



#### ON THE COVER

*The image, Two Red Shoes, by Clint Strydom is part of the solo exhibition, Hidden Shadows and Silent Voices of Prison Number 4, which is on show until 27 August 2017 at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg (see page 100). The prisoners incarcerated at Constitution Hill only received shoes after spending a year in the prison. These shoes were something of value, a powerful visual representation of the conditions that the prisoners had to endure and a reminder of the person who used them. A total of 156 people, including South Africa's first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela, and the country's pioneer diplomat, Oliver Reginald (OR) Tambo, were arrested and held at the prison complex before the historic Treason Trial in 1956. Two years later, 2 000 women were detained after protesting the pass laws. Today, South Africa's highest court, the Constitutional Court, is situated at Constitution Hill. It is a living museum that tells the story of South Africa's journey to democracy. Between 1994 and 1996, South Africa's first fully democratic Parliament, sitting as the Constitutional Assembly, drew up South Africa's new Constitution, which took effect on 4 February 1997. This year, Parliament celebrates the 20th anniversary of South Africa's Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land. It is one of the most progressive in the world and enjoys high acclaim internationally. 2017 also marks the centenary of OR Tambo.*

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"Hidden Shadows  
and Silent Voices of  
Prison Number 4"



Clinton Strydom, in collaboration with Constitution Hill, and co-curator, Gaisang Satheke, released a powerful new body of contemporary photographs on the Number 4 Prison Section in May 2017.

The exhibition, titled: *Hidden Shadows and Silent Voices of Prison Number 4*, narrates the fascinating story of this nefarious prison. The Number 4 Prison Section was restricted to male prisoners and was home to Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi, Robert Sobukwe, Oliver Tambo and thousands of other people who were incarcerated here. This infamous section is notorious for some of the worst

atrocities that happened within the Old Fort Prison. Few know about the long tunnels and tiny cells that lie beneath the streets of the City of Johannesburg, the punishment racks, the naked prisoners, the food deprivation, the dirt and the cold.

The exhibition speaks to the fact that the cells are now empty, the doors lie open and the prisoners are free. However, the silent voices hidden in the shadows remain custodians of the memories, ensuring that we never forget and never go back. As one walks through the empty cells, the haunting presence hovers in the thick musty air.

"The Old Fort Prison is a powerful place of history – storied with a complex painful narrative of South Africa's brutal past.

Strydom's work, using the high-res technology of a Hasselblad camera, captures the essence of the prison, portraying the shadows and recording the silent cries that once roared through the thick walls of incarceration.

"It's a spirit-evoking body of photographs, accentuating the history of the prison," says Satheke.

*Hidden Shadows and Silent Voices of Prison Number 4* will help to give a voice to those shadows who have remained silent for so long.

"For this reason, I have agreed to donate several of the works to Constitution Hill's permanent collection," said Strydom.

The exhibition launched at Constitution Hill on 18 May and will run until 27 August.

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This year, Constitution Hill is launching the We the People Campaign, a nationwide advocacy programme designed to promote the Constitution and the values it represents. It will encourage public participation and ownership of the Constitution by the citizens of our nation.

The campaign invites South Africans to contribute their stories (past), their reflections (present), their hopes and aspirations (future). The campaign focusses on bringing out the voices of ordinary people. It is an invitation to all South Africans to take a pledge for the Constitution and support the rights enshrined therein.

It is aimed towards creating awareness and dialogue around the highest law of the land to ensure that all citizens can enjoy the liberty and protection espoused in the Constitution.

