

Tanya Zack

Urban planner in Johannesburg

tanyazack@icon.co.za



Tanya Zack is an urban planner who holds a PhD from University of Witwatersrand for her work on Critical Pragmatism in Planning.

Her core skills and work experience include policy development, research, writing, project management and facilitation of community participation. Her clients have included the City of Johannesburg, the Department of Housing (now Human Settlements) and Urban LandMark. She has operated as an independent consultant since 1991 and straddles academic research and practice. Tanya's recent consulting work, research, publication and creative writing centres on the inner city of Johannesburg. This includes work on migrant spaces and in particular on the spatial and economic shifts in an Ethiopian entrepreneurial location in the inner city.

Wake Up This Is Joburg

Tanya Zack



abstract

WAKE UP, THIS IS JOBURG, is a series of ten photobooks by Tanya Zack and Mark Lewis about the city we hate to love but do anyway. It tells the stories of ten ordinary, interesting, odd or outrageous denizens of the city of Johannesburg. The intersections of particular lives, livelihoods and spaces that make up the first five titles in this series offer an opportunity to reflect on current Johannesburg:

Skop, which takes readers into a disused parking garage in the inner city, where cow heads are being chopped. It explores the informal business of chopping cow heads the stories of 'the butchers and traders and entrepreneurs who have made this business uniquely theirs.

Zola is an overflow rank for taxis waiting between peak hours to ferry people between the inner city and Zola, Soweto. Here entrepreneurs cater all day to the needs of drivers from an array of mobile and stationary stalls. It's a Joburg story about the multiple business opportunities to be found under a highway on a leftover piece of urban land.

Tony Dreams in Yellow and Blue In the nondescript working class suburb of Turffontein, which has always hosted migrants, a restless outsider artist is at work transforming his home into a veritable castle of lights, turrets, murals, manikins and stairways. He is an obsessive collector of 'waste', but also an entrepreneur whose property is home to 17 rent-paying households.

Inside Out Senga Mutombo led her seven Congolese brothers to Johannesburg. She is now a regular trader in the Yeoville market but also, in her own way, the centre of a trade network that spans sub-Saharan Africa in a lattice of low-end globalisation.

Good Riddance A procession of recyclers, each pulling a cart towering with bulging hessian bags is a familiar Joburg site. What stories accompany the men and women who reckon daily with this city of sprawl and excess?