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**22 October 2024**

## **Shifting spaces, tilting time: UCT professor's inaugural lecture on art, transformation and challenging boundaries**

**23 October 2024 | 17:30 SAST | Hiddingh Hall, Hiddingh Campus**

The director of the [Institute for Creative Arts \(ICA\)](#) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), Professor Jay Pather, will present his inaugural lecture titled "Shifting spaces, tilting time: art and art education in a society that aches for transformation" to mark his promotion to full professorship.

Professor Pather, who is also a choreographer, curates *Infecting the City* and the ICA Live Art Festivals in Cape Town and *Afrovibes* in several cities in the Netherlands.

How do artists take on the complexities of political and economic transformation? Without indulging in the easy representation of the abject, how do artists grapple with the depths, expanse, and nuance of emotion in a society that is so slow to transform? Further, how do artists work with the site of the artwork, ensuring that the colonial inheritance of exclusivity and access to art are troubled and dismantled?

In his lecture, Professor Pather will explore these questions – drawing from his performance research, speaking to how this work considers the velocity of change as well as in many instances, inertia and stasis and its manifestation in performance for multiple publics.

He also addresses art education in the academy as needing to be courageous, transgressive, interdisciplinary, collaborative and generative and not simply obedient to narrow disciplinary silos, a meticulously preserved inheritance from the colonial, insular conservatoire.

Professor Pather has co-curated for the French Season Africa 2020/21 and Spier Light Art, Stellenbosch. His choreographic work includes re-imagining Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*. Recently, he directed Nadia Davids' *What Remains and Hold Still*. His publications include articles in *Changing Metropolis*, *Rogue Urbanism*, *Performing Cities*, *Where Strangers Meet*, and a book he edited titled *Acts of Transgression: Contemporary Live Art in South Africa*.

He has served as a juror for the International Award for Public Art, as a board member of the National Arts Festival of South Africa, on the TURN Fonds Jury, and was recently made Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government.

Date: Wednesday, 23 October 2024  
Time: 17:30 SAST  
Venue: Hiddingh Hall, Hiddingh Campus

Members of the media wishing to attend the lecture in person or virtually are requested to [RSVP](#).



Professor Jay Pather

Photo: Supplied

***ENDS***

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