

"Knowing With"
New Rhodes Board Navigates Collaboration, Intimacy, and Solidarity

by Rachel Baasch, Stephen Foláránmi, Emi Koide, Angilo Kakande, Ruth Simbanu

Rhodes University (or UCKAR),¹ based in Makhanda, South Africa, joined the *African Arts* editorial consortium in 2016 and its first journal issue—vol. 50, no. 2—was published in 2017. Initially the board was run by Ruth Simbanu, with the aim of developing collaborations with other scholars, particularly those based on the African continent and within the global south (Simbanu 2017: 1).² For the second Rhodes issue (Summer 2018), Simbanu worked with Guest Board Member Amanda Tsimakore from Makerere University, and for the third Rhodes issue (Summer 2019) she collaborated with Stephen Foláránmi from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife-Ife, Nigeria, who at the time was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Rhodes.

In 2019, Rhodes launched a new editorial board made up of five scholars who are all associated with the university: Rachel Baasch, Emi Koide, Stephen Foláránmi, Angilo Kakande, and Ruth Simbanu. Three of the new Rhodes University board members are currently based elsewhere in Africa and the global south: Foláránmi is at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ife-Ife, Nigeria; Kakande is at Makerere University in Uganda; and Koide is at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro da Bahia (UFRRJ) in Cachoeira city in Bahia, Brazil.³

The transnational approach of this board grows partly out of necessity, as our university structures differ to those in the United States, where the other three editorial boards are based. However, it also offers us



1. Jithi Asika, "Grisette Squire" performed at the Institute of African and Diaspora Studies (IADS) at the University of Lagos in Nigeria in November 2019.
 Photo: Ruth Simbanu

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