

<i>Session Title</i>	<b>InnovArt for AI-Driven Grassroots Innovation: Abstract Art as Catalyst for Sustainable Development</b>
<i>Session Description</i>	<p>This interactive session will explore how abstract art, fused with artificial intelligence, can be a powerful method for promoting inclusive grassroots innovation aligned with the SDGs. The Teka Tako Ngwane Institute (TTNI) will present the InnovArt Method—a disruptive approach that uses abstract art to ignite ideation, generate data, and co-design AI-supported solutions with communities.</p> <p>Through participatory demos, the session will showcase how visual storytelling transforms into AI-powered products, such as community water-harvesting devices and solar-powered tech hubs. Presenters will detail how local knowledge and creativity can shape data inputs, build digital competence, and foster Afrocentric innovation systems. By bridging culture and computation, the session illustrates a novel path toward ethical and contextual AI adoption that resonates with underrepresented communities.</p> <p>Participants will engage in a mini-InnovArt exercise, using visual prompts and AI tools to simulate the innovation process. The session invites researchers, artists, AI developers, and sustainability practitioners to rethink the role of creativity in the data revolution.</p>