



A Night of a Thousand Homes

An invitation to artists from around the world.

What does HOME mean to you?

A place . A memory . A feeling . A person . Safety . Belonging . Identity . Family . Hope.

UTTE invites you to create and donate one or more original A5 artworks interpreting HOME.

The Ask

Format: A5 original artwork/s

Theme: Your interpretation of Home

Medium: Any medium

Submission deadline: 30 September 2026

Public exhibition opening: 4 November 2026, Cape Town, South Africa

One small artwork. One much bigger story.

An invitation to contribute

Urban Think Tank Empower (UTTE) is inviting artists, designers, architects, illustrators, photographers and creatives from South Africa and around the world to respond to one deceptively simple question:

What does home mean to you?

Your work will become part of A Night of a Thousand Homes, a collective exhibition in Cape Town that aims to bring together up to a thousand individual interpretations of home - from



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established artists and internationally recognised creatives to children living in the communities in which UTTE works.

Who is UTTE?

Urban Think Tank Empower (UTTE) is a South African non-profit organisation working to transform underserved communities through better housing, public space and community infrastructure.

We believe a home is more than just four walls and a roof.

A secure home can change the trajectory of a family. But truly transformed communities also need places where children can learn, play, create, feel safe and imagine a different future.

Our work therefore brings together housing, community spaces and programmes that create opportunity around the homes we help deliver.

At the heart of that work are children.

Why a thousand homes?

Throughout the communities where we work, the idea of home carries extraordinary weight. For some, it is the first secure home their family has ever had. For others, it is the place from which they dream about what might come next.

For A Night of a Thousand Homes, we are asking people from very different places and circumstances to respond to the same idea - and to place those responses side by side.

Alongside artworks contributed by artists from across the world, children from the communities in which UTTE works will create their own A5 artworks and write short stories about their homes, their families and their hopes for the future.

Together, these pieces will create a portrait of home told through hundreds of different voices, with the ambition of becoming a thousand.

Your artwork can help create opportunity for a child

Every donated artwork will be exhibited and offered for sale at a fixed price



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The proceeds from A Night of a Thousand Homes will be ring-fenced for UTTE initiatives that directly benefit children in the communities where we work.

The funds will help UTTE create and sustain opportunities such as:

- safe community spaces for children;
- early-childhood and educational initiatives;
- after-school learning and homework support;
- art, storytelling and creative programmes;
- sport and youth-development activities; and
- programmes that allow children to learn, play and grow within stronger communities.

In this way, a small piece of art can have an impact far beyond the exhibition wall.

Your interpretation of home can help a child experience what home should make possible: safety, belonging, opportunity and hope.

We invite you to contribute

We would be honoured if you would create and donate one or more original A5 artworks interpreting the theme:

HOME

There are deliberately very few rules.

Your work may be a drawing, painting, photograph, illustration, collage, print, mixed-media work, or a digital artwork produced as an original physical piece - or something entirely unexpected.

It may take five minutes or five hours. It may be serious, joyful, confronting, intimate, architectural, abstract or deeply personal.

We simply ask that it is yours.



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Original artworks can be sent directly to UTTE in Cape Town or delivered to one of our designated international collection points for consolidated shipment to South Africa. Submission and collection-point details will be provided with the artist registration information.

The exhibition

A Night of a Thousand Homes will culminate in Cape Town with a private opening followed by a public exhibition.

29 October 2026

PRIVATE EXHIBITION OPENING + STORIES OF HOME

An invited evening bringing together art, children's stories and a moderated conversation about the meaning of home.

4 November 2026

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OPENING

Cape Town CBD. The exhibition opens to the wider public during one of the city centre's major monthly gallery and cultural evenings, bringing the work to a broad and diverse audience.

At the private opening, selected stories written by children from the communities where UTTE works will be shared alongside the exhibition, followed by a conversation about home, dignity, childhood and opportunity.

Their stories will sit beside yours.

One small artwork. One much bigger story.

We are trying to bring together a thousand different interpretations of one of the most fundamental ideas we share as human beings.

We hope yours will be one of them.



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Create an A5 original. Tell us what HOME means to you. And help us create greater opportunities for children whose own stories of home are still being written.

Artist registration and delivery details:

Artists can register by completing the form on our website, just follow the link www.utte.co.za/events, or scan the QR code at the bottom of this page.

Artworks need to be delivered to the following collection points.....

Or posted to UTTE, Cape Town



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