National Heritage Project

The National Heritage Project is an extensive urban public development and prominent South African heritage initiative to be situated in the Nasrec Precinct, Johannesburg. It is conceived as an iconic national heritage and tourism initiative to be established and operated through the agency of the National Heritage Project Company (NHPC). Funding for the National Heritage Project has come from generous grants from both the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and the Department of Arts and Culture.

Situated in landscaped park-like surrounds, it is intended to encompass a monumental parade of more than 400 life-size sculptural representations of individuals across all social spectrums who have contributed to South Africa’s struggle for democracy and liberation, depicting a generational ‘Long March to Freedom’. The first group of 24 completed figures is hosted as a temporary exhibition on the grounds of Olievenhuis Art Museum. This exhibition will remain in place until the first phase of the Nasrec development has been completed when the figures will be moved to their final home.

Olievenhuis Art Museum and the National Heritage Project Company hosted an official press launch and opening of the first phase of the National Heritage Project on 27 February. The event was opened by Dali Tambo, founder and CEO of the National Heritage Project Company.

International Museum Day at Olievenhuis

In May visitors were treated to a fun-filled programme of traditional dancing and storytelling by the Mangaung Dance and Drama Group. This group was established in 2005 to develop and qualify talented performing artists by means of high quality education and regular practical experience.

Lecture by Professor Tony Ulyatt

Prof. Tony Ulyatt presented a lecture titled Labyrinthus: Hic Habitat Minotaurs, arranged by Olievenhuis Art Museum and the Friends of Olievenhuis on 18 April in the Main Building. This was an illustrated talk on the myth of Daedalus and Icarus and its extraordinary impact on the work of the English sculptor Michael Ayrton (1921-1975). Ayrton became utterly engrossed in the myth in 1956 and continued to use it as inspiration and subject for the next 20 years, until his death.