

TAXONOMIC TROUBLES: QUEER CROSSINGS AND POLITICAL ZOOLOGIES IN SOUTH AFRICAN VISUAL ART

Monday, 19.10.26, 18–20 p.m.

Conference Room, JenTower, 8th floor



Nandipha Mntambo, From the series *Praca de Touros* (2008).

Guest Lecture with Brown Bag Dinner by Prof. Dr. Ernst van der Wal

Colonial science not only classified the animal kingdom but also created social imaginaries in which human bodies were classified and hierarchised. This lecture explores these inherited imaginaries through the lens of contemporary South African art. In the works of Nandipha Mntambo, Mary Sibande, and Sethembile Mzezane, animal metaphors and hybridity become tools for subverting the colonial imaginaries upon which these hierarchies are based. The boundaries between human and animal blur, and with them the categories of normality and otherness. This reveals how visual practice not only exposes well-established conceptual frameworks but also renegotiates them.