ERDISCIPLINARY EVENT SERIES:

onthly series of inter-disciplinary events curated by Athina Vahla on behalf of the Department of na, Rhodes University. The focus of these events is on the body in performance. Taking the form of re demonstrations, the presentations are staged with little if no rehearsal and expose both process display. They all take place in the theatrical formal space of the 'black box' and each is followed by a ussion with the public. The invited disciplines are often dislocated from their natural arenas and cated in the theatre in order to be looked at through an unfamiliar lens. We are seeking different ways nich the body is manifested as expressive instrument through meaningful encounters with other forms as visual media, music, martial arts, rituals, 'sub-cultural' practices, sports and action driven events.

investigations and experiments conducted by this Inter-disciplinary series will feed into the National Festival production, POLIS, which investigates new modes of knowing by experimenting with vledge as performance.

VIOUS EVENTS:

ormance Research # 1 - Playing Dirty; Women's Soccer, in collaboration with Rhodes Departments port, Fine Arts and Journalism, (15/4/2011).

ormance Research # 2 - Suspension Lecture, in collaboration with Annemi Conradie, Rhodes Fine Art artment, and Freak productions, (11/11/2011).

ormance Research #3 - Beyond Fighting, in collaboration with Maureen de Jager, Fine Art artment, with a demonstration by Karate and Aikido instructors Gary Grapentin and Dr. Denzil Beukes, ulty of Pharmacy, (22/02/2012)

UPCOMING EVENT: POLIS

POLIS: An Arena for the Examination of a South African Town

Produced by: Athina Vahla, Ford Evanson, Mark Wilby, Anton Krueger .

part of the ThinkFest and Performance Art programmes, POLIS interrogates the contested past and present of hamstown in its 200th year, with five different performance presentations, namely: *Arenas*, *Cell*, *Spring*, *Border*, *ket*. Under the roof of the Nun's Chapel, this hybrid event uses performance to challenge the presumptions we y from our un-common history. The result is a fresh, if turbulent, perspective on Grahamstown and the forces shaping civic experience.

llaborating Departments: Politics, Psychology, Geography, Journalism, History, Anthropology, Drama, Fine Arts and Music.

National Arts Festival: July 3 – 8 (18:00), Price: R40.00 The Nun's Chapel

Produced by the Rhodes University Drama Department

Corner Somerset & Prince Alfred Street | Grahamstown | South Africa

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http://www.ru.ac.za/drama

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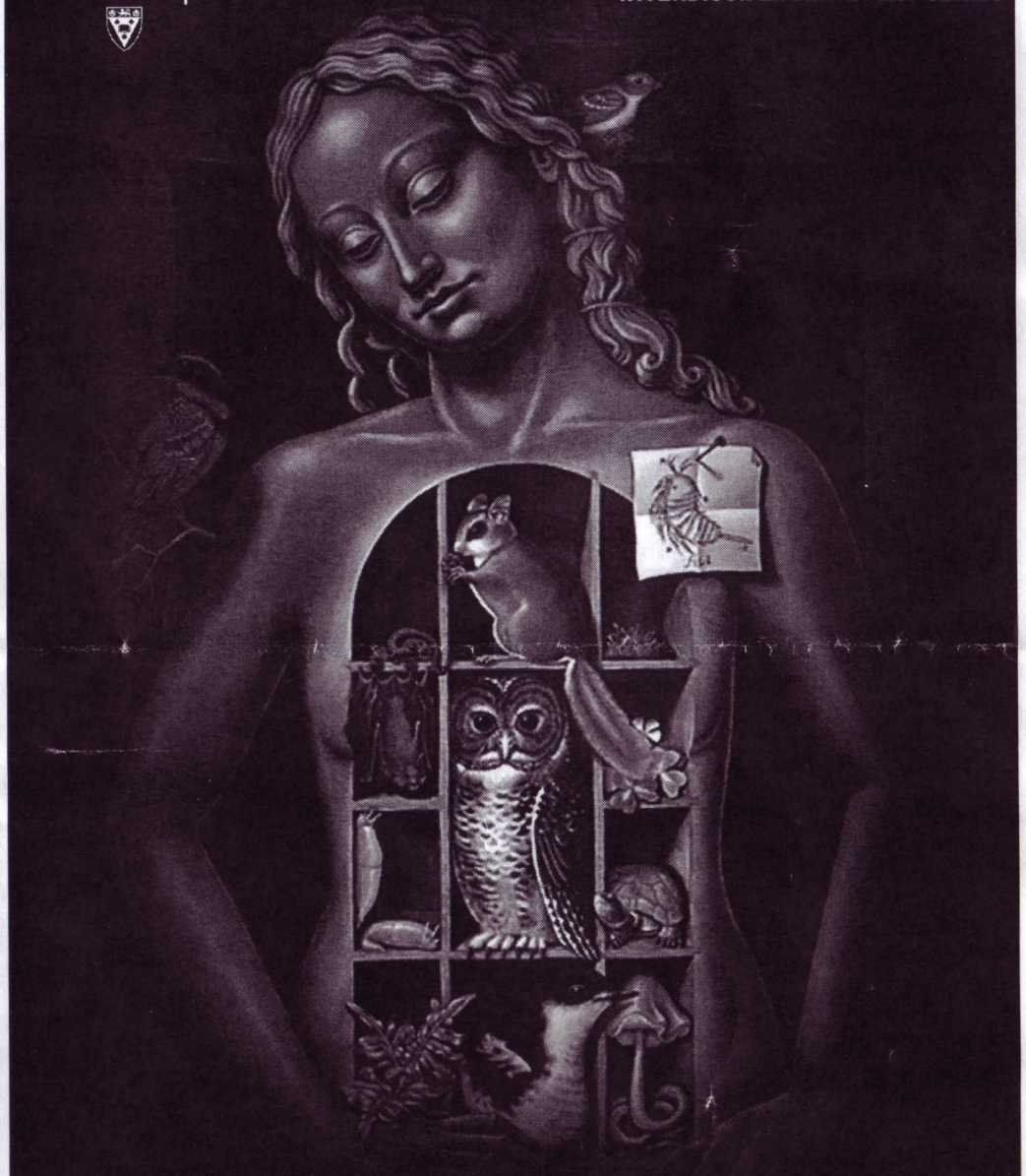
INTERDISCIPLINARY EVENT SERIES



OBJECTS OF DESIRE

A body of evidence / the body on balance / body-double / the body as topography

s presentation considers objects as extensions of self. We invite the public to take a closer look at the ections of eight collectors which will occupy the stage of the Main Theatre. These collections vary n antiques, to collections of data, traces of evidence, and topographies.

an introduction, psychoanalyst Ruby Patel (lecturer in Department of Psychology) will speak briefly on topic of the exteriority and interiority of objects and their relation to senses of self. This will be wed by a short promenade on stage, as the audience are invited to examine these collections and to questions of their collectors. Finally a discussion will follow between the participants and the public, we investigate notions of performativity and extension in this world of objects with which we're ounded.

CONTRIBUTING COLLECTORS

Mark Wilby	A collector of data
Lindi Arbi	A collector of traces
Strato Copteros	A collector of rhythms
Anna-Karien Otto	A collector of antique dresses
David Forsythe	A collector of model aeroplanes
Alwyn Moerdyk	A collector of scales and balances
aMan Bloom	A collector of things that glow in the dark
Sophie Mullins-Poole	A collector of things in the bottoms of drawers

On the stage of the Rhodes Theatre an intuitive composition of collections has been gradually gathering over the last three weeks. Yesterday, eight collections were placed together, with no rehearsal prior to that. This somewhat impromptu design aspires to a spatial geometry of a symbolic order, since I believe that objects have their own entity; their own anima.

I believe that the material world is an animated presence that sustains us. If our existential knowledge is founded on a pre-verbal, spatial and material configuration, then how does this effect the way in which we engage with material forms? In the case of our art making – from cooking to performance – how can we appreciate and be mindful of our bodily expression as human beings in a way that is respectful of the world we have created around us?

The material presence and craftsmanship of objects is often charged by memory, giving them a mnemonic presence. Furthermore, the hand that crafts the object extends itself, creating an artefact as an object of utility or beauty, which inevitably forms part of a collection. In every making, a sense of corporeality of expression emerges.

How do we look at objects? What do we see in them? How do we perceive the environment *through* objects? How do we engage with a world that is filled with these manifestations of the existence of ourselves and others, objects that will remain long after we have gone? What will these objects say about us?

Athina Vahla (Curator)

Mark Wilby *A collector of data*

Mark Wilby is an artist and a filmmaker. He has been discreetly capturing the series of interdisciplinary events on video. When discussion about the current event turned to the body as manifest in and through collection it was immediately apparent that his occupation should not escape scrutiny. His camera watches and collects. It is the go-between in a shifting scale of power relations, since surveillance implies an asymmetrical relationship between the observer and the observed.

Lindi Arbi *A collector of traces*

Lindi Arbi currently lectures sculpture at Rhodes University. Through art-making, she investigates the negotiations between human form and endemic environment. Lindi has a preference for art objects that *themselves* undergo change or transformation within display. Her work specifically incorporates an aspect of object animation and movement, and viewers are encouraged to playfully participate in the exhibition space. For the performative aspect of body-casting in *Objects of Desire* Lindi is assisted by Lauren Fletcher, whilst the subject to be cast will remain a mystery until unmasked.

Strato Copteros *A collector of rhythms*

Strato Copteros is a drummer and member of the Grahamstown based Blues-Rock band, SunshiP. Ever experimental in his drumming, Strato collects different types and sizes of drumsticks and brushes, each with its own very particular resonance when hitting a drum-skin or cymbal. In his playing he draws on rhythmic influences that range from rock, to traditional Greek and African music. This combination of various sizes and types of sticks, as well as rhythmic influences, allows him to give every piece of music its own timbre, and to explore rhythmic patterns in terms of both their tone and time signature.

Anna-Karien Otto *A collector of antique dresses*

Anna-Karien Otto is a freelance writer and proofreader. As a writer (and collector) of stories, she is particularly interested in the story behind each of the dresses in her collection. She is interested in the stories of her dresses, both the factual (where he dress was found, when it was made) and the imagined (why each dress has a name). Each and every dress represents many intertwining layers of culture, history, society and the vast imagination of women. Apart from her collection of dresses, she also collects teacups, cake tins and clockwork toys.

David Forsythe *A collector of model aeroplanes*

David studied Computer Science and first worked in light industrial robotics. This arena gave rise to his sense that "if you can measure it you can control it". Currently he applies his IT and programming knowledge to the area of hydrological cycle modeling and maintaining the IT infrastructure for the Institute for Water Research. He finds both exhilaration and relaxation in remotely controlling flying objects.

Alwyn Moerdyk *A collector of scales and balances*

Alwyn Moerdyk is a lecturer in Psychology. He collects antique scales and balances, believing that these weighing machines, which attach a visible value to the invisible aspect of weight, epitomise the meeting place of art and science; in much the same way that ornate watches and other time pieces have become articles of fashion as much as they are useful for keeping time.

aMan Bloom *A collector of things that glow in the dark*

aMan Bloom became interested in chemistry mainly because one could pour a white powder into a clear liquid and get green smoke. He became attracted to glow-in-the-dark objects because they were as close to real magic as a sceptical scientist could get.

Sophie Mullins-Poole *A collector of things in the bottoms of drawers*

Sophie Mullins-Poole is a grade 5 school girl who will share with you her world of bottom-of-the-drawer things. Things that she values or valued. Things which carry memories but which are small and easily lost or forgotten. Things that once were precious but might later be thrown out. Things that were special and magical when she first experienced them. Things in the bottoms of drawers.