

UCT Creative Works Award 2011

The Lie of the Land: Representations of the South African Landscape comprised an exhibition held at The Old Town House, Iziko Museums, Cap Town June – September 2010, and the Sanlam Gallery, Bellville, October 2010 – January 2011, and a catalogue enriching exhibition with scholarly essays on literary, cultural, political and environmental aspects of the South African landscape. The project was designed to showcase and celebrate a vigorous tradition of South African art, not only engaging with the role of land through South African history, but also clarifying the changing stylistic strategies for representing land at different points in South Africa's history, so that younger viewers especially could see that at any point in time landscape views are constructed, rather than natural.

These different layers of significance resonated with the public and the exhibition was praised by critics for being 'thoughtfully constructed'. The catalogue too was acclaimed for its theorizing of the South African landscape. The work provided rich educational ground that inspired university students as well as school children all over Cape Town and beyond who, with the help of the Ibhathane Project, were brought to the exhibition and drew on it for their studies. As curator, Professor Godby succeeded in bringing creative scholarly work to general public notice without compromising the intellectual integrity of the work.

For all these reasons, and given the lack of recognition which is generally given to the creative demands of the curation of works of art, the Creative Works Award Committee judged this work to be a worthy recipient of the Creative Works Award for 2012.