



SPOTLIGHT ON

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, RESEARCH & INNOVATION INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY: ARTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE



INGA LOKWE



FRANCOIS PIETERSEN

PRESENTED
BY:

This presentation reflects on the experience of participating in an international residency at Wheaton Arts and Cultural Centre in Millville, New Jersey, where we proudly represented the Faculty of Arts and Design at the Tshwane University of Technology. Working within a global creative environment, the residency offered a space for cultural exchange, critical reflection, and collaborative making, allowing us to situate South African artistic practices within an international context.

In this talk, we explore how personal narratives shaped by distinct cultural frameworks can be translated across borders through material practice. Our collaborative work uses textile forms in glass and botanical interventions to engage grief as both a culturally specific and universally resonant experience. Drawing on the Xhosa grief blanket and the Afrikaans doily, the work considers how objects associated with care, protection, and domestic space carry layered meanings of loss, identity, and healing.

The presentation will discuss how working within the residency context influenced our conceptual and material decisions, as well as how international audiences engaged with the work. By reflecting on process, dialogue, and adaptation, this presentation highlights the role of international residencies in expanding artistic research, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and positioning South African art practices within broader global conversations.

DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 12:00 – 13:00

VENUE: Building 3 – G02,
Arts Campus

OR

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Limited space available. To confirm your seat, please email botesjc@tut.ac.za by 12 February 2026.

FACILITATOR: Pfunzo Sidogi

Assistant Dean: Postgraduate Studies, Research & Innovation.

BIOGRAPHIES

Inga Lokwe (b. 1998) is a glass artist and part-time lecturer specialising in glass, currently completing her Master's degree at the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria. Lokwe has participated in numerous exhibitions, conferences, and residencies locally and internationally. In 2024, she completed an internship at Wheaton Arts in New Jersey and was awarded an artist residency in 2025. She attended the Pilchuck Youth Conference in Seattle, Washington, and was a finalist for SASOL New Signatures at the Pretoria Art Museum. She is currently exhibiting her work in Cape Town at the Berman Contemporary All Women Art Gallery, in a show called Counters Unveiled 2025-2026. Her exhibition history over the past three years includes Next Generation (Viewing Room Art Gallery) 2023, New Vanguard (Berman Contemporary) 2024, Happy Women's Day, I guess 2025, and Glass Now – African Perspectives at the Pretoria Art Association 2025, Exploring Visual Cultures (EVC) International Group Exhibition at Javett Art Centre 2023.

Francois Pietersen (b. 1999) is currently completing a Master's degree in Art and Design, specialising in Fine and Applied Arts at the Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria. His work has been presented in several group exhibitions and national platforms since 2020. Pietersen works with flowers and organic materials to explore questions of identity, memory, and masculinity within contemporary South African contexts. Using pressed flowers, living plants, and mixed media, he creates installations and sculptural works that range from temporary to permanent forms. His practice draws on personal childhood experiences, South African social histories, and the lingering cultural impact of the Border War to challenge conventional gender norms.