



- [HOME](#)
- |
- [ABOUT](#)
- |
- [VISITORS](#)
- |
- [EXHIBITORS](#)
- |
- [THE VENUE](#)
- |
- [NEWS](#)
- |
- [GALLERY](#)
- |
- [CONTACT](#)

# show gardens 2006 **Show Gardens**

## **GARDEN OF WORDS III WILLEM BOSHOFF**

There are between 300 000 and 400 000 plant species in the world. Almost 30 000 of these species appear on the "red data" or endangered species list. Try visualising even half that number. It's difficult.

Without visible impetus, this figure remains an abstract statistic. Enter Willem Boshoff: activist artist and memorialiser, who has provided that visual impetus, and a lot more, in Garden of Words III. The exhibit is a memorial garden made up of 15 000 handmade flowers, "planted" in fifteen expansive rectangular flowerbeds. It is a vivid and poignant interpretation of how one represents such a number, and such a loss, for each of the flowers marks a different plant species under imminent threat. "I study all the plant species I can find," says Boshoff. "I want to know

their names and where they grow. Since 1981 I have made notes on more than fifteen thousand plant species on trips to natural areas and botanical gardens all over the world." Each of the species that Boshoff has studied is named within the 15 000 memorial flowers installed.

Printed onto the small white cloths that make up these flowers is the botanical name, as well as every vernacular name, that Boshoff has been able to source of each plant. The native country of each species is also printed on the cloth, because flowers, he reminds us, like people, have an identity and an origin.



[Back to Exhibitors](#) »

**Artlogic**

T 011 482 4459

E [jani@artlogic.co.za](mailto:jani@artlogic.co.za) [zajani@artlogic.co.za](mailto:zajani@artlogic.co.za)

[www.artlogic.co.za](http://www.artlogic.co.za)

**Designer**

Willem Boshoff

© 2006 South African Airways Cape Town Flower Show