



Dr Portia Malatjie

Senior Lecturer, Michaelis School of Fine Art

Dr Portia Malatjie is Senior Lecturer in Art History and Discourse of Art at the Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT). She completed her BA (Fine Arts) and Masters (History of Art) at the Wits School of Art, University of Witwatersrand. Portia obtained a PhD in Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London, where she was Associate Lecturer. Portia is interested in the articulation of Black sensibilities in South African art and curation. Her theoretical and curatorial research explores African conceptions of Blackness through the intersection of sound, spirituality, and Black Feminist Thought. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and exhibition catalogues including *Third Text*, the 2018 Berlin Biennale catalogue, the 2019 Venice Biennale's South African Pavilion catalogue, *Frieze*, *Afterall*, and is a regular contributor to *Artforum*. Her essay, "Curative Curation: Black Women Curators as Restorative Agents", will appear in the Edinburgh University Press's *The Edinburgh Companion to Curatorial Futures* (edited by Bridget Crone and Bassam El Baroni). The text, "Ritual, Song and Spirituality as Radical Healing Praxes in the Work of Dineo Seshee Bopape", is part of the Whitechapel/MIT Press book, *Health*.

Portia's practice lies in the intersection between academic and curatorial practice. She is Adjunct Curator of Africa and African Diaspora at the Hyundai Tate Research Centre: Transnational at Tate Modern, London. In her role, she integrates her research on artistic and curatorial practice on the continent into the fabric of Tate's programming, while also serving on the Africa Acquisitions Committee. In 2021, she convened a webinar, "Blackness in Contemporary Africa Arts", that brought together scholars from South Africa, Angola, and Finland. Previously, she was adjunct curator at Norval Foundation, Cape Town. She has worked as Curator at Tiwani Contemporary (London), Head Curator at Brundyn+ Gallery (Cape Town), and Director of the AVA Gallery (Cape Town). She has given talks and been part of panel discussions at Zeitz Mocca (Cape Town), Hayward Gallery (London), Bloomsburg Festival (London), Bard College's OSUN Center for Human Rights and the Arts, as well as the University of Oxford (UK).

Portia's curated exhibitions include *Batlhaping Ba Re! Mmakgabo Mapula Helen Sebidi* (2018), *Trade Winds: Yinka Shonibare CBE* (2019, co-curated with Owen Martin), as well as *Ecologies of Elsewhere* (2023, co-curated with Dr Chandra Frank) at the Cincinnati Contemporary Art Centre. Her landmark co-curated exhibition, *When Rain Clouds Gather: Black South African Women Artists, 1940–2000* is notable for excavating overlooked histories and contributions of Black women modernists in the history of South African art. She is a 2021 American Council of Learned Society's African Humanities Fellow, a 2022 NRF Black Academic Advancement Program Fellow, as well as a 2023 UCT Emerging Researcher Award recipient. She has raised funds from the National Arts Council, The Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, and the Getty Foundation.