

Artivism

Conference 2026

Reimagining Futures

Arts, Design & Activism in Global Transformations

Tshwane University of Technology
Faculty of Arts and Design
Pretoria, South Africa

1 – 3 October 2026

Venue to be confirmed

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

The Faculty of Arts and Design at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), in collaboration with the South African Journal of Art History (SAJAH) and the City of Tshwane (CoT), proudly announces the Artivism Conference 2026, Reimagining Futures, Arts, Design & Activism in Global Transformation.

The term activism is used in many creative disciplines to describe how art and design serve as tools for social and political change. It often refers to the complex relationships between creative practice and activism, with practitioners extending these ideas to challenge traditional distinctions between aesthetic work and political action.

Contemporary artists and designers are increasingly combining activism with creative practice, making activism a process of social engagement rather than fixed cultural production. In the context of the Global South, activism demonstrates how creative practice can address both colonial legacies and contemporary challenges, generating new approaches to community engagement and social change.

Artivism has gained traction in the creative disciplines, particularly in relation to decolonial practice, digital activism, and community-led interventions. The rise of digital technologies has foregrounded activism as a site of complex relationships, where creative practice and political action are in constant negotiation.

The 2026 conference, building on the 2024 conference, now aims to explore these relationships and connections to reveal the richness of contemporary activism. In the spirit of creative curiosity, we ask that papers, demonstrations, displays, performances, panel discussions focus on questions and provocations while also guiding the way forward. We welcome practice-based research and hope that the conference will be a platform for creative knowledge exchange.

Submitted abstracts could focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Climate justice and environmental awareness through creative practice
- Digital activism: technology, resistance, and new audiences
- Healing, trauma, and reconciliation through art and design
- Pedagogical methods for activism in higher education
- Decolonial futures: Art, identity, and cultural reconquest
- Urban interventions and community empowerment
- AI, ethics, and creative resistance
- Gender justice and intersectional approaches in activism
- Other novel research and experimental approaches to activism

We invite contributions, performances and visual presentations from academics, researchers, practitioners, and postgraduate students.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

ABSTRACTS

- Title of the presentation
- Name(s) of presenter(s)
- Email address(es) of presenter(s)
- Institutional affiliation of presenter(s) (A researcher not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent researcher”)
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography (not more than 200 words)
- Paper must be in English
- Paper presentations: 20 minutes and 10 minutes Q & A session

WORKSHOPS/DISCUSSION GROUPS/PANEL DISCUSSION

- Title of the workshop/discussion group/panel discussion
- Name(s) of presenter(s)
- Email address(es) of presenter(s)
- Institutional affiliation of presenter(s) (A researcher not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent researcher”)
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography(ies) (not more than 200 words)
- Workshops/discussion groups/panel discussions must be in English
- Workshops: 30 or 60 minutes
- Discussion groups/panel discussions: 30-minute engagements

VISUAL ART

- Title of the artwork
- Name(s) of artist(s)
- Email address(es) of artists(s)
- Institutional affiliation of artist(s) (A artist not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent artist”)
- Artist statement not more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography(ies) (not more than 200 words)
- Detailed/technical description of the artwork.
- Photo of the artwork.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Title of the poster presentation
- Name(s) of presenter(s)
- Email address(es) of presenter(s)
- Institutional affiliation of presenter(s) (A researcher not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent researcher”)
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography (not more than 200 words)
- Posters must be in English
- Maximum three A1-sized posters per person

PERFORMANCES

- Title of the performance
- Name(s) of presenter(s)
- Email address(es) of presenter(s)
- Institutional affiliation of artist(s) (A artist not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent”)
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography (not more than 200 words)
- Performances up to 20 minutes long and 10 minutes Q & A.
- Include technical requirements and cast size.
- Short clip of performance 1 - 3 minutes to be submitted.

FILMS

- Title of the film
- Name(s) of director(s)
- Email address(es) of director(s)
- Institutional affiliation of director(s) (A director not affiliated to an institution is designated as “independent director”)
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words
- Keywords: 3 - 5
- Abbreviated biography (not more than 200 words)
- Films can either be one session (20 minutes and 10 minutes for Q & A) or run over two sessions (50 minutes and 10 minutes for Q & A).
- Short trailer of 1 - 3 minutes of the film to be submitted.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

To submit your abstract, please click here:



<https://forms.office.com/r/UVVb1RdyX>

ARTISTIC/WORKSHOP/POSTER/FILM/PERFORMANCE SUBMISSIONS

To submit your artistic/workshop/poster/performance/discussion group proposal, please click here:



<https://forms.office.com/r/tuGnbHA0jT>

CALL FOR PEER-REVIEWERS

To ensure the success of Artivism 2026: Reimagining Futures International Conference, we call for peer-reviewers with expertise that align with the 2026 conference theme, Art, Design & Activism in Global Transformations. Your involvement as a peer reviewer would be invaluable. If you are interested in this opportunity, we kindly request that you complete the application form using the link below. Your positive participation will play a role in shaping the Artivism 2026: Reimagining Futures International Conference. We look forward to your participation.

- Surname, Name, Title/Pronoun
- Email address
- Institutional affiliation
- Area of specialisation
- Curriculum Vitae



To submit your application, please click here <https://forms.office.com/r/4QWUTxQ2hx>

CONFERENCE SESSION CHAIRS

To ensure the success of Artivism 2026: Reimagining Futures International Conference, we call for session chairs with expertise that align with the 2026 conference theme, Art, Design & Activism in Global Transformations. Your involvement as a session chair would be invaluable. If you are interested in this opportunity, we kindly request that you complete the application form using the link below. Your positive participation will play a role in presenting a successful Artivism 2026: Reimagining Futures International Conference. We look forward to your participation.

Basic Expectations of Session Chairs

- Familiarise yourself with the content of the papers and/or performances scheduled for your session.
- Introduce the presenters or performers.
- Prepare a few thoughtful questions to stimulate discussion.
- Facilitate the session, ensuring it runs smoothly and on time.
- Provide a brief written summary of the session highlights, which will be included in the day's concluding remarks.
 - Surname, Name, Title/Pronoun
 - Email address
 - Institutional affiliation
 - Area of specialisation
 - Abbreviated biography (not more than 200 words)



To submit your application, please click here <https://forms.office.com/r/wb0H93SdsC>

IMPORTANT DATES OF THE CONFERENCE

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| • Submission Deadline | 28 February 2026 |
| • Notification of Acceptance | 30 June 2026 |
| • Final Submission of Materials for Publicity and Programme | 21 September 2026 |
| • Presentation Submission | 1 - 3 October 2026 |
| • Conference Dates | |

ARTICLE PUBLICATION

IMPORTANT: Those interested in publishing in the SAJAH special edition are to submit their completed articles (approximately 4 000 - 7 000 words) by 30 June 2026 to be peer reviewed.

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| • Submission of Articles | 30 June 2026 |
| • Notification of Acceptance of Article | 31 July 2026 |
| • Peer review of article & corrections | 30 September 2026 |
| • Completed article submission for publication | 30 October 2026 |
| • Expected Publication | November/December 2026 |

REGISTRATION

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| • Early Bird Registration (until 29 May 2026) | R5 500.00 |
| • Full Registration (from 1 June - 31 August 2025) | R6 500.00 |
| • Registered Students (proof of registration to be submitted) | R3 000.00 |
| • Daily Registration | R2 000.00 |

Proof of payments to be received by 31 August to confirm registration.

ARTIVISM 2026: REIMAGINING FUTURES CONTACT EMAIL

For inquiries, please email XXX

 FADArtivism26@tut.ac.za

 www.tutfadshowcase.ac.za

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