

# Helen Mmakgabo Sebidi

Full name is Helen Mmakgabommapula, *the one who brings rain*, that is to say luck, Regina Sebidi.

SOUTH AFRICA

Born in 1943 in Skilpadfontein, Northern Transvaal, South Africa. Lives and works in Johannesburg

Det fullständiga namnet är Helen Mmakgabommapula (*den som kommer med regnet, dvs lyckan*) Regina Sebidi

SYDAFRIKA

Född 1943 i Skilpadfontein, Norra Transvaal, Sydafrika

**Group Exhibitions** ♦ 1980-1981: Washington, USA. *Brush and Chisel Club* ♦ 1985: South African Pottery Exhibition ♦ 1986: Sotheby's SA (PTY) LTD The Art Foundation. *Thupelo Workshop, Rembrandt Gallery* ♦ 1987: Fuba Gallery. *Vita Awards Exhibition, Johannesburg Art Gallery. Fuba Gallery. Thupelo Workshop. Standard Bank Drawing Competition, Grahamstown Festival, subsequent National Tour. South African Arts Calendar* ♦ 1988: DPSC Exhibition - 100 artists protest against detention without trial, Market Galleries. *Triennial Touring Exhibition.*

**Individual Exhibition** ♦ 1986 FUBA Gallery, Johannesburg. Helen Sebidi is represented in numerous private collections including: Public Collection, UNISA, Johannesburg Africana Museum, Sasol Collection, University of Bophuthatswana.

**Samlingsutställningar** ♦ 1980-81: Washington USA. *Brush and Chisel Club* ♦ 1985: South African Pottery Exhibition ♦ 1986: Sotheby's SA (PTY) LTD. *The Art Foundation. Thupelo Workshop, Rembrandt Gallery* ♦ 1987: Fuba Gallery. *Vita Awards Exhibition, Johannesburg Art Gallery. Fuba Gallery. Thupelo Workshop. Standard Bank Drawing Competition, Grahamstown Festival, subsequent National Tour. South African Arts Calendar* ♦ 1988: DPSC Exhibition - 100 artists protest against detention without trial, Market Galleries. *Triennial Touring Exhibition* **Separatutställning** ♦ 1986: Fuba Gallery **Referenser** ♦ 1979: Bona Magazine ♦ 1984: Hit Magazine ♦ 1985: Bona Magazine ♦ 1986: Sowetan. *The Star Woman for Today. New Nation* ♦ 1987: True Love Magazine ♦ 1988: New Nation. *Fair Lady Magazine*



TO: PRETORIA ART MUSEUM

FROM: H. SEBIDI

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MMAKGABO MMAPULA HELEN SEBIDI

Mmakgabo Mapula Helen Sebidi was born in 1943 in Marapyane (Skilpadfontein), in the Hammanskraal area of Northern Transvaal.

Her first teacher of art was her grandmother, a traditional artist who passed on to her granddaughter the vernacular aesthetic which has such a strong presence in Sebidi's work. They lived a rural life, cultivating crops, making mud and constructing walls and floors which they then decorated. They also made and decorated calabashes. From her own mother she learnt dress making and embroidery and stresses the importance of acquiring these skills in making of her and artist informed by a vital culture. She attended the Khutsong Middle School.

- 1959 Left Khamane School after completing standard 6 and went to seek work in Johannesburg.
- 1960's Worked in domestic service where she learnt European-style cooking, and practised dressmaking as well.
- 1970-73 Studied informally with John Koenakeefe Mohl.
- 1975 Returned to Marapyane in March to care for her grand-mother who died in 1981; continued to paint and to visit Mohl in Johannesburg.
- 1977 First exhibited at Artists under the Sun, Joubert Park.
- 1984 Commuted between Marapyane and Johannesburg.
- 1985 Began improving her clay technique at Katlehong Art Centre. Also interested in pottery - making pots and sculpting and taught these skills to children at the centre.
- 1986-87 Worked at the Johannesburg Art Foundation, improving under the guidance of Bill Ainslie and others, and taught at the Alexandra Art Centre.
- 1987-88 Participated in the Khula Udweba art teachers' project organised at FUNDA by the African Institute of Art.
- 1988 Awarded a Fulbright scholarship to travel to the U.S.
- 1988-89 Visited the United States and Europe, addressed many groups in different centres, worked at the Millay for the Arts, Austerlitz, New York.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1977-88 Artists under the Sun, Johannesburg.
- 1980-88 Brush and Chisel Club, Johannesburg.
- 1980-81 Washington, U.S.A (organized by a private collector).