

## South African Visual Arts Historians conference (Sept 06)

Jillian Carman

SAVAH: SOUTH AFRICAN VISUAL ARTS HISTORIANS (formerly known as SAAAH)

22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by the Vaal University of Technology

Department of Visual Arts and Design

7-10 September 2006

CALL FOR PAPERS

TRANSFORMATION/S IN VISUAL CULTURE

Recent conferences of the association have served as platforms for critical debates on transformation. These debates have transpired within the context of institutional, historical, social and political changes in South Africa. The forthcoming conference, in the historic struggle area of the Vaal Triangle (Sharpeville), aims to expand and develop this discussion. We invite papers that address issues and problematics around transformation in the visual arts in southern Africa, covering (but not confined to) such areas as: institutions and institutional culture; visual objects and modes of representation; identity and politics of race and gender; disciplinary discourse and its application to education; the role of visual culture in community development; public culture; museum culture; approaches to art history.

We are delighted that Sylvester Ogbechie of the University of California Santa Barbara has agreed to present the keynote address. Professor Ogbechie is renowned for his research on alternative modernities, and the colonial and postcolonial conventions of representation in the arts and visual cultures of African and African diaspora populations. He serves as editor for *Nka*, *African Arts* and *Ijele*, the principal journals of contemporary African arts and visual culture, and is founder and director of *Critical Interventions: Journal of African Art Theory and Criticism*, a new publication addressing the place of African art in specific historical processes. Professor Ogbechie was a delegate at the recent SESSIONS eKAPA 2005, the first phase of the major exhibition of contemporary African art scheduled for Cape Town in September 2006. We believe his participation in our SAVA conference will give a key perspective on the issues of transformation in the visual arts in South Africa.

Paper proposals should include a title and be 200-300 words in length.  
Please submit by Friday 17 March 2006 to:

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Reference:

CFP: South African Visual Arts Historians conference (Sept 06). In: ArtHist.net, Feb 3, 2006 (accessed Dec 19, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/27973>>.