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INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS
Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat
et Datum Onderwerp Knipsel
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| â\200\230espiatioee in ow don

4AUGHT under a gloomy, grey and chilly sky, and the humdrum
concrete jungle that is London, Pitika Ntuli had to wait two
agonising years for a hurricane to mow down trees an he could

zet wood to carve his masterpieces.

And he had to spend
more tortuous time on
he look-out for scrap
cars. for metal to work
sculptures.

According to Marga-
ret Thatcher's environ-

mental ne Creche
policy, nature is not to be
touched and there are no |
scraps-on-wheels on

British roads.

â\200\234I often had to run
after a car whose exhaust
pipe seemed to be
scraping the road and be

there when the owner
was ready to throw it
away,â\200\235 says Pitika.

That, in a nutshell, is
the lot of an artist caught
in the dizzy spin of a
cosmopolitan city. But
never-say-quit Pitika
made use of the first tree
barks he was. able to
swipe from a London
park.

Snooping

After a hurricane
devastated a section of
{slington the local
council had no choice but
to get rid of the fallen
trees. Unbeknown to
them Pitika had been
snooping around, ready
to pounce.

I-A.

By VUSI KHUMALO

After scrounging
around for exhaust pipes
and assorted serap metal,
he was ready to turn the
backyard of his Hackney
house into a workshop-
cum-studio.

The result was an array
of imagination-jerking
wood and metal sculp-
tures and sand-and-
canvas paintings.

Creative

Three years after he
joined Jenako Arts as a
creative writer, poet,

_ sculptor
| therapist, he became its
artistic director and the |
driving force in a buzz-
saw beehive.

' Not only did he co-
Ordinate in-house

| workshops.

tuition and
administration, he set
out to tink the organisa-
tion with the Inner
London Education
Authority (ILEA). He
was soon running classes
in music, dance, creative
writing at ail ILEAâ\200\231s

| schools, covering Africa,
and arts |

Asia, the Caribbean and
South American sectors.

â\200\234T was always burning .
with desire to diversify,â\200\235
he said, and to ensure this
he formed : Inkaba, a
Jenako resident poetry/
fusion group, which
involvedâ\200\231 poets and
musicians from the Asia-
Carib-African back-
grounds.

Jenako Visual Arts
was next on his agenda.

â\200\234I had to establish an
education team with
multi-disciplinary pro-

grammes in British
schools, funded by the
Greater London Arjgts,
the London Borough
Grant Scheme and the
Borough of Hackney.â\200\235

Pitika obtained a
fine

masters degree in
arts in New York.

When he came to
London he obtained an
MA in comparative
industrial relations at the
Brunel West London
University.

He has been a labour
consultant for the Inter-
national Labour Organi-

sation, during which he
went to countries such as
Tanzania, Zimbabwe
and Zambia dealing with
music and cultural
workers, i

Away from his Jenako
duties, Pitika functions
as a visiting lecturer in
arts at all London
polytechnical colleges.

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