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Lesley Spira
Professional Officer
Johannesburg Art Gallery
P.O. Box SSS]

Joubert Fark 2o044

Dear Lesley
My information on Gladys Mgudlandlu is as follows,

Mgudlandlu was born in Feddie in the Ciskei in 1925; the daughter and grand-daughter of missionaries of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Ciskei. As an adolescent she won recognition from the Feddie community for her talents in clay modelling and mural painting. A feature of her mural designs was the use of traditional Xhosa mural imagery of trees, plants, flowers etc. executed in local clay colours with imaginative additional patterned inlays using organic components such as feathers and maize-pips,

After obtaining a teacher's certificate from Lavedale Training College in the Eastern Cape, Mgudlandlu moved to Cape Town in the early 1940's, where she studied nursing at Victoria Hospital. In 1944 she worked at Erogklyn Chest Hospital, and in 1948 she joined the Athlone Bantu Community School. In 1945 she taught at Nyanga West Primary School,

From the mid 1940s to the late 1960's Mgudlandlu lived in Nyanga. She was well known as an artist: -the Nyanga Community who called her "Gladys the African Queen", She lived in a small council house where her drawings and Paintings in gouache and Oil, were executed at night by the light of a paraffin lamp. (She apparently preferred to work with her canvases flat on the floor than upright at an easel.) In the main, her subjects were taken from the rural landscape around Nyanga and Cape Town, as well as from recalled childhood images of Ciskei landscapes and Xhosa folk tales. (Birds are particularly dominant as subjects, for example, Watching Bird c. 1961, No Life Without Religion

C.1962, and Eastern Cape Eagle c.1943.)

Mgudlandlu held three major one-person exhibitions in 1941, 1962 and 1963, Her first exhibition in 1961 took place at Room 404, 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town, and was reputedly the first solo exhibition in Africa of a black female artist.

In 1962 and 1945 she exhibited at the Rodin Gallery in Loop Street, Cape Town. (Jean Fuchs was the gallery's director.) Most of the paintings and drawings from these exhibitions were purchased by private white art patrons, After George Femba (1912~), Mgudlandlu is the only known Xhosa painter to have come from the Cape in the first half of the twentieth century. (Mgudlandlu and Femba knew each other. - Femba Painted her portrait,) Mgudlandlu's works have been included in numerous group exhibitions in South Africa. She also completed mural commissions for the Department of Bantu Education sometime in the 60's,

In 1971 Mgudlandlu sustained serious injuries in a car accident. Later, illness prevented her from continuing to paint. She died in Guguletu in 1979 at the age of fifty-four,

I hope this will be of some use to you, although there are still many holes! As you can see my information (gleaned from Newspaper reviews) on her first solo exhibition, which as far as I know was held in Cape Town, is different to yours, There is a gap between 1963 and her death in 1979 which I cannot account for,

Below is a list of further artists I have been researching. If you require additional information on any of them I would be glad to help,

Jahn Koaenakeefe Mohl
George Mnyaluza Milwe Femba

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Gerard Bhengu Ab 3 PN J
Gerard Sekota WOW A PAM
Jabulani Ntuli
Hezekile Ntuli Durban We |
Ephraim Ngatane WY Assoc with Nwa
Louis Macgubela Z ;
Leonard Matsosa ne a nt,
Lucky Sibiyi 4 Pushy A face

Tshidisa Gndrew Mot juoadi
Mstlaba Dumile

Daniel Rakgoathe

Mphe Cyprian Shilakoe
Azaria Mbatha

John Muafange ja

Rongiwe Dhlama

Sydney Kumala

Lucas Sithale

Ezram Leqae

Relom o vnd

Yours sincerely

hha

Amanda Jeophsan

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