**CONSTITUTION HILL AND AFROPUNK PRESENT EXCEPTIONAL EXHIBITIONS SHOWCASE**

Constitution Hill in association with Afropunk will be keeping Jozi lights on this festive season with engaging exhibitions and a ground-breaking music festival. The partnership which also includes a collaboration with the Amacreatives to host: ***A New Black*** - a multimedia group exhibition & dialogue focusing on the individual voices of 7 upcoming contemporary artists and how they employ their artistic agency to engage with and interpret the colonial narrative that forms part of their history. It’s a call for an artistic protest - a creative riot - to reimagine new definition(s) of blackness. It’s a disruption of the status quo; a defiance of stereotypes that continue to shape & frame ideas around blackness. *A New Black* is thus, the emergence of a unique calibre of black creatives aiming to shift perspectives on what it means to be a black artist in a constantly changing 21st Century Africa.

This creative showcase is significantly aligned with the world-renowned Afropunk festival – an international multicultural festival celebrating creativity and freedom of expression within black communities all over the world. The exhibition is curated by Constitution Hill’s Gaisang Sathekge in collaboration with Amacreatives, a dynamic creative hub focused on providing creative spaces and opportunities for upcoming young artists.

*A New Black* draws inspiration from Ngugi wa Thiongo’s call for a creative collective approach to claiming back lost identities, cultures, histories and languages of Africans. In response to the curatorial brief, 7 young contemporary artists were invited to contribute works which speak to the theme of decolonising, recreating, reimagining, reflecting and rewriting their own identities in relation to colonial heritage that continues to inform South Africa’s landscape. Selected artists include Loyiso Mkize, Leeroy Jason, Zandi Tisani, Zac Modirapula, Sindiso Nyoni, Yolanda Mazwana and Zanele Mashinini. DJ Kenzhero will also participate in the exhibition, entertaining guests with his neo-Afrocentric sounds. The exhibition opening will also be accompanied by a dialogue where speakers will engage with the audience, expressing their personal definitions of what it means to be a black artist in a country with a brutal history of colonialism and apartheid.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: 14 December 2017

Time: 18:30

Venue: Old Fort Atrium, Constitution Hill, 11 Kotze Street, Braamfontein, Johannesburg

Charge: Free Entrance

Parking: Level C Basement Parking, Joubert Street Entrance, Constitution Hill

In addition to the above exhibition Constitution Hill will also be offering complementary access to its delectable array of thought provoking exhibitions during the festive season.

**Constitution Hill December Exhibition Programme**

***Looking Backward, Moving Forward*** is an exhibition curated by the Ifa Lethu Foundation, showing the incredible talent and fortitude of the artists who struggled against the odds, during the apartheid era, to make their art tell the stories which were so often hidden due to the marginalisation of South Africa’s majority black population. The exhibition will run until end of January 2018.

***Umama Onesibindi: Mother of Courage*** is a tribute to all the children and women across Africa who have chosen life and stood firm in the face of adversity. For the past ten years, photographer Karin Schermbrucker has travelled the continent on assignment for UNICEF, hearing and sharing the stories of women and children who have faced the giant of HIV. In every home, and over every shared moment, one thing was the same regardless of road name, country, or place: courage. The exhibition opens to the public on World AIDS Day and will close on 12 January 2018.

**Memories of the Struggle: Australians Against Apartheid** is an exhibition launched by the Australasian South African Alliance (ASAA), in partnership with the Australian High Commission in South Africa, Brand South Africa and Constitution Hill. This multimedia exhibition is a photographic timeline of events that weaves together a narrative of Australia’s involvement in the fight against apartheid.

**Palladium Exhibition:** Palladium, a well-renowned fashion boot brand is celebrating 70 years of the existence of their trendy urban cultural boot. The exhibition is a showcase of the historical timeline and background on the existence of the Palladium boot and will show, in pictures, the transformative journey that the boot has walked. The exhibition closes in mid-January 2018.

For more information please contact:

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**About Constitution Hill**

Constitution Hill is a national heritage site and home to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. The precinct is an effective custodian and proponent of Constitutionalism, Human Rights and Democracy in South Africa. “It is a living breathing museum where the past, present and future collide in a glorious paradox that celebrates the victory of our present day democracy. It leaves you forever changed with the unrelenting resolve ‘never again must one human being treat another human being in this manner’ ” - Dawn Robertson, ConHill CEO.

ConHill presents art exhibitions that are intended to spark lively and engaging experiences related to Constitutionalism, Human Rights, and Democracy at the iconic precinct, situated in the Johannesburg CBD. Constitution Hill is also open to the public for guided tours to the Women’s Goal museum, Number Four museum, and Old Fort museum. This includes the notorious Old Fort Prison Complex and Number 4 where South Africa’s leading political activists, including Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi, were detained. Constitution Hill is a subsidiary of the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency and presents an important platform for Heritage, Education, and Tourism related programmes.