



Taryn Cohn

Visual Arts Project & Management Consultant

Taryn Cohn obtained a BA Fine Art (Hons) and a M.Phil in Cultural Development from Stellenbosch University. An Abe Bailey Fellow, Taryn has worked in various capacities of arts management and cultural marketing. Previous roles include Department of Arts, Culture Science and Technology (DACST) Liaison Officer for Phumani Paper, Media Liaison for the Brett Kebble Art Awards, Project Manager for the Sasol Wax Art Award, Account Executive at Ochre Media and Marketing Manager of Constitution Hill.

In 2006, Taryn partnered with Les Cohn at Art Source South Africa. Areas of expertise include marketing and communications, career development, financial management, project management and strategy – all specialising in the visual arts. Her special interest is combining economics and the arts. This has found expression in the development of a series of acclaimed professional practice courses for the visual art sector, hosted by Art Source in collaboration with various organisations and partners across Southern Africa. The courses aim to provide unique career coaching to artists needing guidance on how to engage the sector professionally. As a trainer in Professional Practice for the Market Photo Workshop, she teaches courses on the Photo Documentary and Advanced Programmes. Additionally, as a field supervisor to the University of Johannesburg's Public Relations Department, Taryn has mentored interns to the completion their qualifications. She is currently the lead consultant on a change management project for the Central University of Technology, Bloemfontein that has seen the School of Design and Visual Art transition to the Department of Design and Studio Arts. This included developing the first undergraduate interdisciplinary Studio Arts Practice and Studio Arts Management qualification, which addresses the rapid change in the wider creative

fields. This programme has been approved by the Department of Higher Education and in 2014 has its first intake of students.

This School will become a hub for interdisciplinary creative practice that breaks down the traditional boundaries that exist between disciplines such as fine art, photography, graphic design and Fashion Design. Together with Les Cohn, she is currently writing the first textbook prescribed for the course to address curriculum needs of Professional Practice in the Visual Arts. More recently, Cohn co-founded a South African crowd funding venture, START 99, targeting the local creative industry and planned to go live in late 2013. Identifying a rapid change in the funding environment, this venture developed out of Art Source South Africa's experience in raising funds for artists and projects. Taryn has written on matters of arts, culture and entertainment for several well-known publications including, amongst others, *Classicfeel*, *SA Art Times* and *Art South Africa*. Cohn's voluntary activities and hobbies are closely aligned to her love of media, and the value of communication in society. Together with her sister Lisa and lifestyle journalist Nikki Temkin, she co-hosts and co-produces *Chic Jozi* for Radio Today. *Chic Jozi* broadcasts on Friday mornings on 1485AM and DSTV audio 869. It recently launched an affiliated site www.chicjozi.com. During her long-standing relationship with community station Radio Today, she has also launched and co-produced several other shows focusing on community governance and human rights for the station.

