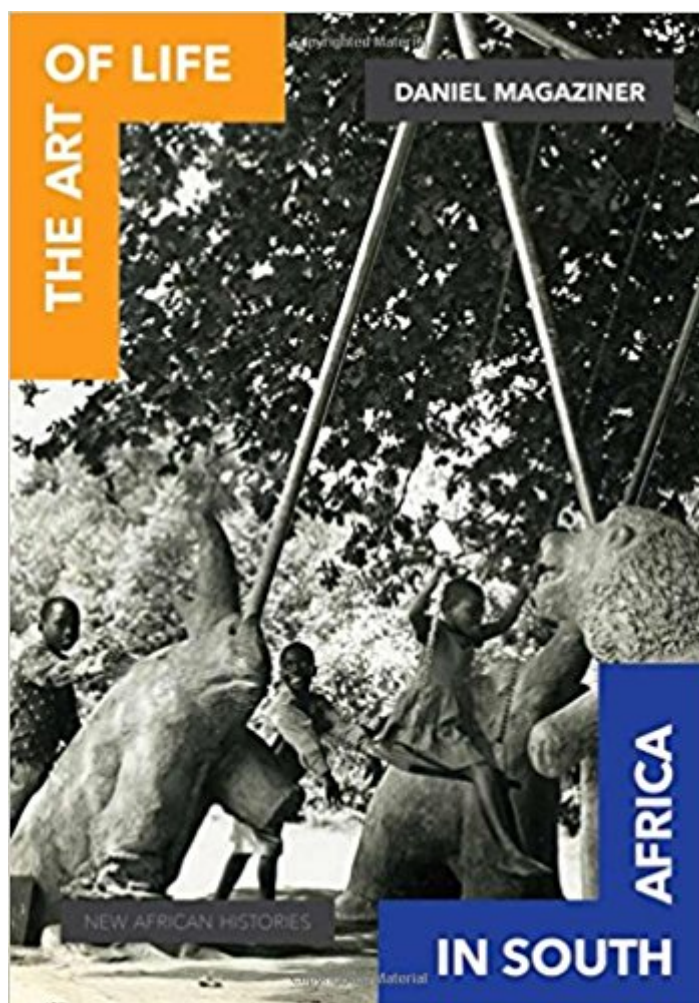


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# The Art Of Life In South Africa (New African Histories)



## Synopsis

From 1952 to 1981, South Africa's apartheid government ran an art school for the training of African art teachers at Indaleni, in what is today KwaZulu-Natal. *The Art of Life in South Africa* is the story of the students, teachers, art, and politics that circulated through a small school, housed in a remote former mission station. It is the story of a community that made its way through the travails of white supremacist South Africa and demonstrates how the art they made together became the art of their lives. *The Art of Life in South Africa* proposes a radical reframing of apartheid era South African history. Against the dominant narrative of apartheid oppression and black resistance, as well as recent scholarship that explores violence, criminality and the hopeless entanglements of the apartheid state, this book focuses instead on a small group's efforts to fashion more fulfilling lives for themselves and their community through the ironic medium of the apartheid-era school. There is no book like this in South African historiography. Lushly illustrated and poetically written, it gives us fully formed lives that offer remarkable insights into the now clichéd experience of black life under segregation and apartheid.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Art of Life in South Africa" is an astonishing book, powerfully constructed, intricately researched, and gorgeously written. From the focused study of individual lives and practices that flourished in and around the Indaleni art school, Magaziner extends the possibilities of a more

democratic form of art history. • David Doris, author of *Vigilant Things: On Thieves, Yoruba Anti-Aesthetics, and the Strange Fates of Ordinary Objects in Nigeria* (2012 Herskovits Award winner) "The Art of Life in South Africa" is beautifully rendered, well researched, and tells an important, scarcely told story. Combining in exciting ways intellectual, cultural, and social historical approaches, Magaziner offers a meditation on what happens if we examine a past that is shaped by broader historical forces (in this case apartheid) but that cannot be reduced to them. • Clifton Crais, author of *The South Africa Reader: History, Culture, Politics* "In this beautifully written book, Dan Magaziner opens a small story to reveal expansive, deep questions. The Art of Life in South Africa offers an unexpected and transcendent intellectual history of African self-making and art practice. • Julie Livingston, author of *Improvising Medicine: An African Oncology Ward in an Emerging Cancer Epidemic*

Daniel Magaziner teaches South African and nineteenth and twentieth century African history at Yale University. He is the author of *The Law and the Prophets: Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1968-1977*.

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