

Association for Visual Arts AGM 2022
NPO 035 – 161

Wednesday 12 October 2022
35 Church Street, Cape Town, 8001

Attendance

Richard Kilpert (Chairperson)
Renée Holleman (Vice Chairperson)
Linsey Samuels (Treasurer)
Cheryl Traub-Adler
Marinda Claasen
Mirjam Asmal (Director)

Absent: Mirna Wessels, Tumelo Tlhoale, Noncedo Gxekwa, Ricardo L. van Lingen, Jane Taylor, Philippa Tumubweinee

Quorum: A sufficient number of AVA members attended the AGM to reach a quorum of 20 as specified by clause 7.3 of the Constitution.

Agenda

1. Opening
 2. Adopting of minutes
 3. Chairperson's report
 4. Treasurers report
 5. Appointment of Auditor
 6. Director's report – highlights
 7. Voting of board members: ballot – Richard
 8. Talk
 9. Counting of votes
 10. Announcing of board members
 11. Date of next AGM
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1. Opening and welcome – Mirjam Asmal

Apologies: Mirna Wessels, Tumelo Tlhoale, Jane Taylor, Philippa Tumubweinee

2: Adopting of minutes:

Mirjam Cheryl Traub Adler voted to adopt the minutes. This was seconded by Renée Holleman.

3. Chairpersons report – Richard Kilpert

The Association for Visual Arts is a non-profit, membership-based arts organisation with the primary aim of advancing and promoting South African contemporary art and artists.

R/K

underground adventure when you are next at the Waterfront. It is a prime location for artists to be seen by the glitterati.

2023

Going forward we need to consolidate our new board and working committees to support the director, ensure ongoing funding and look to the City of Cape Town for collaborations in the cultural industries, in every effort to promote the work of you, our artists and the development of new audiences.

Acknowledgements

To our funders:

Spier Arts Trust, National Arts Council, Joan St Leger Charitable Trust, National Lotteries Commission, The Western Cape Government, El Espaco Luanda Arte

Partners:

A4 Arts Foundation, Strauss & Co, VANSA, WorldArt, Black Brick and The Silo Hotel, The Scan Shop, Orms, the Deckle Edge, ArtLand

4. Treasurers report – Linsey Samuels

It should be noted that 2021 is off the back of all that happened in 2020, relating to the impact of gatherings and general operations, sales, attendance and exhibition of new artists and events as a function of the AVA as a Gallery. Traditionally, fundraising for grants take a period of between 6 – 12 months from application to receipt of funds. Special Project Donors and/or Patrons, the likes of BASA who is currently supporting The AVA archive project are considered as ad-hoc funding avenues alongside the long-term donors and these avenues are not considered as viable income for year on funding.

Since the AVA is a non-profit where the trend of funding cycles are valued over a 3 year period, our Financials ending 2021 were not adjusted to reflect the impact of COVID-19. The wake of the pandemic is however currently still in effect as we approach the end of 2022 which is of course falls within the aforementioned 3 year fiscus, that including income procured in 2020, reflected in our 2021 financials.

Mirjam in 2020, was successful in procuring grant funding to the total value of 691 357 rands, including the contentious PESP (Presidential Stimulus) funding of 155000 and BASA funding of an additional 20 000 in 2021 for the very noteworthy Archives project celebrating the long-standing history and importance of the AVA as an Arts Association in South Africa, without which – this project would not be possible. Also to be credited to Mirjam.

As the impact within the workspace COVID 2020 was felt around staff changes across the organization, activation and Membership of the AVA circle took became less important and funding to the value of an additional 25000 was procured. With input alongside the new board and with Richard as new Chairperson to would like to work toward the reactivation of this membership stream.

As treasurer, it is with very special thanks to Cheryl, Renee and Mirjam that have showed much dedication to the AVA, Artists and the Arts, Chairperson and Vice Chair of the board, and Director of the AVA respectively. Being forced into adjusting operations and creative thinking in the wake of a Pandemic it has only been with their support and absolute industriousness that



Mirjam has shown that I have been able to make my contributions as Treasurer in 2021. With the role that is Arts Association and with the historical reputation that is held by only the AVA, Mirjam and the Exco of the board have lived the values of this organization that support the emergent market of art in south Africa – and as a space recognized for supporting emerging markets that not only include artists, they have in 2020 and 2021 supported this emerging treasurer.

With the tourists having returned to our shores in the past few months, sales of art work are up too! In fact, by the end of September we reached the same mark as the total value of sales of art work in 2021. As such, we look forward to closing 2022 with a better result than 2021.

The audited 2022 Financial Statements were adopted.

5. Appointment of auditor

Linsey Samuels advised that on the basis of quotations provided from three different auditing firms, that the AVA appoint Osidon SA, as the firm with the lowest quotation. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to appoint the least expensive auditor, but concerns were raised that the amount quoted was much greater than the previous auditor Craig Whittle. Agreement that Osidon SA should be appointed provisionally, but that the matter should be reviewed with urgency at the following board meeting.

6. Director's report – Mirjam Asmal

20-yr time warp: The Chairman's report from 20 years ago highlights four basic equipment needs: a computer, a photocopier, a fax machine and a delivery van. (Jonathan Comerford, "Chairman's Report, to be Tabled at the Annual General Meeting on 26th August 1992", AVA Archive.)

The AVA's biography began with a group of private collectors and art aficionados based in the Cape Colony. On 12 October 1850, they founded the first arts association in the country, the South African Fine Arts Society. Its aim was to set up a permanent collection of artworks for the benefit of residents, or "the promotion of Fine Art in the Cape Colony" through four key objectives:

- the formation of a permanent Art Gallery ("classical in design") and Art Library;
- holding occasional exhibitions of works of art;
- the establishment of art unions and otherwise offering facilities for the disposal of works of art;
- offering prizes to be competed for by art students on conditions laid down from time to time by the committee or trustees.

Since then the AVA has expanded into a range of programmes, and a number of new spaces/satellite venues: Silo Hotel, Leeuwenhof, Daddy Long Legs, WSC, Artem. It's an exciting trajectory, and the AVA is looking forward to the what the future brings.

7. Voting of board members: ballot – Richard

It was advised that 6 prospective board members had been nominated, and that 5 spaces were available on the board.

Nominations included: Oliver Nurock, Phokeng Setai, Winnie Sze, Keely Shinnars, Olga Speakes, Ina Veloshin.



This organisation had its origins in the South African Fine Arts Society, the first organised art body in South Africa, founded at a meeting in Cape Town in 1850. The Association developed into a national body in 1945, the South African Association of Arts (SAAA) and moved to the current building in Church Street in 1971.

In 1995 the SAAA, Western Cape transformed itself into the Association for Visual Arts (AVA), an independent and autonomous organisation whose primary focus was cultural interaction. One of the reasons for seeking autonomy was the longstanding, largely political, tensions with the mother body in Pretoria, and in 2001 we cemented our survival as an NPO with the partnering with Spier Arts Trust.

October is the seventh month since South Africa emerged from lockdown. This is our first in-person AGM in two years, and it is a relief to be able to do art tours and visit galleries without masks.

The Cape Town art eco-system has been changed in that some important commercial galleries, art centres and artists and patrons are no longer with us (Smith over the road, Greatmore is a ghost town), and yet the AVA has emerged to celebrate its position as launchpad for new talent (Greatest Hits), and experimental collaborations by collectives (EITZ: Elephant in the Room). In doing this the AVA seeks to make important contributions to the 'open texture' of South Africa's art community. We have already hosted over 20 exhibitions and countless events.

The Book

Dr Kim Gurney has handed over the manuscript of: *Flipside: The Inadvertent Archive* – an expert piece of editorial choreography where she has curated our extensive history into an architectural metaphor of a house. She has created a lens in which the public will be able to access and interact with the complex history of the gallery, its political voice, its eccentricities, its famous alumni and their infamous exploits. We eagerly await its printing and our members will be the first to know when Iwalela Books (UWC) deliver the bound versions.

Leeuwenhof – Palimpsest

We had a second showing at the grand residence of the premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde, which opened to the public on the first Saturdays of the month. In his words: "When I became premier and I moved into Leeuwenhof, I was told of the history of the buildings, which, as an estate in the 18th century once had slave quarters. It made both Tracy and I pause to reflect on the horror of slavery, that taints our country's past, and so we decided to do something about it." Winde says the gallery reflects the true history of the property. We look forward to further opportunities to collaborate in this healing manner.

Artists showing in the second iteration: Zyma Amien, Dion Cupido, Sahlah Davids, Garth Erasmus, Gary Frier, Rentia Retief, Kenneth Shandu, Donovan Ward, Fatiema W

10 years of first Thursdays

"Together" was for me one of the highlights of this year's exhibition programme, the fortitude to survive as the eye of the storm for ten years of Thursday evening madness. It was less to do with the art and more about the diversity and quantity of the participants and audience.

The coming together of people – different, similar, diverse and familiar – is at the core of what First Thursdays has always been about. The exhibition was an opportunity to acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate that once-a-month coming together of people and its contribution to the life of the city.

And lastly I would like to draw your attention to our boutique satellite gallery which nestles neatly below the Zeitz MOCAA, at the lower entrance to the grand **Silo Hotel**. Go on a little

Each prospective member introduced themselves and gave a short overview of their experience.

8. Talk

Virginia MacKenny presented a talk on the 59th International Venice Biennale, curated by Cecilia Alemani, followed by a discussion with Igshaan Adams, facilitated by Renée Holleman.

9. Counting of votes

Voting proceed by written ballot as allowed for in clause 7.5 of the Constitution.

10. Announcing of board members

On completion of the ballot a recommendation was made by Virginia MacKenny that a special resolution be passed to allow for all 6 prospective board members to be accepted as board members. This was unanimously agreed to by the existing board.

Outgoing board members:

Renée Holleman (Vice Chairperson), Cheryl Traub-Adler, Noncedo Gxekwa, Ricardo L. van Lingen, Philippa Tumubweinee.

Incoming board members:

Oliver Nurock, Phokeng Setai, Winnie Sze, Keely Shinnars, Olga Speakes, Ina Veloshin.

11. Date of next AGM

The date of the next AGM was set for 11 October 2023.

The AGM was adjourned.

Signature

Date



19/10/2022

Richard Kilpert (Chairperson)



19/10/2022

Renee Holleman (Vice Chairperson)