

COFA A: DIANE VICTOR



Title: Seachange

Medium: 280 g of burned R100 notes [recycled currency] ash drawing on paper.

Dimensions: 1800 cm [h] x 2500cm [w]

Exhibited: **When tomorrow comes.** Wits Art Museum [WAM] Curated by Jacki McInnes, Jyoti Mystry and Michael Titlestad 15 March – 29 Th May

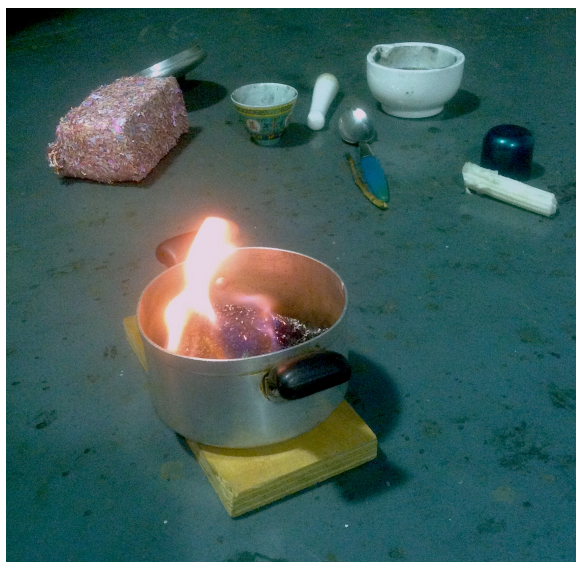
Michaelis Galleries at Michaelis School of the Arts, Cape Town from 11 July to 5 August.

Annotation:

The work was made as a response to the financial crisis and the depreciation of our currency that was being reported on rather extensively in the news at that time. I was experimenting with the burning of recycled, redundant notes, the conversion of this currency into ash and then the production and making of drawings from these remainders of the destruction of the originally valuable material. Nautical and financial terminologies share many words, economic decline often described using terms associated with shipwreck and shipping. **Sea change** was a drawing made from the burned currency equivalent to the annual minimum wage of a domestic worker in 2016 as set by the labour laws –R28 000. The redundant currency was sourced from

the recycling unit of the South African mint. I obtained shredded 1kg blocks of various denomination and these shredded notes were used for this work. I selected to work with R100 denomination notes as I had managed to get an individual R100 note weighed and this proved to be just on 100g, thus making my conversions easy and more manageable. The measured amount of shredded currency was burned and then the ashes were ground up in a mortar and pestle until a fine ash dust was formed. This quantity was then used to make the drawing. The drawing made by allowing the dust to fall onto the paper surface, so the image created through a process of fallout. I am interested in the re-valuing of materials. 28 000 ZAR of notes representing one domestic worker's labour for one year. R28 000 in 100 Rand notes is a bulky amount of paper. However, R28000 of shredded notes are valueless. Yet in its ash equivalent this waste material when re-positioned and activated on a sheet of paper in the form of a drawing becomes valuable again. How society can through its shared illusions of worth enable these different values to exist for the same material [albeit in different states] and to hold such different financial and social importance at different times.

Seachange was a response to the sinking value of our currency driven by poor production rates and inflation. The slow plunge in relative value of one's labour in relation to its buying power in the world. The drawing was based on research done on the claimed sinking position of the titanic as it plunged under the surface of the sea.



***Accompanying publication : [needs info]

“ When tomorrow comes “ WITS 2016