

24 Nov. 1997

MA9-0002-0002-040

Condition Reports

Gladys Mgudlandlu Paintings

1. Description: "Red Urban Landscape."

on Masonite, thin frame;
There are beige smudges on the lower left corner,
the left bottom edge and in the b.v. crnr,
near the signature.
No warp, minimal surface dirt.

2. "Mother and child dressed in Red" (Descriptive).

Frame weak, scuffed

Paint unvarnished; noticeable surface dirt,
red has drying cracks

Slight surface deformation (wavy)

All 4 stretcher keys present

Painting may be keyed out.

Teresa Wimberley
Painting Conservator Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Mamé Strauss painter staying in New Zealand
Telephone: 3489 7521
No 2 Waironga Rd
Rural Delivery No 2
Mosgiel
Otago, New Zealand
Greetings, Elza

Elana Markowitz
107 Spray Street
Elwood
Victoria
3182 (she has
two Mgudlandlus)

10/194
EM/jw

23 Janaury 1998

Ms Ray Alexander-Simons
19a Rugley Road
Vredehoek
8001

Dear Ms Alexander

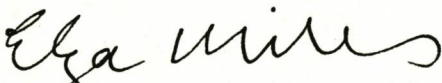
Hayden Proud of the South African National Gallery told me that you not only knew the painter, Gladys Mgudlandlu, but that you also own paintings by the artist. Since I am curating a retrospective exhibition of her art for the Johannesburg Art Gallery later this year I am taking advantage of his suggestion that I write to you. I am also responsible for an introductory essay to the catalogue of the exhibition and shall be most grateful if you would share your memories of the artist with me.

- ♦ When and how did you meet her? Who arranged for her first exhibition, held at the offices of the Liberal Party in Parliament Lane?
- ♦ Did she have a child that died in infancy?
- ♦ Do you have any knowledge of her niece and nephew, Linda and Malvern, who stayed with her?
- ♦ Do you recall where she stayed in Guguletu?
- ♦ I believe Gladys played a good game of tennis. When did her health fail?
- ♦ Do you know her birth date? Though 1925 is documented in the art history sources, her year of birth seems 1923 according to early newspaper coverage of her art.
- ♦ Did you know Mr J T Handula, an artist, who also taught at the Athlone Community School?
- ♦ Do you have any knowledge of murals that Gladys painted for the then Department of Bantu Education? Where was this Department situated?
- ♦ Do you know other people owing her work?

Furthermore, may I have photographs of the work by Gladys in your collection as well as the following factual data: titles, medium (oil or gouache on paper), measurements (height before width), appearance of date and signature or other inscriptions on the artwork (bottom left or top right)?

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely



Elza Miles (Dr)

Curator: Gladys Mgudlandlu Retrospective Exhibition

P.S. If my last request is inconvenient for you, do not hesitate to let me know so that I can arrange with a friend to photograph and document the works for me.

CAPEMAIL



LET SOMEONE FEEL SPECIAL-SEND A VALENTINE'S CARD

Dr Elsa Miles
Johannesburg Art Gallery,
P.O. Box 23561,
Joubert Park
2044 Johannesburg.

19A Rugley Road
Vrededorp 8001
Cape Town
3.2.1978

Dear Mr Elser Miles
Thank you for your letter of 23rd Jan, received yesterday.

In reply to your questions:

I was banned could not go to exhibitions. Heard of her exhibition and arranged to see her paintings one morning where there would be no other visitors. (They have been in 1957). I saw her painting which were of wealthy homes in Camps Bay Sea Point and Oranjezicht. I obtained her address and wrote to her that whilst I enjoyed looking at her art work - but why do you paint the wealthy homes - why don't you paint the shanty homes where your people live? She came to see me. I lived in Oranjezicht, Bridle Road the last road to Table Mountain - she asked my permission to paint from our ^{stable} a big house - again I said you can use my stable but what about you painting the shanty home where your people - she replied nobody will buy it I told her I will buy it and I will get other friends to buy her paintings. An other exhibition of her work was held - I cannot remember the place - was still banned and again I arranged to come the morning I picked a parking place and the person helping her put on 2 red tabs.

My sister bought one I will find out from her where the paintings I got two other friends to buy - she only displayed 4 paintings about her own people - but I cannot remember now their names. The Cape Times reviewed her work and used my painting for the article I cannot remember the date. I met her a few times she came to our home for tea. But I cannot reply to your other questions. Please send someone to take a photo of her painting. Am glad that you are doing something about her. I left for exile in 1965 with my husband. ^{Misaka} Remember her writing to her, that she should come to Zambia - there were several african artists - she did not respond to me.

Yours Sincerely
Ray Alexander Simon