

Communication and Marketing Department Isebe IoThungelwano neNtengiso Kommunikasie en Bemarkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

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## New UCT Irma Stern Museum website supports art education nationally

The recently launched University of Cape Town (UCT) <u>Irma Stern Museum (ISM) website</u> enables the public to virtually 'visit' the museum as the COVID-19 pandemic continues while also supporting teaching and learning in South African schools.

The website, through images, texts and timelines, gives insight into the life and work of the artist Irma Stern – one of South Africa's most noted artists – and houses an extensive education section.

Since starting in mid-March Ayesha Price, the ISM's education officer, has worked hard to put together a series of worksheets, videos and slideshows which are made available to learners and educators. These focus on the work and life of the artist Irma Stern – a key figure in the Grade 12 school curriculum – the work of other Modernist artists who worked alongside Stern and general visual literacy.

Understanding that most learners do not have access to sufficient data to attend virtual lessons, the ISM Education Section has created a scaffolded approach to resource material. This includes black and white printable notes and activity sheets, PowerPoint presentations, voice notes and videos. Teachers can download these materials and print them, present them in class or distribute them using a data storage device (such as USBs) or on WhatsApp.

The material was developed in collaboration with South Peninsula High School, through a curriculum support programme. Speaking about the process Price shared: "This was really a great learning curve, despite my being a seasoned museum and art educator".

Besides being educational, by featuring upcoming exhibitions and events, tour offerings, logistical information and venue hire opportunities, the website will make visits to and interaction with the ISM easier once it opens to the public again.

Importantly, this new website is designed to visually pay tribute to Irma Stern, the work she collected, and serve as a reminder that the museum represents a valuable part of African cultural heritage and a valuable part of UCT's heritage.

Visit the website.

**ENDS** 

## **Aamirah Sonday**

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer Communication and Marketing Department University of Cape Town Rondebosch Tel: (021) 650 5427

Cell: (076) 947 6071

Email: aamirah.sonday@uct.ac.za

Website: www.uct.ac.za