

This edition of Focus is dedicated to Arts and Culture. The question may well be posed as to why an organisation whose mandate is the promotion of liberal constitutional democracy should be spending time and resources on the Arts. At the Helen Suzman Foundation (HSF), we believe that the development of both human and social capital is central to the tasks of building a society where both individual excellence and community development are valued.



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As with Sport, the Arts play a central role in building social cohesion. As one of our contributors, Michael Rea, points out, “the Arts are not a ‘nice to have’: they are fundamental to the development of a rich, vibrant, safe, tolerant, educated and sustainable society”.

This edition of *Focus* will be launched at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, where the HSF will hold a Roundtable on the funding of the Arts. The idea for this Roundtable came out of a series of discussions with the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT) and Business Arts South Africa (BASA).

Chats Devroop’s article on *Music and Exile*, which is an edited version of a keynote address delivered at the Goethe Institute earlier this year, is a poignant reflection on culture and identity. It draws on the work of both Henry Kaman, perhaps the pre-eminent historian of Spain, and the late Edward Said. Its focus is on the development, especially of jazz, both within South Africa and outside of it, during the apartheid years.

This theme of exile is reflected in Claudia Braude’s arresting piece on Irma Stern. Braude is aware of the vagaries of the art market and Stern, but she focuses on Stern’s development as a German Expressionist and explores the impact of the impending catastrophe which was to assail German and, indeed, European Jewry. This article is part of a larger project by Braude on Stern.

Tessa Graaff’s lyrical article on *Design and innovation in South Africa* draws on the observations made in a previous *Focus* article by Malegapuru Makgoba. Graaff makes an impassioned case for having a *Chair with Wings* affiliated to our educational institutions, and that Design must be part of our everyday education and thinking. The *Chair with Wings* is on the back cover of *Focus*.

Michael Gardiner’s article on Lionel Abrahams, Bill Ainslie and Barney Simon brings together three extraordinary individuals who, though their work both highlighted and exploited the contradictions of state policy in the dark apartheid years. This article is part of a larger project on important cultural figures which Gardiner has undertaken.

Brenda Schmahmann and Hayden Proud both tackle the thorny problem of funding. Schmahmann poses the important question: Should creative practices at universities be accredited? She offers creative ways of overcoming historic patterns of resistance from both universities and the state. Hayden Proud’s historic overview of funding the National Gallery is an uncomfortable reminder of the difficulties which so many public institutions face in this ongoing funding crisis.

We conclude with four narrative pieces as a way of illustrating various community and corporate initiatives in supporting the Arts, and we conclude with two book reviews.