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**22 August 2018**

## **UCT artworks committee to host an exhibition**

The University of Cape Town's Works of Art Committee (WOAC) will host an exhibition titled 'Sarah Baartman – a Call to Respond' at the Ritchie Gallery in September.

The committee acknowledges that the Sarah Baartman sculpture by Willie Bester is, in the words of committee member Professor Alta Steenkamp, "one of the most important works in UCT's collection of art works right now", as it has sparked so much response from diverse quarters. The WOAC believes that acknowledging interaction with works of art is key to developing strategies for art education throughout the campus.

Bester's work will be exhibited with a sound installation featuring a poem by Diane Ferris that inspired the work. Also on exhibition will be images of the work when it was robed while still on display at the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library on Upper Campus. Together with these will be other artworks that foreground continued vulnerabilities around black women.

The exhibition will take place from 20 September until 4 October. In preparation, the sculpture has been moved from its position at the Chancellor Oppenheimer Library.

The sculpture had remained robed at the library, following a decision taken by the executive, while the WOAC continues to hold ongoing conversations over the display of artworks on campus.

The university executive continues working towards creating an understanding of and dealing with the complexities and issues around the display of artworks on UCT campuses. The latest development is part of ongoing dialogue and debates around the display of artworks, with the university working on creating an environment on campus that is inclusive and reflective of all cultures.

The WOAC is continuing with its programme, which includes public debates about the display of artworks; engagements with staff, student representatives, artists and members

of the public; acquiring new work; and curating new collections in the various university spaces.

*ENDS*

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