



1. *Two figures with Birds*, by Louis Maqhubela
2. A watercolour by Welcome Koboka
3. John Pank and Madreen McDowell of the Sowetan Cultural Affairs Committee in conversation with artist Dan Rakgoathe
4. *Umabatha* by Lucky Sibiya
5. A work by Ephraim Ngatane



ings and sculpture by some of South Africa's leading Black artists was held in Soweto, the large Black city near Johannesburg to provide a comprehensive retrospective of the last 30 years. It was presented by the Soweto Council's art school in Mofolo Park under the direction of Mr D. S. Rakgoathe.

The exhibition, *Thirty Years of Black Art*, was opened by Cecil Skotnes, well-known South African artist and one of the founders of the former Polly Street Art Centre in Johannesburg which is now the Mofolo Art School. The Polly Street Art Centre, the only one of its kind, trained urban Blacks in fine art. Among the artists taking part in the exhibition were several who were taught by Mr Skotnes, including Dan Rakgoathe, Welcome Koboka,

Sydney Kumalo and Ezrom Legae.

Other artists represented on the exhibition were Ben Arnold, Fikile, Megadiele, Ben Macala, Solomon Maphiri, Louis Maqhubela, Leonard Matsoso, Azaria Mbatha, Julian Motau, Thabo Mothudi, Harry Moyaga, Godfrey Ndaba, Ephraim Ngatane, Winston Saoli, Lucky Sibiya, Durant Sihlali and Michael Zondi.

There are, today, some 40 art schools for Black teachers in South Africa. Black students can also enrol for arts degrees at the universities of Fort Hare, the Witwatersrand, Cape Town and South Africa. At the Evangelical Lutheran Church's Art and Craft Centre at Rorke's Drift, Natal, students study graphics, tapestry, pottery and textile design. The work produced here has a refreshing rural content and

portrays events from everyday life, Bible stories and folklore.

Currently, there are about 100 Black professional artists in South Africa. Their works not only enrich numerous local exhibitions, but also frequently take the honours at exhibitions held overseas. An exhibition entitled *Art from Soweto* was held in Bonn with great success, and Black artists were also represented at exhibitions of South African art in other cities of West Germany, in Italy, the USA, and Australia. South Africa has also been represented by its Black artists at *bienales* in Venice and Sao Paulo.

Contemporary Black art has developed into a successful and powerful means of communication transcending all barriers and holds much promise for the future.

KDW-0002-0001-003