

MEMORIST COMPILING AND CONSOLIDATING THE INVENTORY OF THE NELSON MANDELA MUSEUM



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MEMORIST, a the leading skills centre for heritage preservation, conservation, digitization and sharing, proudly announces its recent work with the esteemed Nelson Mandela Museum in Mthatha, South Africa. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in preserving the legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918 – 2013), the former State President of the Republic of South Africa.

The Nelson Mandela Museum, home to approximately 4000 objects primarily comprised of gifts to the former president of South Africa and international icon. These gifts range in material from children's drawings to gifts given by visiting heads of state. The collection aims to uphold Mandela's memory as a dynamic and evolving tribute. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a comprehensive inventory, the museum has partnered with MEMORIST to enhance its existing accession register into a formalized digital inventory.

As part of the contract, MEMORIST is conducting provenance research alongside the inventory update, ensuring the integrity and historical context of the collection. This meticulous approach aligns with the requirements set forth by the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) for the declaration of the museum's collection as a Specifically Declared Heritage Collection under Section 32 of the National Heritage Resources Act.

"We are honored to be entrusted with this vital task of preserving the legacy of Nelson Mandela," said Laurent Onainty, CEO of MEMORIST. "Our team is committed to delivering a comprehensive digital inventory that not only meets the standards of SAHRA but also pays homage to Mandela's extraordinary life and contributions."



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The phased approach proposed by MEMORIST will ensure efficient progress while maintaining the highest standards of accuracy and detail. Upon completion, the digital inventory will be submitted to the National Inventory Unit of SAHRA, paving the way for the collection's inclusion in the South African Heritage Resources Information System (SAHRIS).

Dr Vuyani Booi, CEO of Nelson Mandela Museum says:

“Museum is excited to pursue this transformative project that will see the museum collection declared by SAHRA as national estate. The exciting prospect of this project is when we are working with an institution like MEMORIST which displays a high aptitude of excellence and professionalism which is well deserving for a global icon like Nelson Mandela’s collection.

Therefore, as Nelson Mandela Museum, we are excited that national and international researchers, museum visitors, university students, and stakeholders (both physical and digital) will have an opportunity to access and utilise a well preserved and conserved collection online and otherwise.

As management of the museum, we view this project as the beginning and launching of a digital project and digitalising museum collections for a wider audience and for conservation purpose. Since my appointment as CEO in 2022, my vision has been to ensure that the Nelson Mandela Museum is not left out in the 4IR. The success of this project will boost confidence of prospective stakeholders and donors to the museum for future projects the museum aims to undertake like digitization, digital tours and many others.”



Photo provided by MEMORIST



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About MEMORIST

MEMORIST, part of the Mobilitas Group, is a leading provider of interdisciplinary expertise conserves, restores, digitizes and communicates cultural heritage, in our workshops or on your premises, in situ. The combination of our unique skills allows us to work with all types of heritage sources: 2D / 3D / audio and filmic, and to offer tailor-made solutions adapted to specific needs. With a commitment to excellence and innovation, MEMORIST helps preserve and promote the rich heritage of iconic figures and historical artifacts. Its 250 experts combine traditional techniques with innovative technologies and deploy their know-how in France and abroad.

The presentation video of MEMORIST :

www.thememorist.com/video

About Mobilitas

Founded 50 years ago and now run by the third generation of the Taïeb and Castro families, the MOBILITAS group is a medium-sized enterprise specialising in the mobility of goods and people, physical and digital archiving, and the digital preservation of heritage. The group, present in 102 countries, relies on its own network on the one hand and its exclusive agents on the other to offer its customers an unrivalled service in all its sectors of activity. The long term reflects its philosophy and culture, which guide its major business and investment decisions. Decisions that regularly shape and strengthen the Group as it moves towards new processes, new businesses and new horizons.

About Nelson Mandela Museum

The Nelson Mandela Museum, located in the heart of Mthatha in the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. The museum boasts a collection of over 4000 artefacts associated with former President and international icon, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. The collection is housed within the historic Bhunga Building (a former parliament of the Transkei) and traces the life and legacy of tata Madiba in his own words, as well as displaying selected gifts bestowed on the statesman during, and after, his presidency.

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