

Fak'ugesi 2016 lineup

The Fak'ugesi African Digital Innovation Festival, taking place from 19 August-3 September 2016, will bring to the fore the role women play in digital arts as well as celebrate digital art and its impact on culture, creativity, arts and technology.



With its Afro Tech Riot theme, festival organiser, Tegan Bristow, says that this year's lineup will illustrate how creativity and technology are becoming more mainstream and the important role women are playing in this space: "We are very proud of the lineup of women this year. The successful engagement of arts, culture, creativity and technology by women is inspiring, and worthy of a spotlight at this year's Fak'ugesi festival."

Festival participants

Taking place at The Tshimologong Precinct in Braamfontein, Bristow adds: "I have several incredible women collaborating with us this year to showcase the possibilities within culture and technology: Janine Johnston, national coordinator of the Maker Library Network in South Africa who is working with the British Council to bring a host of free maker workshops to the festival; Kerry Friend, executive creative director, Isobar, is working with teams of musicians and technologists, including female performer Lindiwe Matshikiza, for the Festival's "Future Sounds" project; and Thato Noinyane, project manager, British Council Connect ZA who brings us the Festival's Market Hack and Soweto Pop Up projects among many other activities. They have all assisted in developing an exciting, and much-needed focus on women in digital arts."

Chaza and Kgatle

An exciting element of the festival is the Artist Residency and this year will also feature the talents of two up-and-coming African women: Vuyi Chaza and Regina Kgatle.

Chaza wants to create spaces and opportunities where women in Zimbabwe can pursue a career in digital arts: “This is not only about growing the art form, but more importantly for Chaza, it is about shaping the narrative surrounding women in Zimbabwe.”

For Regina Kgatle digital arts is a way in which she can use games to educate people no matter where they live or what school they go to. She is the founder of Educade and a non-profit start-up called 67games, which is how Kgatle reaches schools around South Africa. She is one of the Mail & Guardians top 200 Young people and has been nominated for the African Alliance award by the United Nations.

The Festival will host with Women in Tech ZA a special Festival focused networking session on the evening of 25 August as part of its Fak’ugesi Talks programme. Visitors must book online to join.

Adding some international flavour to the lineup is London-based digital artist Valentina Floris and immersive filmmaker Karen Palmer from SDNA, who will not only share how they are breaking boundaries in their mediums, but explore the intersections between technology, creativity and innovation.

For more information, visit www.Fakugesi.co.za.

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