



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

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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Water justice conference to share arts-based dialogue in mobile interactive exhibit at UCT

The University of Cape Town's [Centre for African Studies \(CAS\) Gallery](#) will host the launch of *Confluency* – an interactive, transdisciplinary and mobile art exhibit created to engage diverse communities in water justice research and action – on Wednesday, 7 June 2023, from 17:00 to 19:00 at CAS, UCT's Upper Campus.

Admission is free admission, and refreshments will be served.

Confluency invites visitors to join the conversation on how to build just water futures.

The exhibit evokes key themes from the *Confluency* water justice colloquium, a unique three-day knowledge exchange and art workshop that includes activists, non profit organisations, researchers and artists from South Africa, broader Africa and Canada. The colloquium, hosted by UCT's [Future Water Institute](#), culminates in the exhibit, which will remain on display from 8-21 June between 09:00-16:00 daily except on Tuesdays.

The exhibit and conference are supported by the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#). *Confluency's* artwork will include a combination of pieces created as part of projects featured in the conference and collaborations created during the art workshops. An awe-striking array of media will be displayed, from murals and photography to fibre art sculptures, to audio-visual installations.

Works will speak to intersecting water justice issues such as gender and health inequity and the experiences of different affected groups including indigenous peoples, traditional healers, and refugees. Visitors will be encouraged to interact with the exhibit in fun and diverse ways: adding to the blanks in a comic, stitching a textile mosaic with materials from beach cleanups, and grooving on a dancefloor made of QR codes linking to songs created and performed by Kenyan youth.

Live music will be performed by the African Instruments Ensemble from Kronendal Music Academy (KMA), an NGO that uses music to empower youth including refugees from the Imizamo Yethu community. Artist-mentors who will be supporting the colloquium's art workshops are singer-songwriter Mapumba Cilombo, multimedia artist Tsebo T-Flag Mokoena and illustrator Sanelisiwe Singaphi.

Confluency's colloquium presenters will include Ikal Ang'elei, Kenyan indigenous rights activist and recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize, and youth climate activist Anelisa Mgedezi from South-Africa's non-profit Black Girls Rising, whose compelling influence has been compared to Greta Thunberg. Dr Lina Taing, a senior researcher with the [United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health](#), is also a featured presenter.

Post-doctoral Fellow with the University of Toronto (Canada) and *Confluency* Coordinator Dr. Sarah Van Borek breaks down the meaning behind the exhibit's name: "'Confluency' is dual: in terms of water, it describes the meeting of tributaries with a larger river, but it also embodies the meeting of perspectives and experiences between people of different backgrounds and sectors." As part of its emphasis on arts-based collaboration towards water justice, the exhibit will go mobile after 21 June, first moving to the 2023 [National Arts Festival](#) in Makhanda, South Africa. In the second half of 2023, it will travel to Canada.

"*Confluency* offers an exciting opportunity to think and create with a wide variety of people on the topics of water and justice," shares Dr Amber Abrams, UCT Future Water Research Fellow and *Confluency* assistant coordinator.

- Follow *Confluency* on Instagram [@Confluency2023](#).
- [Learn more about the *Confluency* colloquium and its presenters.](#)

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Thami Nkwanyane

Media Liaison and Monitoring Officer
Communication and Marketing Department
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch
Tel: (021) 650 5672
Cell: 063 366 3993 / 072 563 9500
Email: thami.nkwanyane@uct.ac.za
Website: www.uct.ac.za