



**30 October 2025**

## **Irma Stern's journey continues: The collection prepares for a new home**

The University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Irma Stern Trust have jointly agreed to conclude their long-standing partnership to manage and operate the Irma Stern Museum. This transition will see the relocation of the Irma Stern Trust Collection from The Firs – Stern's historic home and the current site of the museum.

This moment marks not an ending but a renewal.

For 56 years, the museum has been a cherished cultural landmark, welcoming generations of members of the UCT community as well as local and international visitors from around the world to experience the vibrant artistry of one of South Africa's most celebrated painters. Now, in the spirit of Irma Stern's own adventurous nature, the collection will be embarking on a new journey.

The collection will move to a secure archival facility to ensure its continued preservation, while The Firs property will be repurposed. In early 2026, the Trust will announce exciting plans to present Irma Stern's work in new ways that will engage an even wider South African and international audience.

UCT's Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Transformation, Student Affairs and Social Responsiveness Professor Elelwani Ramugondo said: "UCT is proud to have been a custodian of Irma Stern's legacy for decades. As this new chapter begins, we look forward to seeing her work reach new audiences in innovative and more impactful ways."

According to Dianna Yach, Chair of the Irma Stern Museum Committee, this new journey would contribute to the growth of Irma Stern's legacy more than half a century after her passing. "This change opens new doors for audiences to encounter her art and be inspired by the passion and curiosity that defined her life's work," she said.

Guided by Stern's will – entrusting her home and collection "for the encouragement and promotion of Fine Arts within and outside South Africa" – the Trust remains dedicated to ensuring her bold, vibrant vision continues to inspire future generations.

***ENDS***

***Issued jointly by the UCT Communication and Marketing Department and the Irma Stern Trust***

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