

ART ~ SOUTH AFRICA ~ TODAY

The 6th 'Art - South Africa - Today' exhibition was held recently in Durban. A total of 600 entries were received of which 136 were chosen for exhibition by Miss Pauline Vogelpoel, M.B.E., Organiser of the Contemporary Art Society, Tate Gallery, London.

The exhibition opened on Wednesday 12th September and closed on Monday 15th October. More than 18,000 visitors saw the exhibition and on the opening night 1,000 viewers were recorded.

Awards went to the following artists: Ulrich Louw and Claude van Lingen (R500), Michael Petit (R200), Norman Catherine and Gerrit Hilhorst (R100), Margaret Brits (R50), Vuminkosi Zulu and Tito Zungu (R25), Robert Brooks and Adrian de Villiers (R100), Ian Redelinghuys (R100), Berenice Michelow (R100) and Gavin Young (R150).

We would like to quote from the columns of Mrs. M. O'Connor, art critic of the Natal Mercury, Miss M. Holloway, art critic of the Sunday Tribune, as well as part of Professor Norman Martin's opening address.

"The graphic section this year featured largely African expressionists such as Sibisi, Mbatha, Mahlangu and Zulu, who produced works of evocative sensitivity. One felt their work was less protest art than honest emotional representation."

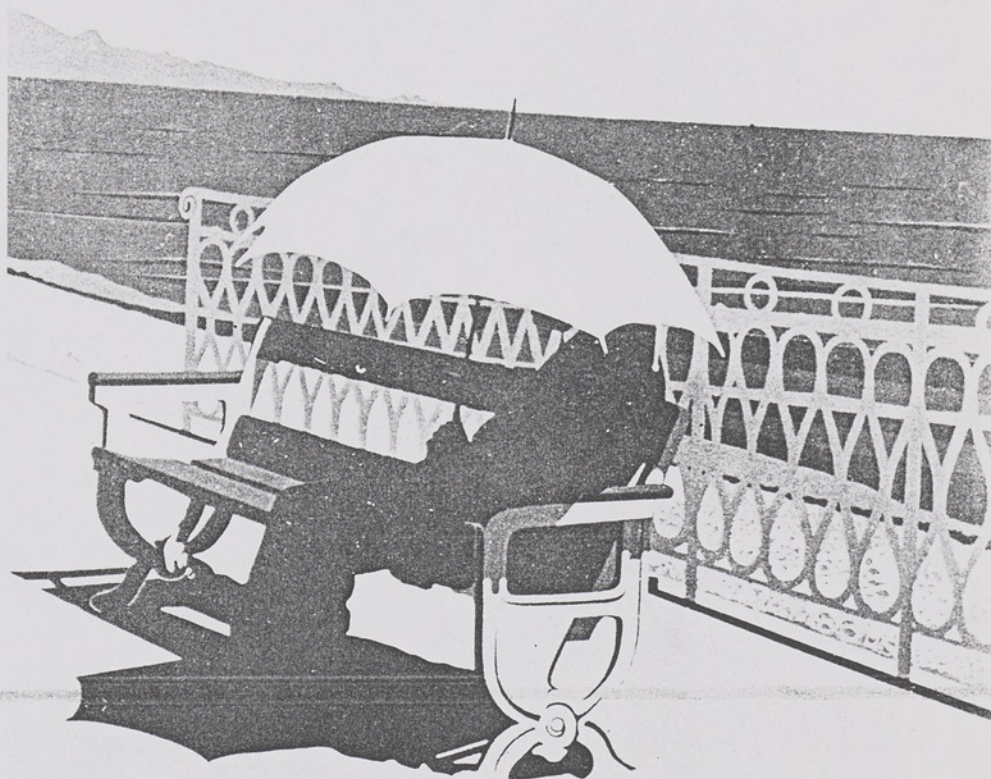
"This exhibition does not, as has been pointed out, feature the majority of South Africa's well established artists. However, it is a significant slice of work by South Africa's most promising younger artists - and as such it is an exhibition worthy of respect".

MARILYN HOLLOWAY - Sunday Tribune

"This year has produced a less agitated cross-section of art than the previous exhibition and more generally representative of art being produced throughout the country. The technical standard of the work is remarkably high."

"an Art which is chiefly technically oriented but basically honest, and of which I think we can be reasonably proud".

MARIE O'CONNOR - "The Natal Mercury"



Seascape 1 by Ulrich Louw

"Too many works are ill-conceived and ill-considered. Some of them are badly made and badly painted. Works which entertain the popular and sometimes rather obviously conscience-salving thing of 'political comment' are transparent and lacking in sincerity that in the final analysis they are no more than dedicated followers of a rather doubtful fashion."

"The exhibition also reflects a callous disregard for the organisers who are providing artists with the original golden opportunity to exhibit in the company of artists of ability and repute."

"To say all this has not been easy, and I derive little pleasure from it. Some people may take offense. I am sorry it was not my intention to offend. There are some good workers here. Seek them out and I am sure you will be rewarded".

PROF. NORMAN MARTIN