



THE HOURGLASS

Connecting with Caversham

Happy 20th Birthday, Caversham!

Welcome to Caversham on our 20th Birthday! A lot has happened since the first artist, Robert Hodgins, christened The Caversham Press studio in September 1985. As part of the growing dynamic of Caversham, this forum is being set up to provide a central point of communication. On reflecting where Caversham has contributed in the past, and continues to provide impact, there are three main categories: Networking, Innovation and Inspiration. We would like to use these as catchments for reporting and encouraging dialogue. This will be the only formality in this forum and it is hoped that, as with creative collaborative endeavors, this dialogue will derive a personality of its own.

So, this is for *you*, whether you are an alumnus, a partner, a funder or someone whose life has been touched by Caversham's special energies and inspirations. We want to hear from you as much as we want to keep you connected with the new dimensions taking place at Caversham.

N E T W O R K I N G Extending the Vision

For your interest here, is a brief overview of some of Caversham's collaborative activities during 2005

Rorke's Drift Partnership

All Workshops and Outreach programmes undertaken are important, but one of particular note is the Rorke's Drift Partnership. This is an outstanding example of the far-reaching spin-off from the Caversham Vision of Networking Innovation, inspiring and being inspired. As is fundamental with all Caversham undertakings, it is the continuing dialogue after an individual project is completed, that brings meaning to those whose lives are touched. Here is a quote from The Rorke's Drift Report September 2005.

"During the apartheid era and now the Rorke's Drift is one of the South African institutions that is known for the legacy of producing high standard of printmaking internationally. Due to the limitation of funds for such programmes the printmaking was crippled. The Rorke's Drift is honoured to have partnership with CCAW for revisiting such program that brought back the skill for the new generation that will feed back to the community at large."

Centre for Visual Art, University of KwaZulu Natal

Caversham has a firm commitment to raising awareness and dialogue around HIV/Aids through workshops themed "HIV and me". Over the past five years these workshops have been run as a CVA/CCA W partnership, co-facilitated by Vuli Nyoni and Gabi Nkosi. The 2005 workshop was made possible by funding from the National Arts Council, together with the Arts and Culture Trust.



Conservation Centre, Parliament of South Africa

2005 was the tenth year of bookbinding workshops as part of Caversham’s annual programme. These were begun in 1995 with Johann Maree, Head of Conservation UCT, and Keith Seaford. Keith, now deputy director at Parliament Conservation Centre, assisted by Christine Le Roux, continued to share his breadth of knowledge and skills adding richness in the growth of awareness and skills in the next creative generation. We give our sincere thanks to all those that have so generously contributed their skills and expertise and to those who have made this possible. This includes the Royal Netherlands who funded this programme from 1995 to 2004, and the National Arts Council and Art and Culture Trust who funded this past year.

Caversham Creative Centre at Jabula Combined School

As many of you know, a very successful Caversham Creative Centre has been operating for the last three years at Jabula Combined School in Lidgetton. During 2005 Gabi conducted 16 workshops. One of the most popular of these was the painting of a mural outside the school hall. There was much excitement at the school as a contingent of British visitors came to Jabula to make a presentation of 30 computers, and the mural was done in their honour. *These workshops have had a very positive impact on the learners involved and have boosted their confidence and self esteem. Gabi Nkosi*

Epos

Exhibitions of a portfolio of prints and writings that resulted from a joint international partnership with the Frans Masereel Centrum, Belgium occurred in Belgium, Holland, DIT and the Jack Heath Gallery, University of KZN.

BASA Vega

Through the initiative of Nicola Danby, Nicky Du Plessis of BASA and Gordon Cook, Chief Navigator of Vega School of Branding and Communication, a partnership is being developed which draws on each institution’s strengths. Exciting pilot projects along profile building explorations will be undertaken during 2006 with Art Directors and students.

Center for the Study of Art & Community

Founding Director, Bill Cleveland, spent two days at Caversham whilst in South Africa researching for his book entitled *Art and Upheaval*. It deals with artists working in communities that have experienced significant social and/or political upheaval. He has selected Gabi as one of the artists he will feature.

art@school

This exciting new Cape Town-based organization has come into being, spearhead by Roderick Saul and Sipho Hlati. During a four-day visit to Caversham in early December, Roderick and Malcolm explored areas of synergy and sharing which will strengthen partnerships founded on the existing strong tie to Western Cape artists who have participated in Caversham programmes over the years.

McColl Centre for the Arts

Colbert Mashile, a Caversham alumnus of the first Succession Residency, participated in a three-month residency at the prestigious McColl Centre situated in Charlotte, North Carolina. This was part of an international exchange that since 2000, has involved 6 artists/writers associated with Caversham

Harriet Sanford

We would like to congratulate one of our International Board Members, Harriet Sanford, on her appointment as President and CEO of The NEA Foundation which has its Headquarters in Washington DC. We know that, as she has done for Caversham, she will make a meaningful contribution to the lives of those in the organization and those whom it serves,.

FUNDERS AND FUNDING



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
OF SOUTH AFRICA



A significant funder of the CCAW is the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. In July 2005, Caversham was awarded a two-year grant for running programmes that *foster leadership, innovation and excellence in individuals through the implementation of an effective sustainable model using creativity and the arts*. We are very grateful for this ongoing support and affirmation of the Caversham Vision.

All our funders and partners are highly valued and we take this opportunity to thank them for their support and to acknowledge their contribution in continuing the Caversham Vision. They are: The National Arts Council, The Arts and Culture Trust, Fulton County Arts Council, USA, Johnson and Johnson.

In exploring complimentary avenues for raising funds in order to realize its vision, Caversham has undertaken a number of commissioned production projects which drew on its print heritage and links with community organizations. These were unquestionably successful with wide-ranging benefits for all involved and will continue to be a growing aspect of Caversham's campaign for financial sustainability.

I N N O V A T I O N

Continually evolving

In April, Caversham welcomed Jabulisile Mtheku to the staff. Affectionately known by all as Jabu, she is a bubbling and enthusiastic lady who brings administrative project management skills and life experience to the strongly creative team of Malcolm and Gabi. When she first arrived at Caversham, she was thrown in at the deep end, with an Artists and Writers Dialogue Residency. Here is a brief insight into her first experience at Caversham. "Finding oneself in the midst of highly artistic individuals and spending time working with them was overwhelming, yet at the same time affirming and very contagious. This experience provided a deeper understanding of CCAW's ethos and vision."

World Heritage Conference

Thanks to a partnership with Nicky Du Plessis at Cultural Radius and Very Very Big Productions, CCAW was commissioned to produce miniature prints, one of which was included in the Conference Programme. Accompanied by works of Peter Schutz and Gabi, all the prints were exhibited at the World Heritage Conference held at the International Conference Centre in Durban.

J&J/ Janssen Pharmceutica Craft Initiative

As part of a HIV/Aids drug roll-out on World Aids Day, Jabu and Gabi coordinated a craft initiative which saw a substantial number of items being shipped to Belgium, where they were exhibited and enthusiastically received. This initiative was not without its logistical difficulties as crafts were sourced from far flung Hluhluwe, Mtubatuba, Umlazi, Ntsuma and Inanda. While traditionally Caversham has been involved in fine arts, this initiative was seen as an opportunity to reinforce the community collaborative programme which had begun in 1999 with the Senzokulhe women's group in Mopohemeni. Many of you may be unaware that at the beginning of 2005, this group ceased to exist due to the direct impact of the Aids pandemic. Although the J&J initiative was not run on the same basis, it did however offer an opportunity for Caversham to have a direct and positive impact on the lives of a large number of rural and urban women.



I N S P I R A T I O N

Inspiration in the Individual and the Individual as Inspiration

Inspiration in the Individual

Caversham's Residencies

The two Artists and Writers Dialogue Residencies, held in January and May, were made possible by funding from our partner, The Fulton County Arts Council, USA. Both generated the most amazing energies – it was surprising that the Southern Hemisphere wasn't lit up by more than its marvelous stars at night! Once again, Caversham's unique inspiration was at work, not only during the three weeks of the actual residencies, but echoing on into the participant's lives, their communities and resulting networks. The following are quotes from participating artists:

In the spirit of Caversham's networking innovation this is a quote from Lionel Davis:

"Back here in Cape Town, Peter Clarke, Roderick Sauls who passionately believes in the Caversham philosophy, Garth Erasmus and I have begun the process of starting up several workshops which we are opening up to others and the potential for growth is exceedingly good."(From this strong personal commitment art@school has become a reality. Heartfelt congratulations from Caversham.)

June Madingwane: *"With the personal dialogue, I got the chance to look inwards and re-examine my purpose in life .I learned the importance of reflection and that is something I will always carry with me"*

Marcia Jones: *"Malcolm was amazingly encouraging. He was that balance I often need to execute work to the highest of my potential. I appreciate that quality."*

In October, a Succession/Visioning Residency was held: the next step in strengthening and capacity building in the individual .This residency for four young artists, followed on from the pilot Leadership residency held in May 2004. The aim of this programme is to develop complementary self-awareness and leadership potential resulting in an ability to cultivate unique implementable visions, grounded in the Caversham Hourglass Process and the concept of Creative Centers. The Succession/Visioning Residency offers each participant the opportunity to identify two members of their community, with whom to share this vision and to grow a common ownership leading to implementation.

The Individual as Inspiration:

Gabisile Nkosi

Of course, we all know and love Gabi, and judging by her diary for 2005, everyone wants a piece of her time. What a wonderful year, Gabi, so much achieved and so many lives touched! With two overseas trips one in March, to Belgium and Holland representing Caversham at the launch of the Epos Exhibition, and recently to the UK where you ran a number of workshops. And heartfelt congratulations on your solo exhibition, "Celebrating the Spirits" -The opening of the exhibition was bustling with people who wanted to see what this inspirational young artist had achieved, and they were not disappointed.



Writing as Inspiration:

Vonani Bila - Connecting with Caversham

Vonani, a poet, was born in 1972 in Limpopo, where he runs the Timbila Poetry Project, is a community activist, publisher and editor. He has attended two residencies at Caversham and although he did not write this with the *HOURGLASS* in mind, it seemed to be the perfect inaugural piece for our inspirational writing section. It was also the source of the subtitle for this forum. Thank you, Vonani, for allowing this to be shared with the extended Caversham network. If anyone would like to contribute some writing for inclusion in our next *Hourglass - Connecting with Caversham*, please see contact details at the end of this issue.

Caversham is a sweet home. The air is fresh and peaceful. Caversham servants are so humble, accommodating and welcoming. Here, creative spirit simply bursts out like a sprouting bulb. My private and public voice is both quiet and loud. Here, the ground is fertile for poetry seeds to germinate. Poems like "between" and Lines for Lionel were chiseled and refined at Caversham – a place populated by the living and the dead yet caring souls.

At Caversham I got some time to think, reflect, dialogue with myself. The space created enabled me to observe, digest, make, remake, draft, redraft, polish, redefine and satisfy the artist – the poet in me through the medium of tight words and visual elements. The link between visual art and poetry became two inseparable strands. Creative people – artists and poets – follow a relative similar process of remaking the world. It's both an honest pouring of emotions on paper or wood or steel, musical instrument or any object for that matter. It's sometimes painful yet therapeutic. Well, at times fun and thrilling. That is what I experienced at Caversham – the affirmation of myself as a poet. It's not everyday we are accorded such space to create, and importantly, the sacred moments and respect to observe, reflect, digest, analyse and create as one allows the creative juices to flow uncontrollably.

Caversham deserves a long life. Its vision is relevant, practical, achievable, appropriate and essential in lifting the souls of artists and writers as well the world of both artists and all citizens. Caversham is well placed to drive a human revolution towards the fulfillment and realization of a coherent world made up of complete human beings and organic intellectuals who fit in society – the kind that respect each other and allow freedom to be maximally enjoyed without hurting the other person. At Caversham I discovered open, truthful, caring and sharing people – the spirit needed to rebuild the world.

I won't mind going back to Howick not just to bask in the sun and watch the bubbling falls and wonder at creation nor simply walk along the Lion's river –but to go there and be renewed through dialogue with the artists, print makers and writers and the blessings of nature's immaculate beauty like the free-flowing Lion's river. For me, Lion's River is life, fire and every imaginable thing.

South Africa should surely be grateful to have visionaries like Malcolm and Caversham is needed more than ever before to foster and support the creative process and also, to heal hearts as we trudge towards a united country based on values of humanism. With the inspiration I've gained at Caversham, I will maintain the friendship with the Centre as a writer, more even so, as a selfless human being.

At Caversham, I got an opportunity to generated new ideas, wrote poems and letters, shared feelings at Jabula High School, walked at the Ukhahlamba mountains, created some images on ascertain, run a workshop on poetry, met great minds, artists and friends Gabi, Peter, Ayo, Terri, Lionel, Malcolm, Ross and all others I may have forgotten; ate good food, shared jokes, looked after by house people... in fact I did everything humanly possible. Still, I long to go back to that sacred place in KwaZulu-Natal. I wouldn't mind to spend a lifetime at Caversham. February 2005

Continuing the Connection

Dialogue is fundamental to Caversham, so please join us in print. Continue a conversation or begin a new one. Let us know where you are, what you are doing, how connecting with Caversham has affected your life. With your help, we envisage this forum as continually evolving. If you have ideas to share, questions to ask, or simply want to renew contact with the inspiration that is Caversham, please contact us on:

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