only distinction which contributes to its draw.

During apartheid the suburbs lingua franca was Portuguese. The language and culture separating it from the majority white English and Afrikaans townships. Class is a defining factor of the neighborhood. Since its inception it has always been a working class area. Under apartheid it was a working class "grey" area. **Its multicultural, multi class existence has increased** since the demise of apartheid, with Mozambican, Angolans, Egyptians and a host of other African nationals choosing to live here.

With such a foundation in an area, coupled with its historical and architectural value it would appear appropriate that **these synergies are used** to promote and develop the area along the lines of arts and culture within a dynamic of the **multicultural and multiclass communities** which co-exist here.

The Red Line elicits strong interest and support from the arts, educational and residential communities. **The Vision of the Red Line** is to develop and deliver integrated educational and art projects that capture the imagination and reinforce commitment from business and the community to the area.

The opening of the Red Line in September 2006, part one of "Session One", saw the showcasing of the biggest body of contemporary arts and crafts from Troyeville artists and the inner city. The company has canvassed tirelessly unify and involve as many local artists and other parties interested in the development of the area as the foremost artist colony on the continent. The second show, part two of "Session One" is a joint exhibition by Dinkies Sithole and Diana Hyslop curated by the **Red Line's own Creative Director Wayne Barker**. Part three of "Session One" commencing in late November 2006 and ending in late January 2007, will once again showcase a large body of arts and crafts from around the inner city and **aspires to be the biggest Festive Season Show in Johannesburg.**

The proposed partnership with SISONKE will have the following positive benefits for the Red Line gallery and its parent company the GemBioscope Art Company:
Collaboration with local and international artist, Skills transfers and development and Direct access for the Red Line to the Global Artist Networks.

Ethel Williams-Abrahamse



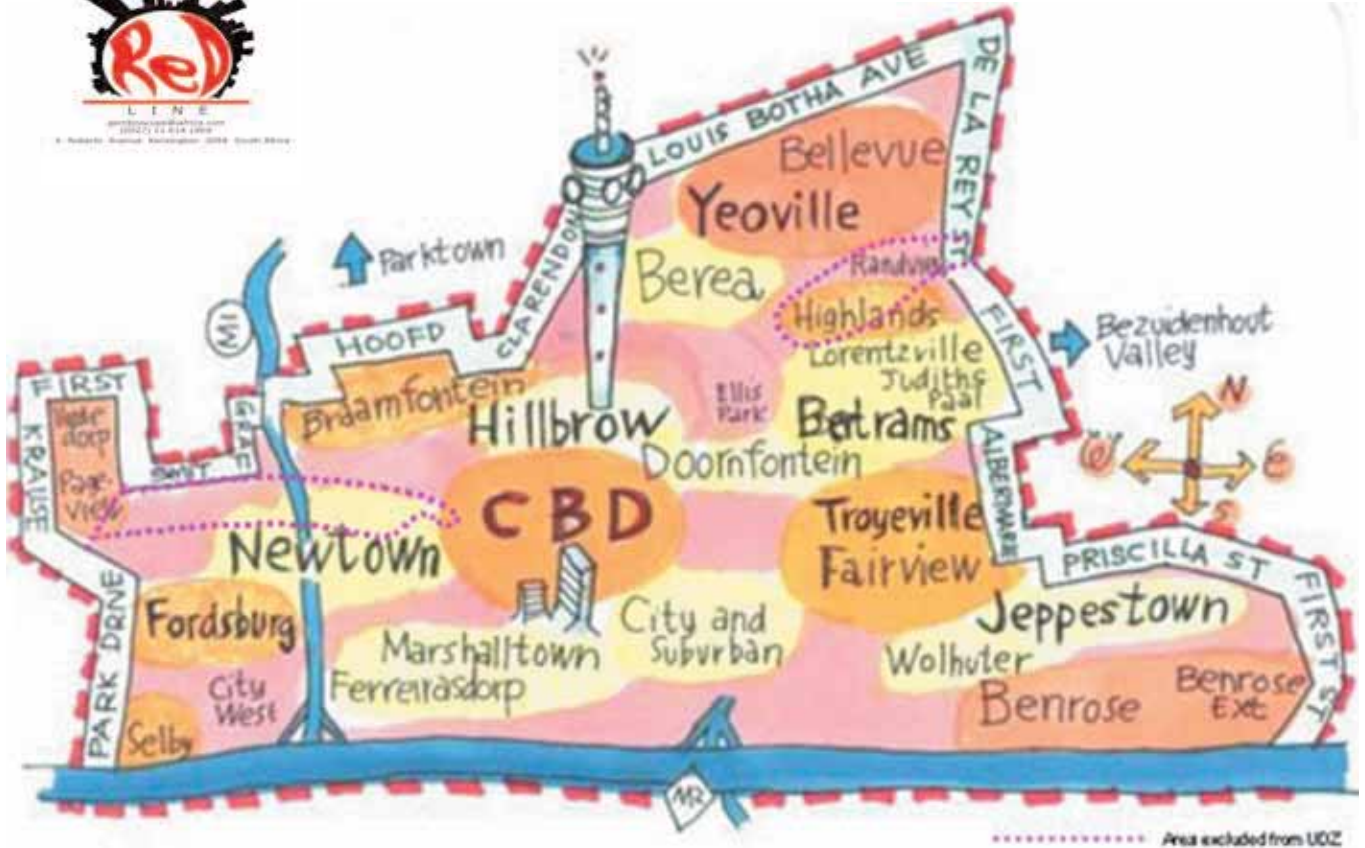
Short Biographies
Directors RED LINE

Ethel Williams-Abrahamse

born in District Six in December 1964. She was involved with the South African labour movement as well as the ANC's Department of International Affairs. During her early experience in the film industry she worked as publicist and marketing manager for the Weekly Mail Film Festival and Sithengi '98. She spent four years working for Catalyst Films where she cut her teeth in drama and documentary film. Since 1999 she freelanced producing film and video. In 2004 Ethel and her partner founded The GemBioscope Art Company which they are now establishing as a contemporary art centre.

Guy Oliver

born in England in 1963, soon after his parents left South Africa. His childhood was spent in a succession of countries including, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iran and Singapore. He returned to South Africa in 1986 to study African and International Politics at the University of Cape Town. He has been a career journalist in print and television since the late 1980s reporting for international and local media organisations in South Africa and a variety of other countries. He currently works in documentary film.



Troyeville, Johannesburg

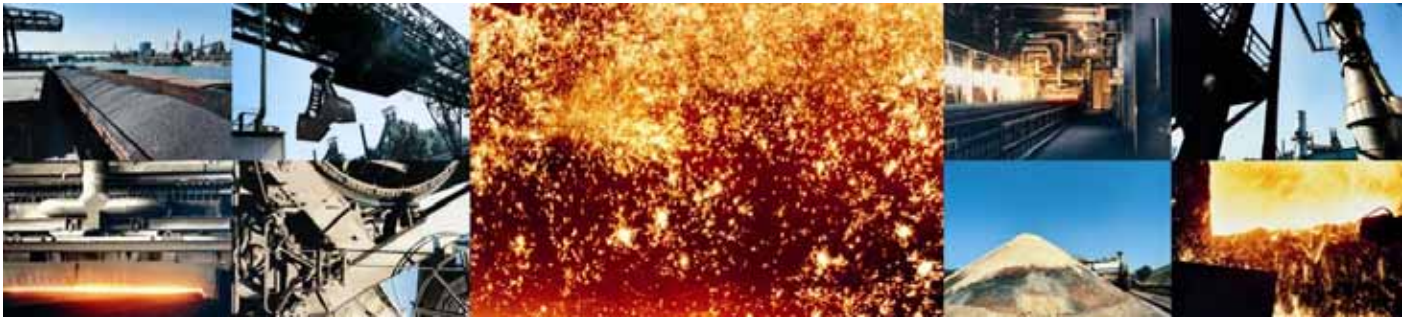
The suburb dates back to 1889 just three years after the town was founded. It is a Bohemian old community with a colourful history. Mahatma Gandhi lived here in the early 1900s; anti-apartheid campaigner David Webster was murdered outside his home in Eleanor Street; the notorious robbers the Foster Gang lived in the area, and hid out in the nearby Kensington cave, where they committed suicide; popular musician Gito Baloi lived in Troyeville until his murder in 2004.



Red Line Gallery



The view of the city and Troyeville rooftops from the African Roof Bar



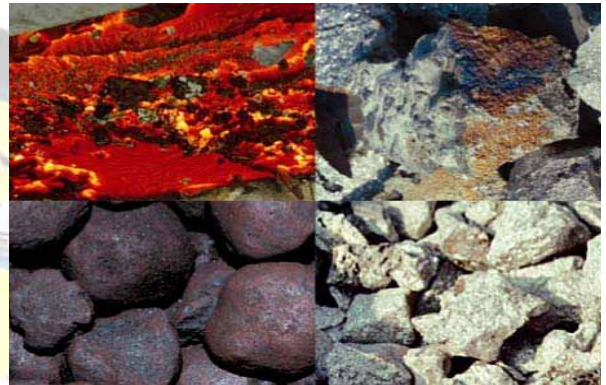
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Moeketsi Koena
'Blame me blind'



Dont miss our next issue featuring specials on film, dance and fine arts ! Also presenting SISONKE Art Directors from Europe.

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Images

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Fashion Day 2004, 'Unpacked'

Design by Estelle Cloete

p.1.: Sisonke, Neo Dlamini, by Martin Marencin

p.2.: KulturAXE

p.3.: KulturAXE, Martin Marencin, Dumisani Phakathi, Keorapetse William Kgositsile

p.4.: Moeketsi Koena, performance 'Blame me Blind'

p.5.: Imfundiso (Lungile Maseko, Zinzile Msubo), Martin

Marencin (Martha Reitmayr) and Tshwane University of Pretoria (details of design by Clarisa Nel, Marinella

Avvakoumides, Savata Nkuno)

p.6.: Tshwane University of Pretoria, Fashion design by

Ian Nienaber, Imfundiso (Nelson Zwane)

p.7. : By the courtesy of Nina Newman, Tshwane

University of Technology, students works, Jewellery Dpt.

p.8 and 9. : City of Johannesburg website, Ethel

Williams-Abrahamse

last page : Moeketsi Koena, performance 'Blame me

Blind', Wayne Barker: <http://www.waynebarker.co.za/>



Wayne Barker, 2006