

#IAMANEDUCATIONCHAMPION NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025 - YOUTH MONTH
EDITION

V O 5
O -
L 2 0
/ 1 8
2
5

CHECKMATE

ALEXFORBES
2025 BATTLE
BOARDS

SASOL NEW
SIGNATURES

COMPETITION
2025

RISING STARS
CAREER EXPO
2025 DATES



RSCE DIARY 2025

29TH-31ST JULY 2025 TEMBISA
JOHANNESBURG

26TH-28TH AUGUST 2025 UMLAZI DURBAN

Subscribe to

#IAMANEDUCATIONCHAMPION NEWSLETTER



NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

Enjoy huge savings
Free school delivery
Get your copy before everyone else

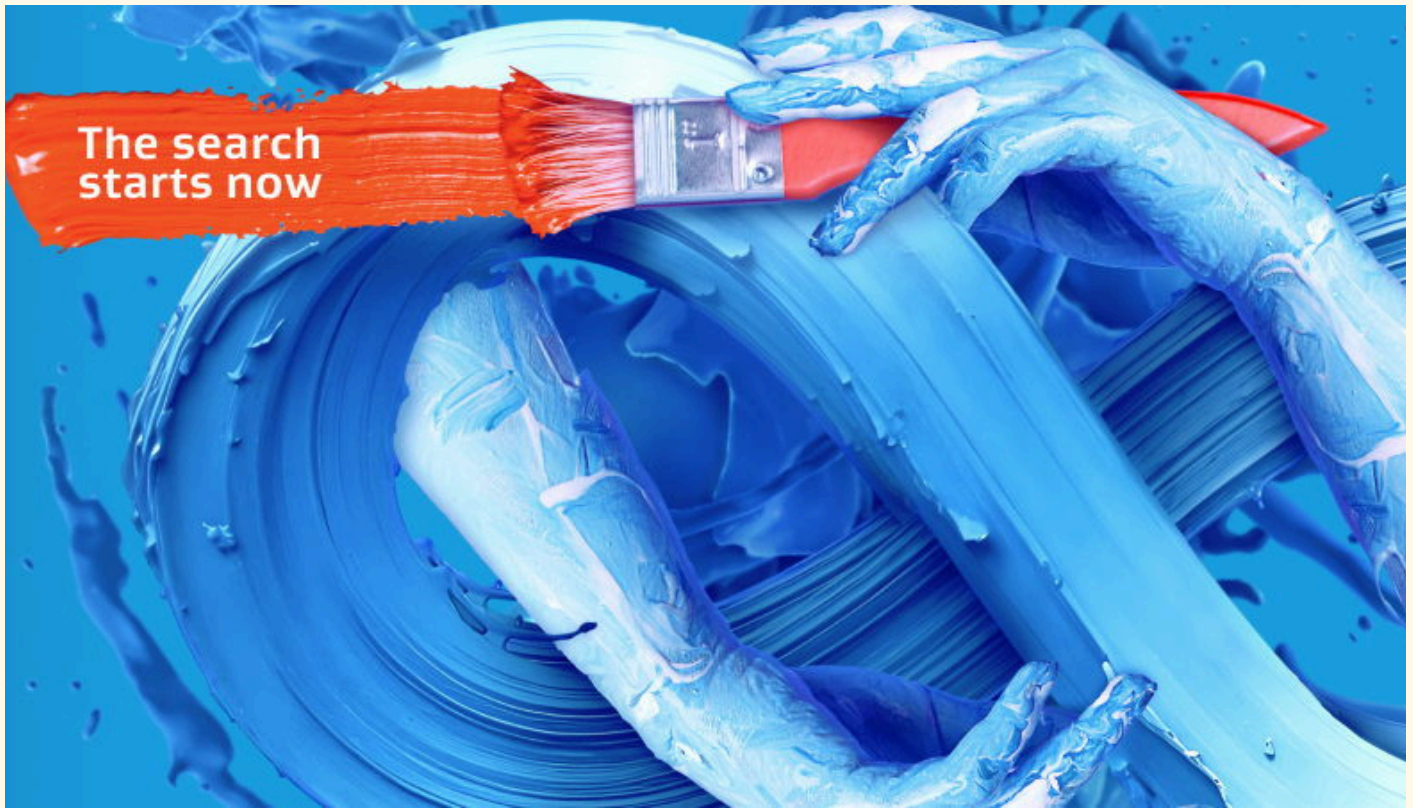


VISIT OUR ONLINE
EDITION.

Catch the freshest features
Updated daily
Read anytime, anywhere

<https://risingstarscareerexpo2025.godaddysites.com/>

RSCE: What specific qualities or criteria do the judges look for in an entry to the Aasol New Signatures Visual Arts Competition?



Judges in the Sasol New Signatures competition assess entries through a two-phase process, beginning with regional judging. In each region, Chairperson Pfunzo Sidogi and Sasol Art Curator Cate Terblanche are joined by a respected member of the Visual Arts community to provide contextualised perspective and expertise, and assist in the judging process.

All regional artworks selected go through to round 2 of the judging process are installed at the Pretoria Art Museum and form part of the final exhibition. The final selection panel comprises of the National Chairperson, Sasol's Art Curator and three independent judges.

Throughout both rounds, artworks are evaluated based on several key criteria: Conceptual Depth – Strong emphasis is placed on the originality and depth of the concept behind the artwork. Judges look for ideas that are well-articulated and intellectually engaging.

Technical Proficiency - While the competition welcomes emerging artists, technical skill remains a vital criterion. Artworks that demonstrate mastery in technique and material use are more likely to advance.

Artist's Statement Synergy - A clear and meaningful relationship between the artist's statement and the visual elements of the work is crucial. Judges expect the statement to enhance the understanding and intention behind the artwork.

Craftsmanship and Skill - works are individually judged on the quality of craftsmanship and overall execution.

Innovation and Visual Impact - Artworks that stand out for their novelty, visual strength, and the ability to hold their own in local or international exhibitions receive particular attention.



RSCE: CAN YOU ELABORATE ON THE EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES PROVIDED FOR ENTRANTS, AND HOW DO THESE RESOURCES HELP ARTISTS IN PREPARING THEIR SUBMISSIONS?

The Sasol New Signatures Visual Arts Competition is deeply committed to nurturing emerging talent and offers a comprehensive range of educational tools to support artists throughout their entry process. These resources are designed to demystify the entry process and empower artists with the knowledge and confidence needed to submit competition-ready artworks that meet high technical and conceptual standards.

It is important that the competition remains inclusive and educational, while also maintaining the highest standards. The online content provides invaluable guidance and insight into what makes a successful submission, and artists are encouraged to make use of these tools. The Sasol New Signatures website is a treasure trove of knowledge and information.

Key resources include:

Online Information Sessions – Led by Chairperson Pfunzo Sidogi and Sasol Art Curator Cate Terblanche, these sessions aim to demystify the entry process, address frequently asked questions, and offer practical advice based on previous judging experiences. **How-To Tutorials and Fact Sheets** – These downloadable materials offer step-by-step guidance on preparing an entry, from writing an effective artist's statement to understanding technical presentation requirements.

Informative Blogs and Website Content – The Sasol New Signatures website serves as a knowledge hub, featuring past catalogues, interviews with previous finalists, and detailed entry instructions– giving entrants a clear indication of what constitutes a successful submission.

Regional Feedback Sessions – After the first round of regional judging, entrants are encouraged to attend general feedback sessions at their nearest collection point. These sessions, facilitated by the Chairperson and Art Curator, provide valuable insight into the strengths and weaknesses observed in the submitted works, offering learning opportunities for future entries.

These educational tools not only promote inclusivity but also ensure that all participants, regardless of experience level, have access to the guidance they need to refine their submissions and grow as artists.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SASOL NEW SIGNATURES

RSCE: GIVEN THE COMPETITION'S LONG HISTORY, ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR SUCCESS STORIES FROM PAST WINNERS OR FINALISTS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE VISION OF SASOL NEW SIGNATURES TODAY?

The Sasol New Signatures Art Visual Arts Competition has a rich legacy of discovering and nurturing some of South Africa's most prominent contemporary artists. Under the custodianship of the Association of Arts Pretoria, the competition has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's artistic landscape for over 35 years. A vast amount of now familiar names in the art world can be identified by browsing through the catalogues of past years.

Some of the notable alumni include Candice Breitz (Merit Award 1991), Johan Thom (Judge's Award 2001), Mohau Modisakeng (Winner 2011), Haroon Gunn-Salie (Merit 2013), Lebohang Kganye (Winner 2017), Stenjwa Luthuli (Runner Up 2017), Patrick Rulore (Winner 2019), and most recently Themba Mkhangeli (Runner Up 2023). These artists have gone on to build impressive national and international careers, with their works exhibited in leading galleries, museums, and biennales around the world.

These success stories reflect the competition's broader vision: to be a launchpad for emerging talent, and to uphold a standard of excellence that not only rewards creativity but also contributes to the cultural fabric of South Africa. Beyond its role as a platform for discovery, Sasol New Signatures has grown into a dynamic community that brings together artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts, fostering connection, inspiration, and long-term growth within the visual arts sector.



Here, you can place a caption for the photo.
It can be a short description or it can credit the production team.



RSCE:How does Sasol New Signatures ensure that the competition remains inclusive and accessible to emerging artists from various backgrounds?

Sasol New Signatures is committed to creating an inclusive, accessible, and nationally representative platform for emerging South African artists. As the longest-running art competition of its kind in the country, it plays a vital role in opening doors for artists from diverse backgrounds to showcase their talent on a prestigious national stage.

Key ways the competition ensures accessibility include:
Free Entry and Logistical Support – Thanks to the generous support of Sasol and logistical partner Stuttaford Van Lines, there are no entry fees for the competition, significantly lowering the barriers to enter for emerging artists. Additionally, all artworks submitted at regional collection points outside Gauteng are transported to the Pretoria Art Museum by Stuttaford Van Lines, to assist with costs of transporting artworks from the outlying regional submission points.

Nationwide Reach – Artists can submit their work at one of eight regional collection points across South Africa, encouraging geographic inclusivity and wider participation.

Open Eligibility – The competition is open to all South African artists aged 18 and older who have not held a solo exhibition (excluding academic exhibitions), regardless of whether they are formally trained.

Artists across all visual media are welcome, including painting, drawing, sculpture, video, photography, and installation.

Encouragement of Innovation – Sasol New Signatures celebrates originality and boldness, encouraging artists to push creative boundaries and present work that reflects their individual voice, culture, and perspective. As the competition does not prescribe a theme to be considered, artists are free to submit works that illustrates their own style and approach.

Selected artists gain the rare opportunity to exhibit at the Pretoria Art Museum, helping them build visibility and credibility within the professional art world. Sasol New Signatures continues to uphold its mission of empowering emerging artists and nurturing the next generation of creative talent in South Africa.

RSCE: WHAT ROLE DOES THE SOLO EXHIBITION AT THE PRETORIA ART MUSEUM PLAY IN THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF THE WINNER, AND WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DOES SASOL PROVIDE IN THIS REGARD?



The solo exhibition at the Pretoria Art Museum is a transformative career milestone for the overall winner of the Sasol New Signatures Art Competition. In addition to the R100 000 cash prize, the winner is given a rare and prestigious opportunity to present a solo exhibition at the museum in 2026, offering invaluable visibility and credibility within the South African art world.

Over the course of a year, the winner receives continuous support from the Sasol New Signatures team, including Chairperson Pfunzo Sidogi, Sasol Art Curator Cate Terblanche, and the Association of Arts Pretoria. This mentorship includes curatorial guidance, conceptual development advice, and logistical assistance to ensure that the artist is well-prepared for their debut solo exhibition.

The exhibition is further amplified through a comprehensive PR and advertising campaign, a virtual gallery experience, and inclusion in the official competition catalogue—maximising the artist's exposure to curators, collectors, galleries, and the broader public. This level of professional support and national recognition plays a critical role in launching the artist's career and establishing their presence within the South African contemporary art ecosystem.

While winning the top prize is a significant achievement, being named a finalist is also highly impactful. Finalists are featured in the competition catalogue and showcased in both physical and virtual exhibitions, marking an important step in their artistic journey.

2025

#IAmAnEducationChampion

G R A D U A T I O N S E A S O N 2 0 2 5 L A U N C H



Trending

Rising Stars Career Expo launches #IAmAnEducationChampion Graduation Season Campaign

New graduateshower campaign has been launched at the beginning of April 2025 as a flagship initiative of the Rising Stars Career Expo. This online campaign uses the power of social media where graduates are requested to post their graduation pictures with the caption #IAmAnEducationChampion. Furthermore, it gives an opportunity for new graduates to share their post-matric experiences with young people who will be going to tertiary in 2026.

Two recent graduates, who post their pictures together with their stories will be chosen to be Keynote Speakers and inspire high school learners with their stories at this year's Rising Stars Career Expo in Johannesburg and Durban. "Our aim is to establish a movement that celebrate Education Excellence", says Event Organiser Thulisa Mangcotywa. Interested graduates will also be invited to attend the expo either in Johannesburg or Durban.



ALEXFORBES LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD WITH 2025 BATTLE BOARDS

Alexforbes is putting all nine provinces on the same chessboard. The 2025 Alexforbes Battle Boards Chess Championship is going nationwide, opening the online tournament to high schools across South Africa. Following the roaring success of the 2024 debut, this year's championship aims to double its reach. It's not just a game—it's a movement.

More Schools, More Brains, More Action

A total of 288 teams will lock horns for the crown. Each province can register up to 32 schools, with 15 standby slots available, making it a race against time for a place in the tournament. Matches will be played online from schools or chosen venues, with 10-minute battles per side in a format that prizes speed, skill, and strategy. When one player wins, the whole team edges closer to glory.

Strategy Meets Access

The game plan is clear: grow minds, grow opportunity. Viresh Maharaj, Executive at Alexforbes, believes chess is more than a sport. "Chess teaches strategic thinking and problem-solving—skills every learner needs in life," he says. "By taking the championship national, we're giving every student a shot at greatness." It's inclusivity with impact, one move at a time.

Eyes on the Endgame

All roads lead to the play-offs and finals in August. After battling it out in their provincial pools, top teams will advance to the national rounds on 26 July and 9 August. Rankings are based on player ratings, and newcomers are welcomed with novice status—no one sits on the sidelines. Once the pools are revealed, the countdown to checkmate begins.

Sign Up and Suit Up

The call to register is live—and it's first come, first served. Schools eager to make their mark should head to BattleBoards.co.za to secure a slot, read the rules, and start planning their path to the top. Because in this game, every move counts—and champions are made one decision at a time.

Game on, Rising Stars!!

