



# MOUNT NELSON

A BELMOND HOTEL  
CAPE TOWN

## NORVAL FOUNDATION AND MOUNT NELSON, A BELMOND HOTEL, CAPE TOWN, PARTNER TO BRING TOGETHER ART AND HOSPITALITY

*Norval Foundation and Mount Nelson have collaborated to showcase a transformative exhibition with artworks curated by RESERVOIR.*

**MARCH 2024** - To mark Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel's 125th birthday celebration in 2024, *Mother City*, a curation of artworks from the Norval Foundation's Collection will be on show at the legendary Belmond property. Punctuating The Nellie's grand halls and public spaces, artworks through the lens of 16 artists' nuanced practices will find a home at the hotel until October.

On the surface, *Mother City* is a concept that owes its name to Cape Town's moniker as the first city settled by Europeans in South Africa, but the exhibition probes deeper. Drawing from the Norval Foundation's extensive collection of contemporary works by some of the country's most prominent artists, RESERVOIR founders Heinrich Groenewald and Shona van der Merwe have framed the exhibition around the multifaceted and complex notions associated with the role of the mother - particularly as a symbolic source of care. "Working with the geographical location of the Norval Foundation, the exhibition explores how these diverse and at times diasporic artists have come to be represented in the permanent collection, through an imagined symbolic connection to Cape Town - the Mother City. Notions of not only the archetypal mother but its extended connotations of community, femininity, ancestry and social icons can be found throughout the practices of the artists on show."

Displayed throughout Mount Nelson's lounge, bar, reception, conservatory and transitional spaces, this immersive collection of works spans mediums from painting, photography, and relief sculpture to tapestry and stitching. Each creator offers a unique perspective on the subject with exhibited artists including Mia Chaplin, Georgina Gratrix, Nicholas Hlobo, Kudzanai-Violet Hwami, Bronwyn Katz, Bonolo Kavula, Dada Khanyisa, Kapwani Kiwanga, Zanele Muholi, Cassi Namoda, Gregory Olympio, Thania Petersen, Athi-Patra Ruga, Gerda Scheepers, Berni Searle and Brett Charles Seiler.

"It's a great honour to share part of the Homestead Collection with guests of Mount Nelson. As a leading 20th-century South African art collection dedicated to an expanded narrative, these works speak to the hotel's reverence for its past and its insistence on being part of the future," says founder of the Norval Foundation, Louis Norval.

This commitment to supporting art and creativity was a perfect marriage to the goals of the Cape Town art museum, Norval Foundation. Norval Foundation was established in 2018 as a platform to champion and support African Art and artists, and to develop art education in the Western Cape. Since its inception, Norval Foundation has hosted exhibitions dedicated to the works of esteemed artists including William Kentridge, Berni Searle, Cinga Samson, Michael Armitage, Bonolo Kavula, Wim Botha, and many more.

Globally, Belmond's part in supporting the arts, its curators, and collectors in each of its global locations has been substantial. Locally, the Pink Lady, affectionately named after her emblematic painted façade, has been a cultural cornerstone for over a century. Set in the heart of Cape Town's vibrant inner city and backed by Table Mountain, Mount Nelson fuses its impressive heritage with contemporary relevance and a cultural calendar that celebrates the country's creative assets.

The hotel's partnership with Investec Cape Town Art Fair, its site-specific architectural artwork by renowned French artist Daniel Buren as part of MITICO 3.0 by Galleria Continua, and its annual Confections x Collections event, curated by Twyg, have been key to establishing and deepening The Nellie's imaginative offerings. "Our intention at Mount Nelson is to create a welcoming and engaging space where guests can celebrate the creativity, art, and design coming from our continent and beyond," says Tiago Sarmento, General Manager of the hotel. The addition of pieces from the Norval Foundation's Homestead Collection can only augment this ever-evolving artistic endeavour.

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

Images of Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, Cape Town can be **downloaded here**

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#### ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond has been a pioneer of luxury travel for 46 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring destinations.

Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys. Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 50 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguazu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

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INSTAGRAM: **BELMOND MOUNT NELSON**

#### ABOUT NORVAL FOUNDATION

The Norval Foundation is an art museum and Sculpture Garden situated in Cape Town. The Norval Foundations' mission is to promote modern and contemporary art of Africa and the diaspora through curated exhibitions and educational programmes. Situated in the Tokai region of Cape Town, the Norval Foundation stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of modern and contemporary art from the African continent and its diaspora. With galleries and an ever-evolving exhibition programme, this distinguished art museum serves as a vibrant nexus for showcasing a dynamic array of artworks, encompassing painting, photography, sculpture, and media art, both historical and contemporary. The outdoor sculpture garden, nestled amongst the indigenous wetland's flora and fauna, provides an enchanting environment for visitors to interact with monumental outdoor sculptures in the permanent collection. Since its inception in 2018, Norval Foundation has been committed to nurturing the understanding and appreciation of African art. It strives to position African artists within the global art historical canon, fostering awareness and elevating the discourse around their contributions. Moreover, the Foundation's commitment to cultural enrichment and education is evident through its robust public programming and dedicated Learning Centre, which aims to support the creative development of young minds in South Africa. As stewards of the Homestead Collection, Revisions Collection, the Alexis Preller and the Edoardo Villa Archives as well as the Gerard Sekoto Foundation, the Norval Foundation serves as a custodian of artists' legacies, caring for and preserving their artworks to be enjoyed for generations to come. By providing opportunities for deep engagement with visual art and offering a beautiful space for contemplation, exploration, and learning, the Norval Foundation remains dedicated to enriching lives, inspiring creativity, and fostering appreciation for the multifaceted world of African art.

**Norvalfoundation.org**

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