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Louise Meintjes (Duke University, Durham/USA)

Attending to the Moment: Artistry and Politics in Zulu Song and Dance

Ethnomusicology and anthropology of the arts have long wrestled over how to depict the relationships among aesthetics and politics. With an ear toward the present in which we find ourselves and an eye on the vitality of bodies and breath, how do we attend to the moment? What kind of research, analysis and writing succeeds in keeping the details of artistry that lend art its persuasive or affective power on the page? What approaches succeed in grasping the specific political efficacy of the arts, without reducing artistic process to a political act? What does an ethical analysis of the sonic arts look and sound like? Drawing on my longterm study of Zulu song and dance, I discuss instances of forceful ngoma vocal performance that have prompted me to think about the idea of breath and aesthetic vitality, limned by violence during the global turbulence of the last two and a half years.

Louise Meintjes is Professor of Music and Cultural Anthropology, Duke University. A distinguished anthropologist and musicologist, her evocative writing and thinking revolves around the question of how music and the world relate to and act upon each other. For her book *Dust of the Zulu: Ngoma Aesthetics after Apartheid* (Duke University Press, 2017), she co-won the Society for Ethnomusicology's Alan Merriam Prize.

Important!

This lecture is the introductory lecture of the ***Anthropology of Music Lecture Series and Master Class 2022***. Other than usual, It will be held on **WEDNESDAY, July 13, at 5 pm, at the INSTITUT FRANÇAIS, Schillerstr 11, 55116 Mainz**. After the lecture, you will be invited to a small reception.

Institutskolloquium Sommersemester 2022 (Leitung: Markus Verne)

Wann? Mittwoch, 13. Juli 2022, 17:00–18:30 Uhr

Wo? Institut Français, Schillerstr. 11, Mainz

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de