

South Africa: the art of a nation

27 October 2016
- 26 February 2017

Sponsored by Betsy and Jack Ryan
Logistics partner IAG Cargo

The British Museum's shops are pleased to unveil the extensive brand new retail collections in support of this ground-breaking exhibition, sponsored by Betsy and Jack Ryan, and with logistics partner IAG Cargo. Products range from designer jewellery to sculptures; home and fashion accessories to toys and games. Many of the pieces are exclusive to the British Museum shops, and every purchase goes towards the vital support of the British Museum. Highlights shown below - details of the full range can be obtained from the British Museum Shops' PR Company.

In this exhibition a diverse range of art from across the ages tells a story that stretches back over 100,000 years. From rock art made by the country's earliest peoples to works by South African artists at the forefront of contemporary art, the exhibition features beautiful and important objects, which illustrate South Africa's rich history.

This design is based on an original painting by Esther Mahlangu. Born in 1935 Esther was taught painting and beadwork in the distinctively graphic style of the South Ndebele people. This painting technique is handed down through the female side of the family, with its meanings and symbols learned only by women. Whilst advancing the traditions of the Ndebele style through worldwide museum and commercial exhibitions, she has reached a wider audience by also applying her designs to ceramics, clothing, cars and even an aeroplane. Tea Towel - £6.99.





Karel Nel is a contemporary South African artist who has often engaged his art with science and the deep past. This design is taken from his artwork Taung (1985); a computer graphic of the skull of a child found in Taung, South Africa in 1925. At that time it was thought that humans had their origins in either Europe or Asia, but by the late 1940s it was widely accepted that this skull was of a primate who was a transitional form between apes and humans. This artwork celebrates the 60th anniversary of the discovery and its implications for all humanity. Bag - £9.99.



This beautiful colourful necklace evokes classic South African beaded jewellery, with a fresh contemporary twist. Designed by Henriette Botha and handmade in Johannesburg by local artisans, the brand is working to maintain the craft indigenous to South Africa whilst at the same time developing skill and creating jobs. The piece is created using glass beads wrapped around cotton rope, presenting striking colourful patterns. £150.00.



Kaross creates opportunities for rural women to make a living by embroidering stunning wall hangings, cushions and tableware. Kaross is an initiative that started in 1989 with five Shangaan embroiderers and Irma van Rooyen, a visual artist, as creative director and founder. Sitting on a kaross (blanket) the ladies started creating works of art unique to themselves and their cultural background. Over the past 22 years Kaross has become the voice of 1000 plus Shangaan people. Cushions in assorted designs £45.00 each.

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27 October 2016 - 26 February 2017
Room 35

British Museum, Great Russell Street,
London WC1B 3DG

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The development of this exhibition was supported by a Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grant from the Art Fund. Tickets £12.00, children under 16 free; group rates available; booking fees apply online and by phone +44 (0)20 7323 8181

Opening times:
Saturday –Thursday 10.00–17.30
Friday 10.00–20.30
Last entry 80 minutes before closing time.

A full public programme will accompany the exhibition.

More information is available from the press office.

Follow updates on the exhibition via Twitter with #SouthAfricanArt and follow the Museum @britishmuseum

The beautifully illustrated exhibition catalogue, 'South Africa: the art of a nation', by John Giblin and Chris Spring will be published in October 2016 by Thames & Hudson in collaboration with the British Museum. Hardback £40, paperback £25.

For further information on the British Museum please contact the Press Office on +44 20 7323 8394 / 8583 / communications@britishmuseum.org
High resolution images and caption sheet available at <http://bit.ly/2ayTgmx>

Media Enquiries

Please contact the British Museum Company's PR agency for high resolution photography and for any further information. Contact details:
Jo Welch, Deco Living Media Ltd,
jo.welch@decoltd.com,
+ 44 (0) 7767 416 092

Notes to Editors

The British Museum Online shop:
www.britishmuseumshoponline.org
Reader enquiries telephone the British Museum's Grenville Room shop:
0203 073 4998

The British Museum Company runs the British Museum Shops, both online and at several locations in the British Museum. These include the Book Shop stocking publications by British Museum Press and other major publishers, situated in the Great Court; the Grenville Room, a showcase for the finest and most exclusive products available at the Museum; the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre shop (WCEC), a contemporary space dedicated to retailing supporting products for the exhibitions in the WCEC; the Great Court Gift Shops; the Collections Shops; as well as the shop in Room 35 which is dedicated to presenting exclusive products related to the temporary exhibitions on display. The British Museum Company produce bespoke products as well as sourcing quality crafts, jewellery, fashion accessories and home wares that complement the world collections of the British Museum.

▪The British Museum's Grenville Room shop is the flagship showroom of the finest retail collections on sale. This destination shop is world famous. Contact: 0203 073 4998.

About IAG Cargo

IAG Cargo is the single business created following the merger of British Airways World Cargo and Iberia Cargo in April 2011. Following the integration of additional airlines into the business, including Aer Lingus, bmi and Vueling, IAG Cargo now covers a network of over 350 destinations. IAG Cargo has a longstanding relationship flying freight from South Africa to the rest of the world. With a specialist team dedicated to the careful handling of valuable goods, IAG Cargo is a proud logistics partner of the South Africa: the art of a nation exhibition.

For further information, please visit the IAG Cargo YouTube channel:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/IAGCargo>
or alternatively visit the IAG Cargo website:
<https://www.iagcargo.com>