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The Star Wednesday October 30 1996

Walking

to work ...

The Yellow

Jacketsâ\200\231 by

Sam

Nhlengethwa

tonight J 5

Sam Nhlengethwaâ\200\231s Mine Trip exhibition

is the result of real time spent living

on a mine, personally interacting rr
with the frequently forgotten miners

whose lives are spent unearthing

the countryâ\200\231s wealth. KENDELL GEERS
takes a look at the artist's latest offering

Nhliengethwa braves the drawing board

EXHIBITION: Mine Trip by Sam
Nhlengethwa (Goodman Gallery)

Â¥ ven more than failure, success
can be the biggest test for a
young artist. Where
previously artists produced work for
themselves alone, influenced only by
their personal convictions and belief
in art, a sudden growth in the market
demand for their work adds an
unexpected pressure dictated by that
market's usually conservative whims
and expectations.

Recently the fashionable demand
for work by black South african artists
from the museums who had
previously ignored their work,
together with that of numerous
diplomats and foreigners, has resulted

in countless artists forfeiting quality in favour of quantity.

In 1994 Sam Nhlengethwa won the Standard Bank Young Artist award, the greatest accolade for an ambitious young artist. The resulting exhibition failed to live up to its importance, being a rehash of works exhibited the year before at the Market Theatre.

This was followed by Senegalese Images, another watered down simulacrum of the extremely strong and provocative works that had originally established Nhlengethwa as the important artist he is widely considered to be, the reason why he won the Standard Bank award in the first place.

For Mine Trip Nhlengethwa has literally returned to the drawing

board. The exhibition is the result of real time spent living on a mine, personally interacting with the frequently forgotten miners whose lives are spent unearthing the country's wealth. This research period was documented in the artist's sketchbook which was later translated into the lithographs, collages and paintings that make up this exhibition. Strongly influenced by the African-

American artist Romare Bearden, Nhlengethwa's earlier work frequently resorted to generic

portraits, partly as a result of their

having being collaged from mass media cuttings.

In contrast, Mine Trip is the

product of the artist's private experiences with his subjects, which

are as a result rich in both pathos and sensitivity. The anonymous faces of sweating labourers in Safety, Fatigue and Routine is contrasted with the warm, smiling, friendly faces of the same people enjoying themselves

socially in Posing For A Photograph and The Proud Miner.

With Mine Trip Nhlengethwa has, more than anything else, revealed an incredible ability to work with line. Constructed almost entirely with linear elements, lithographs like Inside The Cage, Busy Day and especially From The Sketchbook are as compelling and powerful as any of the portraits by Daumier and Millet. Neither drawing nor lithography are held in high regard by the fashionable art world, which makes their presence in

ee

Nhlengethwa's work all the more evocative.

Nhlengethwa's new flirtation with line is a radical and extremely brave step away from the tone and colour that characterised the last exhibition. The strongest paintings are those like Abandoned and Chayile which have successfully translated the spirit of drawing into the medium of painting.

Mine Trip is Nhlengethwa's most dynamic and accomplished exhibition to date. He has turned his back on the market expectations and produced a body of work that will become one of the historic moments of South African contemporary art. Ironically, if pre-opening sales are a barometer of what to expect, the show may also become a financial success.

6am

6.00

6.30

7.30

7.58

8.00

~ 830

9.00

Ss

Hereâ\200\231s Humphrey 6.30 Adventures Of
Hacchi 7.00 Casper Classics 7.15.
Paddy 7.30 Barney And Friends 8.00
Days Of Our Lives: Repeat 8.50 The
Bold And The Beautiful: Repeat. 9.20
Infomercial 10.20 CNN International
2.00 Kideo 2.30 The Ozlets 3.00
Childrenâ\200\231s Plus Specials 3.30
Incredible Adventure Of Kung Fu
Panda 4.00 The Jungle Book 4.30
The New Adventures Of SuperTed
4.40 Days Of Our Lives 5.30 The Bold
And The Beautiful 5.57 Compass
*Big World Goes Africa: South
Africa's youth are taken on a discov-
ery trip through thirteen African capi-
tals

Live - The World's Greatest Stunts
Indwe

News: Zulu

Weather Forecast

*Going Up: The rooftop shebeen is
buzzing with the sound of gravy train
*The Five Mrs Buchanans: Mother
Buchanan seems to have a new
admirer in the form of the local
baker, Frank Collins

*Strange Interlude (Mini Series):
Second of four episodes. Nina Leeds
suffers a nervous breakdown over the
death of her fiancée, and becomes
emotionally disturbed. To prevent her

5am

BBC World 5.55 Alpha 6.00 GMSA
8.00 Your Own Business 8.30 Oakie
Doke 8.40 *xWombles 8.45
Honkedonk 8.55 The Magic
Roundabout 9.00 Cadillacs En
Dinosourusse 9.30 *Kideo 10.00 0â\200\231
Na Le Bophelo 10.25 I'm Addicted
To Life 10.30 Abet 11.00 Agriforum
12.00 Glaskasteel 12.30 Midday
Breeze 1.00 Neighbours 1.30
Mohlolonadi: Sesotho 2.00 The Joint
2.25 Home Care 2.30 Improve Your
Frame: Final 3.00 Tshisimani 4.00
Education 4.30 Yogi's Space Race
5.00 Katts And Dog 5.30 VR
Troopers: When the Troopers discov-
er that they have been infected with
a sludge designed to eat away the
reality barrier, they must fight two
mutants in order to retrieve a plant
that will allow Professor Hart to pre-
pare an antidote. 5.57 Kompas
Spieel

Nuus: Afrikaans

Tussen Ons

*Hagenheim Streng Privaat

(fm) Oppas, Hierâ\200\231s Die Oupas
News: Sepedi

Focus

UEFA Soccer Cup

Omega
BBC World

SABC

6am_ CNN International 6.30 Business
Tonight 7.00 CNN International
10.00 Learning Channel 12.00
xLarry King: The inimitable King

gets to grips with the American pubs ae

lic as the election draws nearer
12.45 &CNN Travel Guide / Showbiz
Today 1.00 Business File 1.30 CNN
Moneyline 2.00 CNN International
3.00 *Parliament Live: Donâ\200\231t com-
plain you never see decisions or
debates being made by parliamen-
tarians when there is live coverage
4.00 Â«The Oprah Winfrey Show
5.00 Santa Barbara 5.30 The Young
And The Restless

Boston Common: As Wyleen lets

some film students document two weeks of her life Boyd learns that his boss has been fired

*Madison: Rachel dates two guys and is forced to make a choice when they find out about each other

Taking The Falls: An old friend of Terry who in his youth used to take

6.00

6.30

7.00

a barrel-ride over the Niagara Falls as

a stuntman decides to do it one more time before he dies of a brain tumour, The 75-year old is hell-bent_ and won't to listen to anyone, least of all to his gay son who wants a competency hearing so he can look

_which has earned parental _ advisories in America, among other _

Ve Men Done Badly, Malcolm. and

The Star Wednesday October 30 1996

Music TV 3.00 Teeny Bop 5.00 Oasis
5.30 Swans Crossing

The Shadow

_ Santa Barbara

*Hearts Afire: Comedy series

JOSHUA: Starring Fred Williamson,

Calvin Bartlett, Brenda Versus

Taking the Falls: This lighthearted drama series, , follows the antics of two off-beat women who try to

solve home town crimes with often - hilarious consequences

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord

Music TV

SABC3 has secured the rights to EZ Street, the controversial adult drama

great new prime-time shows for next year

reedttudedin theimpressive

are Spin City (seestory

sponte najor AmericanhitLA

and the brand-new series

Eddie (featuring the crownain.

6am

6.00

6.30

7.00

8.50

9.00

11.00

12.50

3.25

Supersport AM 7.00 WWF Wrestling
8.00 Aerobics 9.00 Infomercials 10.00
Loving: Repeat 10.30 Egoli â\200\224 Place of
Gold: Repeat 11.00 *LEGENDS OF
THE FALL 1.12 Infomercials 2.35 The
Elephant Show; Happily Ever After;
Garfield & Friends; Fantom Cat;
Spellbinder; Simba Surprise 5.00
Maybe This Time 5.30 Loving

Egoli â\200\224 Place of Gold

Caroline In The City

Red Eagle: Lie Down With Lions.
(Mini series): Final

M-Net Cares

FRIENDS AT LAST: An unfulfilled
woman and her husband, get
divorced. They only stay in contact
with one another for the sake of their
daughter, but years later something
happens that makes them realise that
they can be friends after all. Starring
Kathleen Turner, Colm Feore (1995)
*&THE MASK: Jim Carreyâ\200\231s vehicle to
fame and fortune is great, primarily
because of the special effects.
Cameron Diaz is also worth watching.
Hey, from zero to hero. Also starring
Peter Riegert, Amy Yasbeck (1994)
FALLEN ANGELS I: Part one in a col-
lection of short films set in or around
LA during the 30s and 40s (1993)
*&THE TEMP: Thriller with Lara Flynn
Boyle, Timothy Hutton (1993)