

Titled / Untitled

In the post-apartheid society, new life is given to the shebeens, which are transformed in collective identity building and dialogue place

visible

Project author or developer:
Gugulective

Where:
ZA / South Africa / Cape Town

Website:
gugulective.net/

Titled/Untitled was a project curated by Gugulective with the curatorial assistance of Gabi Ngcobo at Kwa Mlamli and Blank Projects, Cape Town in 2007. The project, consisting in two different exhibiting venues, challenges issues of visual representation and sociocultural stereotyping. On the one hand, the Untitled aspect of the project calls into question perceptions and prejudices that places such as the shebeens have in institutional grounds. Known during apartheid as illegal clubs and located in black townships, the shebeens were bars where selfmade alcohol was served and resistance to the old regime gathered together. Kwa Mlamli, the shebeen that Gugulective has transformed into a cultural and artistic center in an urban area of Gugulethu, was one of the project's main venues. With the reconceptualization proposed in Untitled of Kwa Mlamli, the space previously lacking aesthetic and recreational values acquires political and cultural significance. Titled, on the other hand, was a one-day event taking place in Kwa Mlamli Shebeen, where artists, curators, general audience, and other cultural practitioners gathered together to discuss issues on the accessibility of culture and institutional spaces.

