



The *Letsopa* African Ceramics Gallery forms part of the University of Pretoria Museums. The *Letsopa* Gallery is adjacent to the Mapungubwe Gold Gallery, so a visit to the museums should be combined to include the other nearby galleries that are dedicated to the World of Ceramics and other sculptural collections, all of which are situated on the main campus. The ceramic galleries are housed in the Old Arts Building, an iconic national monument dating back to 1910 and are dedicated to the preservation of museum collections by the Department of UP Arts.



EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

South African Ceramics: Museum Ceramic Collections of the University of Pretoria (2016)

By Sian L. Tiley-Nel and Gerard C. de Kamper

For the *Letsopa* exhibition, as well as the South African ceramics gallery, this volume serves as a peerless testament to the diversity, beauty and significance of local ceramics. They range from 12th century archaeological ceramics through to 20th century factory production and studio ceramics to traditional, historical and contemporary ceramics. The catalogue offers visual insight into the multiplicity of the curated ceramic collections of the University of Pretoria and fosters an appreciation for the infinite exquisiteness of ceramic art.

Exhibition catalogues for sale @ R150 each.

Admission - Free of charge
Hours - Open Monday to Friday 08:00 -16:00
Contact - 012 420 5450 / 012 420 2968
Email - museums@up.ac.za
Tours - hcstours@up.ac.za or Tel: 012 420 5155
Visit - www.up.ac.za/up-arts
Location - Hatfield Campus, Old Arts Building
GPS Coordinates: 25°45'14.9"S 28°13'48.7"E



UNIVERSITY of PRETORIA MUSEUMS

Department of UP Arts

LETSOPA Clay

The African Ceramics Gallery



Letsopa, meaning 'clay' in Sepedi, is a new permanent gallery dedicated to the art of African ceramics. Dating back to the archaeological period through to the contemporary, the selection of over 90 ceramics is drawn from the extensive ceramic collections curated by the University of Pretoria. The ceramics featured reflect form, function and fundamental beauty that celebrate the tradition of indigenous ceramic making i.e. earth, water, fire and air.

"We have this treasure in earthen vessels"

- Explore more than ten displays of Iron Age ceramic vessels dating back a thousand years ago.
- Discover the four universal elements of earth, water, air and fire, which are the fundamental elements of ceramic making.
- Appreciate the beauty of rare archaeological clay human and animal figurines.
- Learn more about archaeological clay spindle whorls used in the production of ancient textiles.
- Enjoy watching a short documentary of contemporary ceramic production by renowned South African ceramicist, Nic Sithole from Mamelodi.
- See an educational video about the conservation of southern African ceramics through the eyes of a conservator.
- Feel the contours of a giant reproduction of a Mapungubwe recurved jar.

The choice selection of exceptional ceramics originate mostly from the K2 and Mapungubwe archaeological collection, one of the most outstanding and comprehensive Iron Age ceramic collections of its kind on public display. The ceramics constitute indigenous manufacture and include functional pottery forms used for household activities, elaborate pots used in ritual burials and a selection of symbolic clay figurines.

The exhibition is funded by proceeds from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund.

