

Boschendal Farm, Norval Foundation join hands to launch historic-artistic collaboration

Boschendal farm and Norval Foundation have established a formal partnership that will introduce guests visiting the much-loved historic Winelands farm to some of South Africa, and the continent's, top artists.



Installation of visual activist Zanele Muholi's photographic work. | Source: Supplied

The partnership will see the establishment of a series of satellite art exhibitions hosted at Boschendal's historic Manor House and surrounding grounds. Respected as one of the country's oldest farms, with deep cultural and community roots stretching back to 1685, Boschendal's collaboration with Norval further reflects the farm's commitment to celebrating emerging creative talent through arts and culture.

The Norval Foundation was founded in 2018 and has established itself as a premier centre for the research, education and exhibition of 20th and 21st century visual art from South Africa and beyond.

From today, visitors will be welcomed by a contemporary collection of art that contrasts with the Manor House's rich history, providing a nuanced experience for art lovers. The first year's programming will be drawn from Norval Foundation's Homestead Collection, which features artists from across Africa, but with a strong Southern Africa representation. Exhibitions will rotate every three to four months and admission is free.

In addition to the museum-quality exhibitions on show in the Manor House, a bespoke art retail section will be introduced alongside it and will include, to start with, unique clay vases by designer and sculptor Githan Coopoo specifically created for Boschendal. The exhibition Githan Coopoo: Structural Integrity will be the artist's first solo exhibition. The art retail offering is a perfect complement to the farm's recently launched omnichannel retail offering that delivers a selection of locally sourced goods to South African homes.



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Work has been completed on a sensitive renovation and restoration of the historic Manor House. In consultation with specialists from Cape Heritage, Boschendal and its architect partners have made temporary changes to the Manor House's interior to accommodate the art displays and an anticipated increased footfall from visitors excited to see the Norval satellite art exhibitions at the farm.

"The combination of Boschendal's rich cultural heritage and the Norval Foundation's unparalleled access to contemporary African art will create an extraordinary experience for all our guests," says Georgie Davidson, CEO at Boschendal. "We are proud to introduce this unique showcase blending history, art and innovation, and look forward to welcoming guests from all over the world to our historic farm to join us in celebrating inspiring South African and African creative talent."

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