

INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat

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Jg..... Nr. 11880 P. 5 Dat. 27 MAR 1990

A new exhibition

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An exciting exhibition of African indigenous paintings and sculpture opens on Wednesday at the Kunstkabinett as part of the independence celebrations.

Featuring well-known artists from South Africa as well as Namibian Joseph Madisia, this exhibition is the result of a new association between the Kunstkabinett and the Everard Read Gallery in Johannesburg.

Artists whose works are on view include Lucky Sibiya, Billy Molokeng, Tommy Motswai, Speelman Mahlangu, Martin Tose, Gabriel Tsolo, Joseph Madisia, Noria Mabasa, Hendrick Nekhofe, Sipho Ndlovu, Avhashoni Mainganye and Ann Marie Berry.

INTERNATIONALLY

Lucky Sibiya is recognised internationally as one of South Africa's top artists. Born in

Vryheid and the son of a medicine man, Sibiya was initially attracted to the abstract shapes and textures as well as the symbolic meanings of the bones which his father used for witchcraft.

His family moved to Johannesburg but Sibiya continued his education at Hammanskraal where he studied drawing and started to carve decorative patterns on gourds and wood.

SKOTNES

Later he met Cecil Skotnes who was then in charge of the Polly Street Art Centre which became synonymous with urban black artistic movement which developed there.

Skotnes accepted Sibiya as a private pupil and encouraged him to engrave wooden panels which became his new medium.

Sibiya later created a portfolio inspired by Welcome Nsomi's play "Umabatha", based on Shakespeare's "Macbeth", but illustrated with Zulu figures and images from Shaka's time. This portfolio was exhibited at the Old Vic in London and at the Royal Caesaria in Tel Aviv where it was highly acclaimed.

SUCCESS

His first exhibition was an immediate success and he has developed into an artist of great versatility, painting on paper and canvas as well as producing dramatic sculptures.

Noria Mabasa, whose sculpture of the Natal floods featured on the Cape Town Triennial exhibition, was born in Venda

but moved to Alexander at the age of thirteen. She had already begun painting murals and then experimented with carved wooden figurines which she painted.

SCENIC

Her work depicted the scenic life of the Venda people, especially the role of the young women in the family. In 1974, Mabasa started to use clay and she gained wider recognition. Since then she has taken part in many exhibitions including the BMW Tributaries, the Grahamstown Festival and the Rembrandt show and her work is on display in the public collections of Wits University and the Johannesburg Art Gallery.

Billy Molokeng is a multi-talented man, a professional painter, singer and composer. He started painting when quite young and held his first public exhibition in 1968.

SEMI-FIGURATIVE

Molokeng's paintings are semi-figurative and characterized by a wonderful use of bright colour. There is a strong Kwandebele influence in the stylisation and treatment of figures.

His work is highly sophisticated and reveals a sense of humour, rhythm and movement obviously influenced by his love of music.

He has participated in group exhibitions in West Germany, Tel Aviv, Athens and Rome and had many solo exhibitions in South Africa.

Tommy Motswai was born in Johannesburg in 1963. He is a deaf mute, who studied for 11 years at the Kutlwanong School for the Deaf, where he

TREFWOORDE

1 Madisia...

2 Sibiya...

3 Molokeng...

4 Motswai...

5 Mahlangu...

6 Tose...

7 Tsolo...

8 Mabasa...

9 Nekhofe...

10 Ndlovu...

Mainganye

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also taught art. He studied with Bill Ainslie and the Federated Union of Black Artists between 1980 and 1982 but is mainly self-taught.

URBAN SCENES

Motswai is an artist of brightly coloured urban scenes of city people who works mainly in pastel and various graphic media.

His work was represented at the Cape Town Triennial which was seen in Windhoek in 1988.

These are just a few of the artists on display at the exhibition entitled Beauty of Africa which will be opened by Mr Mishake Muyongo at 20h30 on Wednesday, March 27 at the Kunstkabinett.

TREFWOORDE

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