

SMART art

Words: Keith Bain, Picture: Melissa Cucci

This adorable pup is by Belgian street artist Bart Smeets and is the billboard for Cape Town's upcoming International Public Art Festival. Whether you call it graffiti or street art, there's no denying the capacity of works such as this to revitalise grey and decaying precincts. The festival, now in its third year, happens in Salt River, an

industrial neighbourhood that's been undergoing steady transformation thanks to makeovers performed on its old buildings. The festival's theme this year is 'Generation Next' and it will see 20 high-calibre artists, half of them international, adding their creative visions to exterior surfaces throughout the precinct. Among this year's participants is Pixel Pancho, a

renowned Turin-born artist famed for his extraordinary use of earthy hues in his large-scale murals. The festival includes guided tours and workshops and the opportunity to watch the artists at work. Oh, and if you want to check out Bart's wide-eyed puppy, head for Harrington Street and look up. *9-17 February, ipafest.co.za.* ■