



Erasmus+



# Rock Art Paint Explorations: MATOBART experimental archaeology workshop

15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Johannesburg, South Africa



Organisers: Tammy Hodgskiss, Camille Bourdier, Welcome Takunda Chigwende

Sponsored by: IFAS-Research, Erasmus, Origins Centre

## **ABOUT**

3-day interactive workshop on experimental archaeology, rock painting recipes and painting processes. The workshop aims to allow for the sharing of knowledge on paint making processes, pigment use for rock art, experiential use of pigments, and experimental archaeological research procedures.

The workshop will foster scientific and academic understandings with cross-disciplinary links with experiential understanding, the humanities and the arts to create a fuller understanding paint-making processes in the past.

## **WHO CAN ATTEND?**

The workshop aims to introduce students to experimental approaches in archaeology, with emphasis on Stone Age archaeology and rock paintings. All students and academics will be welcome, as well as interested members of the public, but spaces are limited, and preference will be given to postgraduate students.

**Attendance is free. RSVP essential:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zSraJBDKLMBefQK77ULC07cE5PzKHymEUzU5pzincvg/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1zSraJBDKLMBefQK77ULC07cE5PzKHymEUzU5pzincvg/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**Enquiries: [tammy.hodgskiss@wits.ac.za](mailto:tammy.hodgskiss@wits.ac.za)**

**Day 1 (15<sup>th</sup> October):** Lectures and discussions on experimental approaches in archaeology, focusing on rock art.

Venue: IFAS-Recherche, Braamfontein

**Day 2 and 3 (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October):** Experiments with ochre collection, ochre processing techniques and paint recipe manufacture.

Venue: Origins Centre and Wits Archaeology Department, Wits University.

# Programme

## **Day 1: Presentation and Discussion**

### **15 October 2024. IFAS, Braamfontein**

**08:30** Coffee and tea on arrival

**09:00** Welcome and introductions

**09:30 Camille Bourdier** “The MATOBART Project” – UMR TRACES, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France

**10:00 Welcome Takunda Chigwende** “LSA painting technology in of the Pomongwe Cave rock paintings Matobo, Zimbabwe” – University of the Witwatersrand & University of Zimbabwe

**10:30 Viola Schmid** “Experimental archaeology – Immersion in Stone Age techniques and technologies” – Austrian Archaeological Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences

**11:00 Jerome Reynard** “Bones of contention: using faunal remains in experimental studies“ – GAES, University of the Witwatersrand

**11:30** Discussion

**12:00** Lunch

**13:00 Stephen Townley Bassett** “Pigments, Paints and Implements – An Experiential Journey” – Artist and author

**13:30 David Pearce & Adelphine Bonneau** “Analysis and composition of southern African hunter-gatherer rock art paints“ – RARI, University of the Witwatersrand: Université de Sherbrooke, Canada

**14:00 Tammy Hodgskiss** “Ochre processing and mineral pigment use in the past” – Origins Centre, University of the Witwatersrand

**14:30** Discussion

End ~15:30

## **Day 2 and 3: Experimental workshop**

Aims are to gain a fuller understanding and experiential knowledge of:

- Ochre and mineral pigment processing procedures
- Potential sources of white pigments
- Different types of binders and their characteristics
- Potential paint recipes – what do they mean in terms of colour, texture, sheen and longevity in the rock art
- Paint application – tools and surfaces

### **Day 2: 16 October 2014. Origins Centre, Wits**

09:00 to 16:00

- Tea/coffee on arrival
- Pigment collection and testing pigment processing techniques
- 12:00 to 13:00 Lunch
- Experimental archaeology area – working with fire and binders?? heating ochre, burning ostrich eggshell for white pigment, heating potential binders
- Preparing binders and recipes

### **Day 3: 17 October 2014. Origins Centre, Wits**

09:00 to 16:00

- Tea/coffee on arrival
- Binders and paint mixing
- 12:00 to 13:00 Lunch
- Painting and application of paints on different surfaces