



DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS



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TECHNOLOGY

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Announcement of Conference

Art and Social Justice / ‘the Art of Social Justice’ <http://asjconference.dut.ac.za/default.aspx>

Call for Papers

Durban University of Technology www.dut.ac.za and Art for Humanity www.afh.org.za invite you to a three day international conference on **Art and Social Justice**

Dates: 21 – 24 March 2010

Venue: Durban University of Technology (DUT), Ritson Rd Hotel School, Conference Centre, Durban, South Africa

This major event...involving the collaboration between artists and poets... is consistent with UNESCO’s principle objective as regards the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity. It will no doubt contribute to emphasizing the unique role of the arts as a means of dialogue, communication and understanding... giving its aim of promoting ethical values through artistic expression and creativity...

With these words, Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO, asserts UNESCO’s support and patronage of the Art and Social Justice conference and the associated ‘Dialogue among Civilisations’ project (www.afh.org.za) a unique print portfolio that juxtaposes responses from visual artists and poets on issues of social justice. The exhibition of this project will open on the 21st March 2010 at the Durban Art Gallery.

The conference aims to explore the role and relevance of the arts in addressing issues of social justice. In line with the objectives and principles of the conference organizers, Art for Humanity, the concerns of this conference are primarily directed towards advocacy. The conference serves as a platform for art practitioners and organizations to share experiences drawn from a variety of international contexts to discuss mutual concerns and find solutions to commonly experienced challenges.

The conference aims to arrive at a concrete set of resolutions which can be developed into a policy document about the role of the arts in affecting social change, cultural development and equity.

In line with the hosting institution’s commitment to academic research, the conference is secondly addressed at academic researchers with an interest in art and social justice, who critically examine relevant works in the fields of literature, visual arts, music and performing arts. Preference will be given to papers that explore theoretical avenues to the credible evaluation of public art and art projects directed at advocacy. This dual approach, which will be played out in parallel sessions, is intended to bridge a crucial gap, which frequently divides scholars and practitioners in the arts.

Main theme ‘Arts and Social Justice’

You are hereby invited to submit an abstract on either one of the following **Sub- Themes:**

1. Arts and Social Justice in historical perspective
2. Arts as mediator between traditional/religious practices and human rights
3. Arts, communication, advocacy and audiences
4. Arts as expression of cultural diversity in the context of globalization
5. Arts as heritage and the right to identity
6. Promoting ethical values through artistic expression and creativity in arts education
7. The challenges facing arts activism in the 21st century
8. Art activism advancing the Millennium Development Goals
9. Exploring the benefits for donor organizations supporting the arts for social justice
10. Promoting social justice and intercultural dialogue through the arts
11. Exploring the link between art, social justice and health

Who should attend?

Art for Humanity members and affiliates
Independent researchers
Academics in a range of disciplines
Members of NGOs in the broad fields of art and social justice
Activists and members of and civil society groups, including e.g.; the Treatment Action Campaign
Members of Arts funding bodies
Representatives of Ministries of Culture
Members of Arts representative bodies
Local government representatives
Policy makers in the fields of arts and social justice
Arts educators and administrators
Artists
Members of private foundations
Corporate sponsors
Persons with an interest in arts support
Members of advertising agencies involved in using art in public educational campaigns
Media agencies and members of the press
Gallery and Museum Curators

Important Dates

Submission of abstracts: **31 Oct 2009**

Notification on acceptance of abstract: **30 Nov 2009**

Final date for early-bird registration: **06 Jan 2010**

Final date for late registration and withdrawal: **21 Feb 2010**

Final date for full paper submission (if to be published in the CD-ROM): **02 Feb 2010**

Final Date for full paper submission to be published in Conference Publication: **31 May 2010**

Please submit abstracts of no more than **300-400** words on line at asjconference@dut.ac.za using ‘**Art and Social Justice Conference, abstract submission**’ as a subject headline. All conference details can be obtained from;

<http://asjconference.dut.ac.za/default.aspx>

- **Early bird registration before 6th Jan 2010 = R3750**
- **Late registration after 6th Jan 2010 = R4250**
- **Student before 6th Jan 2010 = R3000**
- **Student late registration after 6th Jan 2010 = R3500**
- The conference fee for delegates will be between R3500 – R4250, does not cover flights or accommodation.