

## 20th Expert Panel Meeting (March 29, 2023) – Appendix III

### EVC Conference Summary

#### **(A) Gender Matters Conference 2023**

##### **Arts Education, Heritage and Visual Arts Practice as social touching points**

**19-22 September 2023: Pretoria, South Africa**

The Exploring Visual Culture Project (EVC) serves educators, artists, and cultural practitioners in revisualizing curricula and teaching practices in the visual arts. Its focus on educational matters is imperative as education is a fundamental human right that precludes sustainable development and participation in the economy, globally.

In Africa, school curricula are often non-contributors to social, cultural, and economic development. Further, arts education is ill-considered even though the arts promote attention to perception, and expression, and builds communication skills, critical thinking, self-reflexivity, and problem-solving skills. The arts have played a historic role in the struggle for social justice and established a cultural heritage that denotes specific identities and practices within African and European societies.

This conference responds to four specific sectors affected by the visual arts, education in schools, tertiary institutions, heritage and conservation and visual arts practice. The EVC organizing Committee is calling for abstract submissions that will be reviewed before acceptance.

We welcome papers from a wide variety of educational, interdisciplinary, and theoretical perspectives that sit within the following tracks:

- School Education
- Tertiary education
- Visual Arts Practice
- Heritage, Conservation and Restitution.

This conference will take place at *Future Africa* based at the University of Pretoria.

The conference will also include a visit to and discussions on the *Another Africa Roadmap* exhibition showcased at the Javett-UP Art Centre. (The *Another Roadmap African Cluster* consists of practitioners and scholars who collaborate in pursuit of research into the arts and educational practices in Africa, both formal and informal).

The EVC will also host a Panel meeting (post the conference) to discuss the event held as well as the process for the next project. Selected papers presented at the conference will be published in a book in 2024 so that the diverse perspectives presented are archived.

An exhibition of artworks based on the theme of *Gender Matters: Storytelling* will be hosted in the University of Pretoria Student Gallery. This exhibition will be artwork by students enrolled at the Tshwane University of Technology, University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, Vaal University of Technology and the Durban University of Technology.

This collection will be part of a larger collection of works from Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, and Germany. This exhibition will finally reside as a virtual exhibition on the EVC website.



Future Africa Conference Room, Javett-UP Art Centre



University of Pretoria – Student Gallery