

MEMORIST CRAFTSMEN RESTORE SEVERAL WORKS ON PAPER ON DISPLAY AT THE IZIKO SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL GALLERY



© IZIKO MUSEUMS OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEMORIST, the leading skills centre for the preservation, restoration, digitisation and sharing of heritage, has recently signed a second contract with Iziko Museums of South Africa. The aim of this partnership is to restore nine works on paper by the artist Manfred Zylla. These works, which are of significant historical and artistic importance, will be restored by MEMORIST craftsmen live at the Iziko South African National Gallery (ISANG), in the presence of the public and the artist until September 13th.

The ISANG – a renowned public art gallery in Cape Town, is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of South African and international art. It is part of Iziko Museums of South Africa, a group of leading cultural institutions in South Africa, which includes several museums and art galleries.

MEMORIST has been commissioned to restore nine works on paper from the Inter-Action series by South African artist Manfred Zylla.

The restoration of Manfred Zylla's works will take place on site at the Iziko South African National Gallery. It will be carried out by MEMORIST's expert craftsmen, in full view of the public and in the presence of the artist. The project is scheduled to run for ten days, from 2 to 13 September 2024. This is necessary because of the imminent exhibition of the works, which will open on, Heritage Day, 24 September 2024.



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© MANFRED ZYLLA



© MANFRED ZYLLA

The restored pieces are nine drawings in black pencil, wax crayon and acrylic paint on brown paper, assembled from adhesive tape and ranging in length from 1 metre to 3 metres. They address themes of apartheid and human rights, reflecting Zylla's artistic and political engagement with the injustices of the time.

The works were produced in 1982 and have been in storage ever since, having not been exhibited since the late 1980s.

Le projet de restauration des dessins de Manfred Zylla vise à traiter les dommages mineurs qu'ils ont subis au fil des ans, ainsi qu'à les nettoyer en profondeur. Ils nécessitent une attention particulière afin de préserver leur intégrité et leur valeur artistique.

The conservation project for Manfred Zylla's drawings aims to treat the minor damage they have sustained over the years, as well as cleaning them thoroughly. They require special attention in order to preserve their integrity and artistic value. This includes targeted repairs to correct imperfections, such as tears or edge damage, as well as the removal of any dirt or residue that might affect their appearance. As this restoration process will be carried out in a way that is visible to the public, it will allow everyone to observe the techniques and methods used by the conservators.

The exhibition: 'I never liked it Here' off Zylla's work will run from 24 September 2024 to 31 January 2025 at the Iziko South African National Gallery. The exhibition will highlight Zylla's iconic Inter-Action series of drawings and allow the public to discover Zylla's impact in the historical context of his time.

This collaboration with the Iziko South African National Gallery represents a valuable opportunity for MEMORIST to demonstrate its expertise and raise public awareness of art preservation. By understanding the challenges involved in preserving these drawings, visitors will be able to better appreciate the work of the curators and the need to protect these pieces for future generations. It also highlights the essential role that museums and galleries play in safeguarding history and culture.



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MEMORIST

HERITAGE & BEYOND

FIRST CENTRE OF SKILLS FOR THE CONSERVATION, THE RESTORATION, THE DIGITISATION AND THE SHARING OF HERITAGE

The MOBILITAS group has brought together five leading players to create MEMORIST, the first skills centre for :

Conservation : MEMORIST offers strategic support to holders of heritage collections of all kinds, to establish targeted action plans.

Restoration : MEMORIST traditionally restores all types of ancient documents (parchments, bundles, covers, iconographic documents, film media, etc.) and contemporary documents (administrative documents, audiovisual and film media), in order to prolong their life and restore their appearance which may have altered over time.

Digitalisation : MEMORIST digitises paper, iconographic, audio, video and film documents in 2D, and sculptures, monuments and historic sites in 3D, for the purposes of conservation and distribution to different audiences.

Sharing and communication : MEMORIST facilitates the enhancement of heritage, whether this is historical, documentary or architectural, by relying on a perfect mastery of digital and immersive technologies.

MEMORIST boasts unique know-how which is undeniably recognised in the French market, as well as being resolutely international in scope and part of a group with a presence in more than 100 countries.

Its 300 experts deploy their know-how in France and abroad to support museums, public institutions, private companies and NGOs.

The combination of craftsmanship techniques and innovative technologies supported by human talent means that we can implement tailor-made solutions or large-scale projects.

MEMORIST's achievements in France include the restoration of royal parchments and papal bulls from the Xth century, the 3D digitisation of the Victory of Samothrace at the Louvre museum, the management and preventive conservation of Renault's heritage collections, the exhaustive digitisation of Mont-Saint-Michel abbey and Notre-Dame de Paris and an immersive experience at the Musée d'Orsay using a virtual reality system. On a far larger scale, Memorist has deployed its know-how in Switzerland (UN, TAG Heuer), South Africa (Jagger Library), Kuwait (Ministry of Information), Austria (National Library) and the UNited Arab Emirates (Louvre Abu Dhabi).

MOBILITAS GROUP

Founded 50 years ago and today led by the third generation of the Taïeb and Castro families, the MOBILITAS group is a mid-sized enterprise (ETI) specializing in the mobility of goods and people, physical and digital archiving, and digital preservation of heritage. The group, present in 102 countries, relies on its own network and partner agents to offer its clients an exceptional service in all its areas of activity. The long term reflects its philosophy and culture that guide its major entrepreneurial and investment decisions. Decisions that shape and strengthen the group regularly, leading it to new processes, new professions, and new horizons.

Watch the MEMORIST presentation video by clicking the link below
www.thememorist.com/video



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THE FIVE EXPERT COMPANIES OF MEMORIST

Arkhênum :

a leader in digitisation and heritage enhancement, Arkhênum helps to shed light on the past and preserve what exists so that history can be passed down to future generations. From archive audits to collection development consultancy, Arkhênum supports its clients at every stage in the development and deployment of their heritage strategies. With the largest technology park in Europe, Arkhênum digitises all types of media, from the simplest to the most complex, whatever their format, material or state of preservation.

Art Graphique & Patrimoine :

from laser scanning to 3D digitisation, from 3D modelling to augmented and virtual reality, AGP offers its innovative approach dedicated to art and historic monuments, for museums, institutions and businesses. Thanks to its R&D department, which specialises in architectural and archaeological surveying, in 2009 it developed the first mobile augmented reality prototype for the reconstitution of decors.

La Reliure du Limousin :

since its creation in 1950, the company has been restoring precious works from the libraries of the Senate and the National Assembly, then those of the Departmental and Municipal Archives. From the restoration of old collections to craftsmanship binding, it does everything in its power to expertise, conserve and restore the written collections of our past. In 1990, La Reliure became a training centre for heritage crafts. La Reliure has been a Living Heritage Company since 2010.

TRIBVN Imaging :

carries out digitisation of all types of photographic documents (glass plates, cellulose nitrates, cellulose acetates, polyester, etc.), images of graphic documents (drawings, tracings), images of textiles and accessories, creation of «high-performance» digitisation systems for projects requiring them, photogrammetric images, preventive conservation (reconditioning on permanent paper, polyester sleeves, cleaning).

Vectracom :

specialises in the preservation, digitisation, enhancement and accessibility of audiovisual and film heritage. With a multimedia laboratory, it offers comprehensive services including metadata creation, film remastering and image and audio restoration. Thanks to its expertise in subtitling, voice-over, sign language and audio description, Vectracom can handle any existing audiovisual format.



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www.thememorist.com/video

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