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SOUTH AFRICA

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23 February 1998

Mrs Thenjiwe Kwaaiman

NY 137 No 79 Weal Sele

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Dear Mrs Kwaaiman wuts Â»

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The Johannesburg Art Gallery will hold a retrospective exhibition of paintings by Gladys Mgudlandlu. The exhibition is scheduled for September 1998.

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After an appeal for information on Gladys Mgudlandlu over Radio Xhosa, your name was given to us by Mrs Nkwana of Pretoria. She was a colleague of Gladys's at the Litha Lower Primary School in 1969. She told us that you were a close friend of Gladys and would be able to give us the information we are looking for.

* When and how did you meet Gladys?

Do you remember the Xhosa stories she told her pupils? | believe she intended publishing a storybook. Do you know what happened to the manuscript?

Do you remember any of her ex pupils whom | can contact for information on her teaching methods?

Malvern and Linda were her children. What happened to their father? Was he also a teacher?

Mr J T Handula, a fellow artist and teacher at the Athlone Bantu Community School, encouraged her to make art. What kind of art did he make? Was it similar to what Gladys painted?

Gladys painted murals for the Department of Bantu Education. Do you know about these murals?

Do you remember any art books in Gladys's home?

Did she have a garden?

Gladys played a good game of tennis and was also an athlete. When did her health start failing her and why?

She was a leader in the Girl Guides. Do you remember her taking the guides on excursions in the country? Where did they go?

How did she furnish her home? Did she have any wooden platters or bowls for dishing up food? Did she display traditional craftwork in her home?

She was also a dressmaker. Do you remember any of the outfits she designed?

Do you remember the motor car accident from which she suffered severe injuries? How did it happen? Was she taken to hospital?

Did Gladys die at home or in the Conradie Hospital?

Do you know what happened to her paintings the day she died? Did the community mourn her passing away? Who spoke at her funeral?

Do you remember her birthday?

Any other reminiscences you may have that you would share with me | will appreciate.

| look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

Elza Miles (Dr)
Curator: Gladys Mgudlandlu Retrospective Exhibition