

# UNITY - One Room Shack

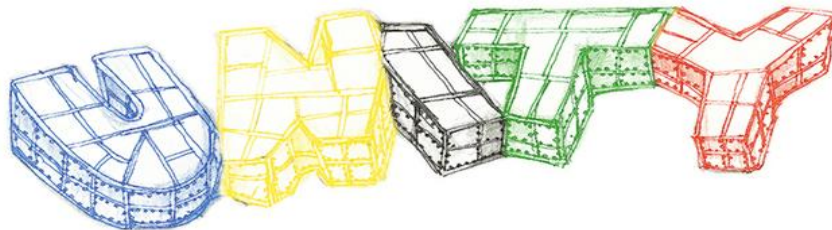
Watermans

Saturday 25 February - Sunday 8 April 2012

Exhibition launch: Saturday 25 February, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Daily 12 noon – 9 pm

Free



With UNITY the One Room Shack collective bring to Watermans a colourful embodiment of the Olympic spirit. The installation is built as a transparent maze-like angular and rectangular structure, navigable from two ends. Each letter that spells UNITY is wired with a different coloured LED strip of lights to represent a particular colour of the Olympic rings, and the installation ‘comes alive’ and lights up when viewers navigate the UNITY structure.

The artists are interested in understanding the implication of UNITY on humanism in a neo-liberal world where hyper-capitalism and love of excess trump compassion and selflessness. By bringing people together into the structure, UNITY speaks the language of *Ubuntu*, a South African philosophical understanding of humanism, which affirms human interconnectedness in the social sphere. *Ubuntu* mirrors Emmanuel Levinas’ philosophical idea of “being for the other” which allows us to consider the value of thinking about other people’s interests in relation to ours.

In providing an immersive space, UNITY invites the viewers to consider the values of being together and for the other in the spirit of the Olympic Games. As a celebratory piece, the installation proposes the possibility of human fraternity rather than the destructive forces which highlight our racial, political, economic, social and individual differences. The artists use the playful but at the same time complex network of passages of a maze to draw upon the complex nature of both human and Olympic realities.

<http://1roomshack.com>

Ugochukwu-Smooth Nzewi and Emeka Ogbob are conceptual artists from Nigeria working under the collaborative platform of One-Room Shack. Their collaborative enterprise is located at the interstice of conventional forms of artistic production and contemporary avant-gardism. In their work they engage with but are not limited to structures of power and power play, hegemony, homogeneity, political economy of means and forms of sociability in an increasingly globalized world. They are interested in the ways in which the discourse of globalization opens up and closes off the discursive space. One-Room Shack’s creative enterprise continually examines the very nature of the discursive space and the roles played by both central and minor characters.