



Director's Statement

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“Listening for Light” through Arts Education

John Generalis's *Listening for Light* exhibition, held in mid-2024 at the South African Hellenic Educational Technical Institute (SAHETI) as part of their 50-year celebrations, offered a reflective exploration of his artistic journey over the past 35 years. The retrospective, spanning paintings, sculpture, embroidery, and photography, was deeply intertwined with SAHETI's Music, Arts, Drama, and Dance (MADD) festival.

In *Travels with Giants*, Renos Spanoudes reflects on his journey as an actor, playwright, and director while portraying two significant figures in South African history: George Bizos, a revered human rights lawyer, and Dimitri Tsafendas, the assassin of the architect of apartheid, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd. Spanoudes' deep connection to his Hellenic heritage enriches these performances, bringing to life the complexities of these men's stories both in pursuit of justice, the former through the legal system the latter through a violent act of desperation.

Jackson Hlungwani - An Exploration into South Africa's Most Influential Sculpture Artist. A Book Review by Janco Uys and Lize Kriel on "Jackson Hlungwani: Alt and Omega" offers a profound exploration of one of South Africa's most influential sculptors, Jackson Hlungwani. The book explores his life, art, and spiritual vision, offering a nuanced view of how African Christianity, cultural identity, and artistic expression intersect in his work.

From Greece to South Africa through two Exhibitions: ‘Art, Artefacts and Archives’ and ‘Greek Brides/ Νύφες’ by Melissa Moniz. This review stems from an insightful research project examining the Greek immigrant experience in South Africa,

particularly emphasising Greek brides of the early 20th century. It thoughtfully examines how these women, brought together through traditional matchmaking, shaped the South African Greek community—highlighting two significant exhibitions, namely "Art, Artefacts and Archives" (2022) and "Brides/Νύφες" (2023).

The essay ***Mandombe: Reviving African Identity Through Script and Spirit*** by Mue Luemba and Raïta Steyn reflects spiritual vision and cultural necessity. It highlights the lasting spiritual and mystical influence of Simon Kimbangu and the artistic creativity of David Wabeladio Payi. Mandombe, also rooted in African spiritualism, is practical for transcribing Bantu languages. Yet, semiotically, he transfers the writing form of an indigenous language beyond its linguistic communication purpose. As a beacon of African cultural identity, through the art of calligraphy he uses hand lettering as a tool of *decolonisation* through *connection* by bridging past and present.

In her essay, ***From Deep Blue to Burnt Sienna – My Educational Journey to South Africa***, Alexia Vouvoura reflects on her November 2022 visit to South Africa as part of a collaboration between the Department of Drama at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Her journey included academic exchanges, grading final-year and postgraduate student work, and engaging with diverse cultural perspectives. Alexia's experiences ranged from art critiques to encounters with local history, culture, and the unforgettable landscapes of Johannesburg and Pilanesberg.

On October 24, 2024, ***Celebrating Cultural Exchange and Artistic Excellence*** brought Turkish art and heritage to life at the Javett Art Centre. Led by Raita Steyn, the event showcased Jean Brindesi's 19th-century engravings, live calligraphy by Refik Çarıkçı, and the storytelling power of embroidery. This collaboration between the Maarif Centre for Turkish Studies and the University of Pretoria celebrated cross-cultural connections and the unifying spirit of art.