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# Quarterly Newsletter

ARTROUTE

August 2025 edition



# ART ROUTE

Dear Art Enthusiasts,

Happy Women's Month!

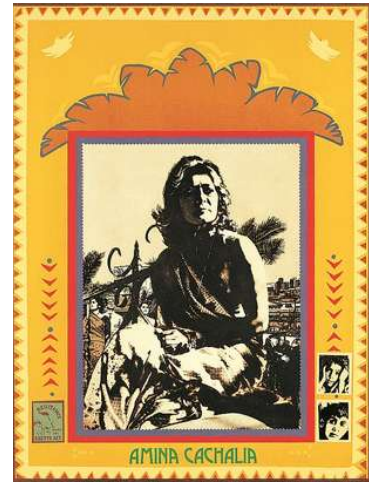
There's no better time to immerse yourself in South Africa's rich and diverse art scene - and to honour the powerful voices of women who continue to shape its course. Leading our celebration is Sue Williamson: *There's Something I Must Tell You*, a landmark retrospective now on show at the Iziko South African National Gallery. This long-overdue exhibition spans over five decades of art and activism by one of the country's most significant artists.

Our Cape Town museum tours include curated walkabouts at key institutions like ISANG, and we're excited to offer custom routes that delve deeper into this historic show. In this edition, you'll also find highlights from our latest art tour offerings in both Cape Town and Johannesburg, as well as a preview of the HEAT Winter Arts Festival - a celebration of creativity across disciplines.

Read on whether you're planning your next cultural outing or simply curious about the stories shaping South African art today.

From the ArtRoute Team.

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## WOMEN'S MONTH FEATURE: SUE WILLIAMSON: THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL YOU Retrospective exhibition at the Iziko South African National Gallery

This Women's Month, we celebrate a defining moment in South African art history: the first-ever retrospective of renowned artist and activist Sue Williamson. Currently on view at the Iziko South African National Gallery, *There's Something I Must Tell You* brings together more than 100 artworks spanning five decades - marking the most comprehensive survey of her career to date.

Occupying eight rooms and the museum's Atrium, the exhibition showcases Williamson's extensive and deeply political body of work across different media: drawing, printmaking, embroidery, photography, video, and large-scale installations. Her work documents resistance, remembrance, and social transformation. From the iconic *A Few South Africans* series honouring women in the liberation struggle, to incisive explorations of post-apartheid challenges including xenophobia, HIV/AIDS, and state accountability.

A highlight of the exhibition is the newly reimagined *Last Supper at Manley Villa* (1981), first conceived in response to the forced removals of District Six. For this new iteration, the same family who lent chairs for the original installation has done so again; creating a powerful continuity between past and present.

Also on view are personal letters, ephemera, and a reconstruction of Williamson's studio, offering intimate insight into the artist's process and political vision. As one of South Africa's most iconic artists, Williamson's work continues to resonate not just as a chronicle of history, but as an urgent call to reflect and remember.

Add this important exhibition to your cultural calendar this August. Our Cape Town tours offer a guided, in-depth experience at ISANG and other top institutions - allowing you to engage meaningfully with the art and stories that continue to shape South Africa.

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## EXHIBITION: Happy Women's Month, I Guess...

### At Berman Contemporary | 28 June – 24 August 2025



Every year, as August approaches, South Africa turns its attention to Women's Month—commemorating the 1956 march of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings to protest pass laws. While this period is often marked by celebration and symbolic tribute, many women also navigate quieter, more complicated emotions: fatigue, frustration, and the slow burn of progress still to be made.

Titled *Happy Women's Month, I Guess...*, this group exhibition, coordinated by artist and curator Duduzile More, invites visitors to sit with the tension between celebration and critique. Rather than resolve these contradictions, the show embraces them, allowing complexity, contradiction, and nuance to breathe.

The exhibition brings together artists Athenkosi Kwinana, Amogelang Maepa, Claire Lichtenstein, DuduBloom More, Inga Lokwe, Leila Abrahams, Puleng Mongale, and Yonela Doda, whose practices reflect layered experiences of womanhood in contemporary South Africa. Across diverse media, their works explore the entanglement of beauty and discomfort, softness and resistance, joy and grief.

A standout video installation features the candid voices of women of all ages reflecting on Women's Day: what it means, what it masks, and what they still long for. Elsewhere, visitors are invited to leave a lipstick kiss on a designated wall—an intimate and symbolic act of presence and protest.

Set within a space filled with fresh flowers that will wilt over time, the exhibition acts as both memorial and celebration. It gestures to the fragility of progress while affirming the enduring strength of South African women.

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**FESTIVAL FEATURE:**  
**HEAT WINTER ARTS FESTIVAL 2025**  
**6–16 AUGUST**

This August, Cape Town heats up with creativity as the HEAT Winter Arts Festival returns to the city centre with a bold, multidisciplinary programme under the theme “Other Worlding.” From 6 to 16 August, over 13 curated exhibitions and an exciting line-up of music, theatre, digital art, and comedy will animate some of the city's most dynamic cultural venues - all within walking distance of one another.

With a focus on emerging voices, small art businesses, and speculative futures, HEAT 2025 invites visitors to imagine beyond the present through visionary works that challenge dominant narratives and resist commodification.

Curated exhibitions aligned with Other Worlding will be presented at venues including AVA, Smac, WORLDART, Eclectica Contemporary, EBONY/CURATED, Everard Read, Reservoir, arthARARE, and more. These exhibitions will feature rising talents alongside renowned artists. To name a few artists: Sahlah Davids, Oupa Sibeko, Balekane Legoabe, Bella Knemeyer, Nada Baraka, and Ulrich Jantjes, Gareth Nyandoro, Dan Halter, Cathy Abraham, Johann Louw, and Joseph Ntensibe.

HEAT's programming extends far beyond visual art, pulsing with live performance, music, and movement - ranging from opera and theatre to stand-up comedy and more.

Born out of a desire to activate Cape Town's city centre during the quiet winter season, HEAT supports both established and emerging creatives, building a powerful platform for artistic exchange. Don't miss it!

Our Cape Town art tours will run throughout the festival, offering curated walkabouts through the participating galleries and exhibitions. Let us guide you through this unmissable journey into the speculative, the poetic, and the possible. Bookings of the live performances can be made via their website at: <https://www.heatfestival.org/>.

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## Museums in Focus: Join Our Expert-Led Tours Across SA

Whether you're in Cape Town or Johannesburg, our curated museum tours invite you to step inside the country's most significant art spaces.

In Cape Town, discover Zeitz MOCAA, home to contemporary African art in the striking Grain Silo building. Our expert-led tour explores key works and themes across nine floors of galleries, with insight from curators on the social and cultural narratives that shape the art.

Just outside the city, the Norval Foundation offers a serene blend of nature and creativity. On our guided walkabout, you'll explore 20th- and 21st-century artworks, deepened by conversations with curators on the artists' processes and conceptual themes.

At the Iziko South African National Gallery, we delve into art history itself—walking through a timeline of South African, African, and European art. This unique tour sheds light on the evolution of visual expression in the country, drawing connections between colonial legacy, contemporary voices, and global aesthetics.

We also visit the intimate and atmospheric Irma Stern Museum in Rondebosch: once the home of one of South Africa's most influential modernists. Our tour reveals the artist's life, travels, and controversial legacy, framed by her eclectic collection of African objects and vibrant paintings.

In Johannesburg, we offer guided visits to key museums and galleries, bringing context to the city's powerful creative scene and deep-rooted histories. Stay tuned for our upcoming highlights in the next edition.



Let our guides lead you through these cultural gems—with curator conversations, behind-the-scenes insights, and unforgettable art experience

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Thank you for reading!

Happy Women's Month!

We're excited to continue celebrating the powerful voices shaping the art world. Stay tuned for our next edition, where we'll share more inspiring exhibitions, events, and guided experiences coming your way.

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