**Miss*/seen***

*01 July 2019 – 07 July 2019*

*Vrystaat Arts Festival / Bloemfontein / South Africa*

**Project Category**

Experimental Performance

**Summary of project**

The performance piece mis*s/****seen*** explores ways in which multi-cultural spirituality experienced within South African culture may create connections and intersections within diversity. It is a multi-sensory, intimate and immersive experience that takes place within a site-specific installation.

**Concept**

We are inspired to create mis*s/****seen*** because of the connection we have experienced between ourselves as OPENLab Alumni. This connection, which exceeds geographical and cultural barriers, has prompted us to delve deeper into our lived experience of inter-connectivity. Questions around spirituality have surfaced, experienced on alternating levels and across different cultural platforms which has opened new modes of inquiry. How do we, hailing from different cultures, experience the struggle of the unseen? How do we interpret interdimensional connectivity through dreams and visions? How is balance and imbalance to be maintained, if at all, and if so, how to fully follow a destined spiritual pathway amidst the everyday? How is the commitment to spiritually engagement to be integrated into the commitments of everyday life? Clearly there are multiple intersections that are opened to be explored through this line of enquiry, particularly from within a multi-cultural South African society. Viewed on a larger scale we would like to explore spiritual connection as a means that might connect humans in multiple, unseen ways.

These unseen intersections are to be explored during miss/***seen*** which we envisage as a performance piece taking place within an installation. Broadly speaking, it will consist of Kagiso Kekana performing through song, Nosipho Mtabani through poetry and Sonya Rademeyer through live drawing. Our interactions will be intersected through, and within, an immersive installation consisting of thousands of silver threads hanging from ceiling height, metaphorically pulling with and against the vertical, spiritual lines. Dance will be incorporated into the performance installation with live drawing of the dance movements being performed by Sonya Rademeyer, projected off an overhead projector into the surrounding space.

Audience engagement will take place though immersion into the silver threads themselves, as well as the Mpepho traditional incense that will be burnt during the performance. Logistically speaking, perhaps smaller audiences should attend more frequently, as opposed to inviting larger audiences less frequently. It is important for us that an immersive, intimate experience takes place. We hope to inspire a sensory experience of cross-cultural, spiritual engagement.