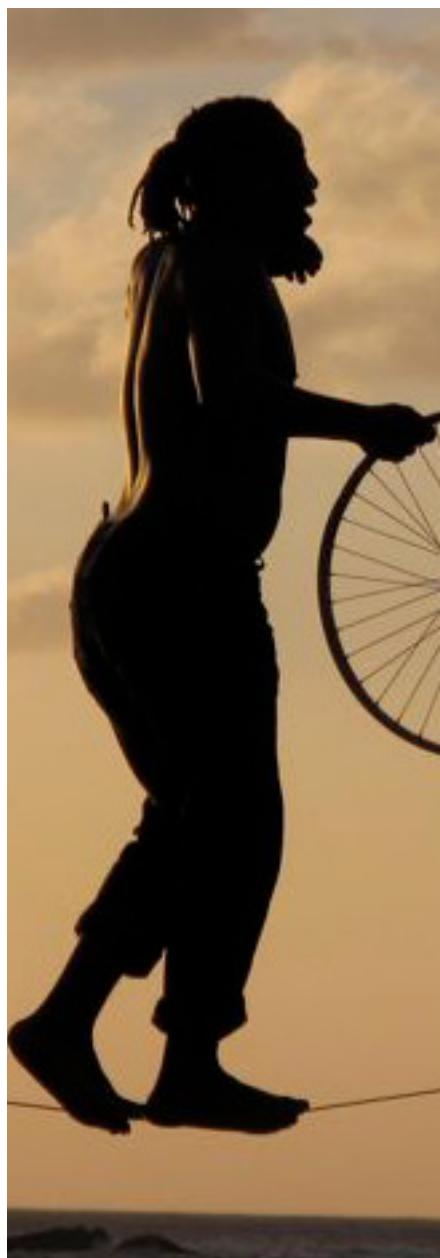


areas in South Africa, where the therapeutic staff goes into the townships and, against all odds, attempts to connect with the population, detect depressed mothers, and provide support and guidance. It was touching to hear that sometimes the staff brings pots of food as a way to get in touch and connect with the hungry mothers.

Nearly two months have passed since my return to Israel and I am still preoccupied with the issues related to the extent of responsibility that the Western World bears towards the mothers, fathers, and infants in Africa.

I also ponder the question how we can contribute even if only a little bit, to the sad situation that exists in the area so close to our hearts - Infant Mental Health, in a country that touched us so deeply.

Africa's cry truly did penetrate deep into my heart!



# It takes a village to raise a child It takes a child to raze a village -Art and psychology in conversation

By Elzan Frank, Curator

Exhibition during the WAIMH 13th World Congress in Cape Town. Supported by the SASOL Art Museum, University of Stellenbosch

Sponsor: Jeanine Beukes

The emphasis on the mother-child bond positions other influences in an infant's life on the periphery. A mother is embedded in her personal context, at the same time she is a child of her Zeitgeist and socio-political realities, all of which influence her child-rearing belief-system. Fathers, present, absent and fantasized, play their part. Many infants are looked after by secondary caregivers; they, in turn, respond from within their own contexts. An infant's world is affected by a multitude of minuscule and mighty factors; war and crime and affluence and poverty and culture and Zeitgeist, noise and nutrition and love and rejection, together with many others, inform the contours of their landscapes.

Post feminism, post modernism, post communism and now post capitalism, we are in the generation of complexity and chaos. The world has become double-helix shaped; intertwined, inter-connected and inter-disturbed. We are alert now, this generation of psychologists; to the information that we are not isolated individuals, from within individual families and with individual destinies. Human infants, like all life on earth, are exposed to the vicissitudes of the times and the responses of multiple others. From the beginnings of our being, we are to be bombarded by a tower of Babel of inputs; increasingly we will be confronted by a maze of possibilities. To get to adulthood relatively intact, we will indeed have to use our wits. Indeed it will be more than a village that raises the child. It can be those

Photo by Deborah Weatherston.



Photos by Elzan Frank.

Art: **Jan Vermeiren, Manneke.** (2010).