

Jose Ferreira

Biography

Jose Ferreira was born in Mozambique in 1967 and grew up in South Africa. He lived in London for several years, and in 2005 returned to Johannesburg to initiate a new body of research. He is Assistant Professor of Sculpture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

His artistic practice incorporates various media in which he engages debates about the self, technology, history and post-colonialism. The works often critique cultural generalizations of stereotyping and fetishism implicit in established cinematic genres. In performances, he experiments with the temporal qualities of psychological capacity, stressing the limits of physical situations in relation to his body.

Ferreira has lectured internationally on media and post colonialism. He was Research Fellow in Digital Media at Sunderland University in the UK, and has taught in media and cultural studies departments in various universities, including the University of East London, Winchester School of Art and the University of Portsmouth.

He has curated several exhibitions, including sulSouth, voyages into mutant technologies, an exhibition and film project in Maputo, Mozambique in 2001. For that project he invited filmmakers from various countries previously colonized by Portugal, to exhibit in specific contexts in and around the city. Many of the works on the exhibition interrogated the notion of contested histories.

He was co-founder and co-director of the Trinity Session based in Johannesburg, an artists' initiative that curates projects. This quote from their website: "By acting as correspondents and consultants, and approaching the work process from a network and accommodation and exchange of information angle... the purpose of the working dynamic is to produce in a cross-platform multidisciplinary way with artists, institutions and corporate brands and services."

As a writer he has contributed to several international magazines and publications including Artists Newsletter (UK), Art South Africa, the World Wide Video Festival catalogue, the Eighth Havana Biennale catalogue, and many others.

Ferreira is a recipient of grants and awards from numerous organizations including The Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development in The Hague, London Arts, and the Human Science Research Council.

He is the founder of The Changing Room, a cultural orientation think-tank that stimulates debate around issues of identity and post-colonialism, an on going project initiated in 2005.

He is currently researching material for two long-term film projects. One of these, Looking for Black Hamlet - a secret history of madness in Southern Africa includes a film, an archive, and a publication. It looks at the anomalous history of mental illness, politics and public complicity.