

MEDIA ADVISORY

UNISA Art Gallery presents the exhibition: *African ReUnion: A Celebration of Pan-African Imagination and Unity*

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
Wednesday, 13 MAY 2026

The University of South Africa (Unisa) Art Gallery will commemorate Africa Month and Africa Day with the opening of *African ReUnion: A Celebration of Pan-African Imagination and Unity*, a landmark exhibition celebrating African creativity, memory, scholarship, and futurity.

Hosted at Unisa Art Gallery, Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuck Campus with the opening to the public on Friday, 15 May 2026, the exhibition reflects on the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, now the African Union(AU), and affirms the continent's enduring commitment to freedom, unity, and self-determination.

The exhibition, curated by Ms Tshegofatso Seoka from the Unisa Art Collection, challenges historical constructions of African identity rooted in narrow and homogeneous frameworks. Instead, it embraces plurality, dialogue, and evolving African epistemologies through the work of leading artists from across the continent and the diaspora. Featured artists include Yinka Shonibare, Aïda Muluneh, Kudzanai Chiurai, Cyrus Kabiru, Owusu-Ankomah, Paa Joe, alongside South African artists including William Kentridge, Teresa Firmino Kutala, Lindokuhle Sobekwa, and Makamatele Robert Moramaga.

At the heart of the exhibition is the permanent entrustment of the monumental artwork *African ReUnion* (2025) to the Unisa Art Collection. Conceived by pan-African cultural strategist Thebe Ikalafeng, realized on canvas by South African artist Mark Modimola, and historically anchored by Kwesi Prah, the 3m x 2m artwork symbolically reverses the Berlin Conference by placing Africans at the center of their own historical and future narratives. The artwork features a round table rejecting hierarchy around which sit iconic African leaders, intellectuals, and cultural figures, including Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Wangarĩ Maathai, Miriam Makeba, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Thabo Mbeki. At the center of the composition is an empty chair symbolizing invitation, continuity, and collective responsibility for Africa's future.

The exhibition positions the Unisa Art Gallery as a site of critical thought, cultural dialogue, and African-centered scholarship, reaffirming the university's role in shaping transformative conversations on the continent.



Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the exhibition as follows:

Private Opening Reception:

14 May 2026
15:30 – 18:00

Public Viewing Hours:

Tuesday to Friday
10:00 – 15:00

Exhibition: African ReUnion: A Celebration of Pan-African Imagination and Unity

Duration: Friday, 15 May – Monday, 01 July 2026

Venue: Unisa Art Gallery, Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuck Campus

/Ends.

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