

Interview:

Shanaaz Galant

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Galant_S Day 1 After Lunch.mp4

Tags:

Museum interpretation methods, Museology, History of slavery, History - South Africa, Historical Interpretation, Enslaved peoples, Women's history

Summary:

Curator Shanaaz Galant explains the exhibit Who Were the Enslaves: Commemorating Lives Under Enslavement at the Cape of Good Hope.

- The exhibit follows three individuals who were real and did see emancipation.
- The exhibit centers around people's lives, humanizing them instead of just theoretical concepts, and grounds the work with research and artifacts.
- This is a great example of how curatorial work is important and methods of museology.

Main Themes:

History of slavery, museum work

Quotes From Interview:

- [00:26 - 00:53] Explanation of the exhibit.
 - "...when doing the research and the work in trying to make sense of this space or the Slave Lodge, it was really to, to answer the question of who were the enslaved. Um and so, if you look at this wall over here, we, we took three enslaved people um: John Joemat, Katie Jacobs, and Lydia Williams."
- [04:34 - 05:35] Thought process behind the exhibit.
 - "And then um, as we worked to, to make sense of this space uh in our new exhibitions, we, we decided on calling this space the Contemporary History Wing of the Slave Lodge, because we really felt that um, as we were trying to uncover who the enslaved people were and to, and to make sure that not just their names but also their stories are acknowledge in this space."
 - "We also thought it was very important to make a connection with our contemporary times and our contemporary thinkers, um and so this over here is a quote from Gabeba Baderoon, who's done an incredible amount of work um

examining and being quite critical of the history of slavery and in particular um on the abuse that women and children suffered under slavery. “

- [07:04 - 07:28] Women's history
 - “So in this room, the first room, we've renamed this room the Lena van de Caap Room. And it's very important because Lena's story is a very important story. It survived the archives and it survived in time, and so we thought it was very important to use her as a woman, that was born in the Slave Lodge in 1700, and who escape the Slave Lodge in 1725.”
- [09:53 - 10:29] Historical interpretation methods
 - “Um, how do we, how do we humanise the timeless slave? Right. So we attempt to do that by telling you who they were, and giving you a glimpse at least of their actions and what it is they did of importance or significance that – where their memories remain. And so, that is what we've done and we've, so we've renamed these spaces for them and it's a it's a – it's a form of a – it takes the form of a map and a walkthrough but it's also a means to educate in the public space of the museum.”