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Subtle Thresholds at the Iziko SA Museum

This exhibition by artist, Fritha Langerman, showcases some of the debates around biomedical visual and material culture. Drawing on the collections of the Iziko South African Museum, the University of Cape Town, the Wits Adler Museum, and including new works by the artist, *Subtle Thresholds* is mainly concerned with the visual representation of infectious disease.

Situated in the gallery between the social history and natural history displays at the ISAM, the exhibition aims to create a bridge between the two areas with a complicated visual network of links. In doing so, *Subtle Thresholds* seeks to expose some of the cultural and historical mythologies that have contributed to the perception of infectious disease as a state of otherness and separation.

Subtle Thresholds manages to show potentially fearful items as objects of interest and beauty. "Infectious diseases are caused by organisms which are as deserving of visual attention as any other species. The exhibition suggests that within an extremely complex biological system, humans represent a very small unit," says Langerman.

As Hamish Robertson, Director of Natural History Collections, put it: "*Subtle Thresholds* is an excellent example of how art, social history and natural history can be integrated in a single exhibition. We are aiming to integrate artistic and cultural elements more prominently in future permanent Natural History exhibitions in the Iziko SA Museum. Ultimately, all life, art and culture is connected and the museum exhibitions should stimulate greater perception of such connections."

-The *e-news* editorial team



Displays from the *Subtle Thresholds* exhibition.
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Editorial

Staff News is big this month, with wedding bells and a 60th birthday and information about new staff including a new researcher in Marine Biology, the new Director at EPP and the IA intern. We are updated on the foyer renovations, which are nearing completion – please do take time to have a look. We have a very special article from Carol Kaufmann about a mysterious collection of photographs donated to Iziko; take a look at what the South African Museum looked like almost a hundred years ago! When you wander over to the ISAM to look at the foyer renovations, be sure to visit the innovative and interesting exhibition, *Subtle Thresholds*, you won't be sorry. We bring you updates on the continuation of executive leadership, important staff restructuring, the new brand strategy and this year's audit in the hot-off-the-press report back from the 26 August staff meeting. Be sure to keep yourself up to date on the changes within Iziko Museums! The women of Iziko were pampered during Women's month and Wandile scoops an international bursary to study in Sweden. The usual CEO's Diary, Hot and Happening and the Iziko Star make up the rest of this exciting issue.

Spring has sprung at Rust en Vreugd - so pop in to visit and smell the jasmine and lavender.

- The *e-news* editorial team

Please email Marcia Marais at mmarais@iziko.org.za with your news items.

Erratum

Apologies to Faith Dibakoane and Suvashni Casoojee for the misprint in the July edition of *e-news*. The entire piece on "Librarians Leaving" was related to Faith, not Suvashni.