



The National Art Gallery of Namibia

c/o John Meinert Street & Robert Mugabe Avenue

P O Box 994, WINDHOEK, Namibia, Tel. 264 61 231160/231391/232288/0811246087 Fax. 264 61 240930 secretary@nagn.org.na

20 November 2014

Dear Artist / Dear Partner

TULIPAMWE INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' WORKSHOP AS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

INTRODUCTION: *Tulipamwe International Artists' Workshop* will be held from **15 until 29 August 2015** at *Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (GTRC)*. The GTRC is situated on the bank of the Kuiseb River, bordered by the Namib dune sea on the south and the Namib gravel plains on the north. Dotted with indigenous *Topnaar* settlements, the Kuiseb River is an important part of local culture and economy. The geographical isolation of GTRC is ideal for an artists' workshop, where artists may find inspiration in the desert habitat with its contrasting colours, varied textures and wide open spaces.

Although emphasis is on artists' creative exploration, Tulipamwe aims to encourage a view of the artist as someone who gives by sharing knowledge and creative skills. For the 2015 project a group of about 15 Namibian and 10 international artists will be invited to work in this rural community for a period of 14 days, creating artwork in various media and formats. This may include site-specific work, photography, video, painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking among others.

The participating artists will live in the local community for the workshop period and embark on creating artwork in identified areas of the community. Some of artwork (e.g. site-specific work) may be donated to the community to contribute to its cultural enrichment.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF TULIPAMWE: *Tulipamwe* means "we are together". The *Tulipamwe International Artists' Workshop* is a non-profit making empowerment project coordinated as a community outreach project, under the auspices of the *National Art Gallery of Namibia*, which provides an established administrative infrastructure. The first Tulipamwe International Artists' Workshop was initiated by the Visual Arts Department of the University of Namibia in 1994, when 10 international artists were invited to work alongside 15 local artists for a two-week period. Since then, at least 13 similar international and a number of regional workshops have been held in Namibia. The project has involved more than 300 International and Namibian artists. Participating artists have described the experience of Tulipamwe as "stimulating, exciting and renewing!"

TULIPAMWE'S OBJECTIVES: The primary goals of Tulipamwe are the *sharing of creative ideas and skills* for both experienced and developing artists. The project also creates opportunities for Namibian artists to become part of global networks and

NAGN BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ms Bonita de Silva (Chairperson); Mr Phillip Lühl (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Christian M. Maketo; Mr John B. Nakuta; Mr Gabriel P. Sinimbo
Director – Hercules D. Viljoen



The National Art Gallery of Namibia

c/o John Meinert Street & Robert Mugabe Avenue

P O Box 994, WINDHOEK, Namibia, Tel. 264 61 231160/231391/232288/0811246087 Fax. 264 61 240930 secretary@nagn.org.na

prospects for international exchange and growth. Namibian artists tend to feel both geographically and culturally isolated from the rest of the world as well as from their own communities. The Tulipamwe workshops provide the experience of being part of the greater, wider artistic community as well giving insights into the working styles of different artists from all over the world. The participation of established professional artists ensures a wealth of learning opportunities for talented younger Namibian artists who often have little formal qualifications. Tulipamwe's affiliation to a wider international network of professional workshops with similar goals creates opportunities for Namibian artists to become part of an international artistic network. Many established and successful Namibian artists acknowledge the impact Tulipamwe has had on their artistic development.

TULIPAMWE'S BENEFICIARIES: The primary beneficiaries of Tulipamwe are Namibian artists in need of capacity building. The exposure to international counterparts stimulates and improves their creative and professional capacities. The secondary beneficiaries are the local communities where the workshops are being held. Apart from providing financial compensation to the local community for services rendered by them, community members obtain new skills and knowledge by getting involved in the activities of Tulipamwe as assistants and as artists.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: Tulipamwe aims to celebrate local traditions and culture as well as benefit marginalised communities by bringing positive energy, activity and community engagement with the visual arts to the more remote areas of Namibia. Art projects are being initiated in communities where local artists express a need to develop their personal creativity and gain knowledge of arts administrative skills, product development and setting up markets for their products. Artists who participate in Tulipamwe have the opportunity to apply their creativity in a community context and to transfer skills to local community participants. Through a continuing dialogue with their different stakeholders Tulipamwe endeavours to assist with creating opportunities for potential beneficiaries through discussions and involvement of local communities.

DURING THE WORKSHOP participants will be provided with comfortable full board accommodation and informal workspace. During "art talks" participants will be invited to show and discuss visual material of their recent work or another topic of their choice. Tulipamwe will endeavour to supply a range of basic materials and equipment. However, specialist and personal equipment will be the responsibility of the participant.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP (2 – 30 September 2015) artwork produced at the workshop (also work in progress) will be exhibited at the *National Art Gallery of Namibia* and at partner galleries in Windhoek. Some participating artists will be asked to do a digital presentation of their recent work or workshop project to an invited audience in Windhoek.

NAGN BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ms Bonita de Silva (Chairperson); Mr Phillip Lühl (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Christian M. Maketo; Mr John B. Nakuta; Mr Gabriel P. Sinimbo
Director – Hercules D. Viljoen



The National Art Gallery of Namibia

c/o John Meinert Street & Robert Mugabe Avenue

P O Box 994, WINDHOEK, Namibia, Tel. 264 61 231160/231391/232288/0811246087 Fax. 264 61 240930 secretary@nagn.org.na

BENEFITS TO PARTNERS AND SPONSORS: Acknowledgement of partners' and sponsors' contributions will be given in all publication material and promotion activities, including the official catalogue/pamphlet, posters, newspaper and magazine articles, press releases and radio and TV documentaries. Sponsors and partners will be invited to all official Tulipamwe functions like launches, press conferences, exhibitions, discussions, and the *community empowerment project open day*. This will afford them the opportunity to be an active participant in promotion activities and to display their promotional material. As in the past, partners and sponsors may be confident of an effective and dependable application of their contribution. Finally, an original artwork of their choice may be donated to them as a token of Tulipamwe's appreciation of their support. Tulipamwe will be afforded a separate account in the NAGN accounting system, and will as such be included in the Official Audited Financial Statements of the institution. Corresponding to this, partners and sponsors will receive a detailed report and financial statement at the end of the project.

Yours sincerely

Hercules Viljoen
Director: NAGN

NAGN BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Ms Bonita de Silva (Chairperson); Mr Phillip Lühl (Vice-Chairperson); Mr Christian M. Maketo; Mr John B. Nakuta; Mr Gabriel P. Sinimbo
Director – Hercules D. Viljoen