

ZAM-net Foundation Annual Report 2017 (Summary)

The organisation's core business:

- the maintenance and growth of our network of African creatives in the fields of investigative journalism, photography, arts and opinion;
- the introduction of African creatives and their productions to international audiences and institutions;
- supporting the African Investigative Publishing Collective (AIPC);
- facilitation of collaborations between creatives 'here' and 'there';
- advising colleagues and institutions in journalism, education, art, publishing, research and policy;
- the running of special projects and events

The organisation's vision was discussed in a series of brainstorms facilitated by Sean Fitzpatrick. The sessions will be concluded in the course of 2018; it's outcome a refined positioning as a starting point for growth in outreach and financial sustainability.

Investigations and Publications

The Plunder Route to Panama

The *Panama Papers* revealed that Numerous African politicians have stored wealth in off-shore accounts. But how did the money get there? A transnational Team of reporters in seven African countries investigated looting by their rulers. The following participants can be named: Maxime Domegni (Togo), Eric Mwamba (DRC/Australia), Evelyn Groenink (South Africa/ the Netherlands), Francis Mbala (DRC), Estacio Valoi (Mozambique) and Lawrence Seretse (Botswana).

The investigation, a collaboration of ZAM magazine, the African Investigative Publishing Collective (AIPC) and African Uncensored, took almost a year. The report was released in October 2017. It received extensive media coverage worldwide (most notably publications and broadcasters in African countries, the Netherlands, Belgium, US, UK and Germany).

The project had the financial support of the Open Society Foundation and Unesco. Thomas van der Meer (Studio Parkers) did the design of the final report.

Read the report [here](http://www.zammagazine.com/images/pdf/documents/African-Oligarchs-update-small.pdf) (www.zammagazine.com/images/pdf/documents/African-Oligarchs-update-small.pdf)

Between Bitter Almonds and Good Hope

A 6 part series on the present situation in South Africa by ZAM's investigations editor Evelyn Groenink and visual artist Judith Westerveld stunning *Echolocations* were brought together in a ZAM special, published just after the summer of 2017.

The project had the financial support of the Fonds Bijzondere Journalistieke Projecten (Fonds BJP FBJP).

Check out the special here (specials.zammagazine.com/)

The ZAM magazine newsletter

Because of the overwhelming availability of stories and events ZAM organises or supports, it was decided to bring out the ZAM newsletter more often. From September 2017 the newsletter is published on a bi-weekly basis.

There is a steady growth in subscribers (end of 2017 around 3.700) and the statistics show that the number of people who actually open the newsletter doubled.

Events

16.02.17 | Artscape meets Landscape

Representatives of ZAM were present at the official launch of the Mandela Landscape lithographic art piece in the Cape Town Artscape Theatre. ZAM donated the work as a gesture of appreciation for the impressive transformation of this formerly 'only whites' cultural centre into a space for all people. This happened under the inspirational leadership of the theatre's CDO, Marlene le Roux. The event was attended by around 250 people with representatives of the Cape Town City Council, Dutch consul Bonnie Horbach and former Minister of Arts & Culture, Pallo Jordan, amongst them.

03.08.17 | Pride & Loss

An exhibition with photography by members of the Johannesburg based *Inkanyiso Collective* in Johannesburg was organised by the Amsterdam based No Man's Art Gallery in collaboration with ZAM. The opening was attended by more than 100 people.

12.10.17 | Launch African Oligarchs

The above mentioned report was launched at the ZAM studio on 12 October 2017 in attendance of around 60 people, policy makers, media representatives and others.

20.11.17 | Book Launch Queer Africa, Vol. 2

ZAM organised the Dutch launch of *Queer Africa, Vol. 2*, an anthology of queer stories from many African countries, published by the Johannesburg based Gays & Lesbians in Action (GALA). GALA director Keval Harie and Makhosazana Xaba, one of the editors of the book, were present at this well attended event.

Partnerships

In 2017, ZAM was mediapartner of POPCAP Prize for African Photography, Uganda Photo Press Award, iAfrica Filmfestival The Hague,

ZAM supported, or organised events and projects in collaboration with, the Artscape Theatre Cape Town, Africadelic (Amsterdam), Afrovibes Festival (Amsterdam), Jacana Publishers' Gerald Kraak Award (South Africa), Thami Mnyele Foundation (artist residence, Amsterdam), Inkanyiso Collective (Johannesburg), African Investigative Publishing Collective (pan-Africa), No Man's Art Gallery (Amsterdam), Galerie 23 (Amsterdam), Cargo in Context (Amsterdam), World Cinema Actual Africa (Amsterdam), Afrika Platform Gent, Studio Parkers, Studio Ruiters Janssen, Designserver.

ZAM shares offices with Designserver, Black Heritage Tours, Afrovibes & Africaserver.nl

Exhibitions

ZAM supported two exhibitions in Amsterdam with advice, facilitation and promotion: Zanele Muholi in the Stedelijk Museum and 'Goede Hoop', an exhibition on the Dutch connection to South Africa in the Rijksmuseum.

Stories and Photo Editions

On top of the range of stories that are part of the above mentioned publications, a number of other stories were published. A devastating insight into 'The Orphan Industrial Complex' as well as a photo-feature 'Into the Kaiser's Holocaust' in Namibia by Dutch photographer Pieter Boersma attracted the attention of many.

Quite a number of stories in earlier years got *warmed up* as a result of new developments. To name a few: The Fairtrade Rip-off (on questionable practices in the West-African cacao producing countries), Winning Hearts & Minds (on UN peace missions and the 'war on terrorism' in Africa), Hunting Season (on the slaughter of rhino poachers in the Kruger Park) and Why Dulcie? (on international arms industry implicated in the murder of Southern African freedom fighters).

Early 2017, ZAM launched its online library of contemporary African photography: ZAM Photo Editions. Two features were realised after its launch: on Zanele Muholi (South Africa) and Yasser Booley (South Africa).

Mandela100

In 2017 preparations started for ZAM's Mandela100 programme as part of the Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebrations. The production of an interactive data landscape, *Apartheid Revisited*, neared completion towards the end of the year. A diverse range of people were identified and approached to support the Mandela100 initiative in 2018 in one way or another.

The programme has the support of the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg.

ZAM Board & Team

Board: Dr. Annelies Verdoolaege (chairperson), Gerard Wieffer (secretary), Jan Meijer (treasurer), Randall Maarmann, Babah Tarawally & Alexander van Trig (members).

Team: Bart Luirink (editor-in-chief), Christina Mansson (online editor), Evelyn Groenink (investigations editor), Leonie Verburg (marketing), Milan Hermes (editorial coordinator), Charmaine Mutsau (intern). Proof reading & translations: Tessa Giller, Natasha van Heusden, Devi Pillay. Design: Ruiters Janssen. Technical support: Marco Legemaate & René de Ree (Designserver),