

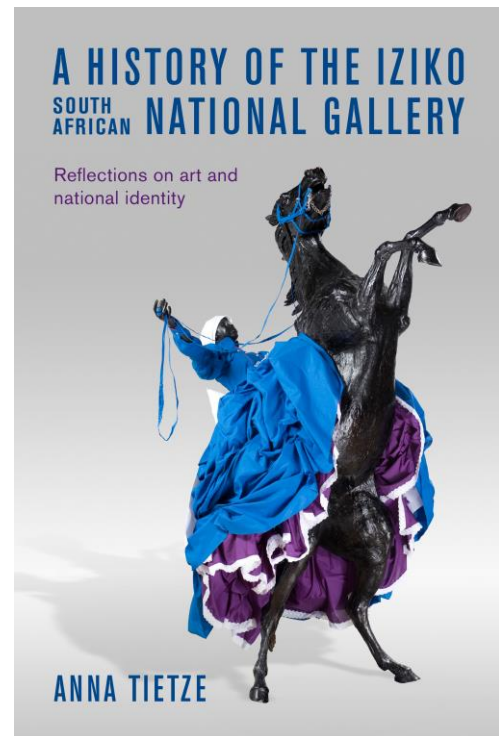


NEW BOOK NOTIFICATION

A HISTORY OF THE IZIKO SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL GALLERY

Reflections on art and
national identity

Author: Anna Tietze
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In South Africa, with its highly contested and changing understandings of national identity, its National Gallery is no less a contested space. *A History of the Iziko South African National Gallery* considers questions of artistic and cultural identity, from the late 19th century to the present day. It explores how the gallery has understood its function and its public, as a 'national' gallery from 1930 and, before that, the chief gallery of the Cape Colony. This question is investigated through a study of the gallery's administration, collection and exhibition practices over the last 150 years.

What is understood by and expected of a national gallery varies considerably worldwide. Should it regard itself as part of a broad international cultural discourse, or should it be representative of a specifically national – or even regional – identity? The gallery is a microcosm of the greater debate: how the South African nation relates to the larger world and how, if at all, it understands the concept of a shared culture.

In the last 20 years, Museum Studies have become a major part of the field of Cultural Studies. There is a vast literature on what might be called the 'history' museum, but far less on the art museum or gallery. To date, there has been no large-scale historical

1st Floor, Sunclare Building, 21 Dreyer Street, Claremont, 7708, Cape Town, South Africa;
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inquiry into the Iziko SANG, the country's *national* gallery. The absence of such a history marks a serious gap in the literature, which this study aims to fill.

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Introduction: the aims and scope of a national gallery

Chapter 1: The colonial gallery: acquisitions and identity, 1875-1930

Chapter 2: Collecting for a national gallery, 1930-47

Chapter 3: The post-war years, 1947-72

Chapter 4: The protest years, 1973-1989

Chapter 5: Transformation post-apartheid, 1990-2017

Conclusion

Recommended for:

Readers interested in South African art and history; students of Museum and Heritage, Curatorship and African Studies courses at universities locally and internationally; Friends of the SANG.

About the author

Anna Tietze is a cultural and art historian with an interest in past and present conceptions of art, academic art history and the art museum. She has taught at the University of Cape Town for many years, in the departments of Cultural History, History of Art, Historical Studies and Michaelis School of Fine Art, and has had extensive curatorial experience with the Iziko South African National Gallery. She is a research associate of Iziko South African National Gallery.