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PRETORIA NEWS

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ART IN TOWN

Cape Flats artist is star of Kwanza Society show

EXHIBITION: Kwanza Creative Society.
VENUE: The Artist's Window, Prudential Arcade, entrance Southern Life Building, Pretorius Street.

NAOMI NOWOSENITZ

THE Kwanza Creative Society is a group that aims to promote all the arts on a multi-racial basis. It finds and promotes new artists, and looks for people or organisations to sponsor them.

However this exhibition is not entirely amateur, as the standard is raised by the donation of works by some well-known and established artists including Lola Dunston and Raymond Andrews, and the high standard of works by Frank Brown.

This last artist, from the Cape flats, rates an exhibition to himself. He has exhibited in the Republic (although not in Pretoria), and overseas. He is at present working as a sculptor in Baltimore, USA where he also studied for a MA. His woodcuts depicting his own sculpture, and the American scene, have decidedly dynamic African overtones.

Among the works on his show — works that have an exotic flavour, being representative of many races and cultures — are four bird studies

from Bombay placed besides lineouts by white and black artists, notably Anna Marie Wessels, Ephraim Maponya and Sydney Moema. Vincent Molishiwe's township paintings include a comment of "June 16th."

Helena Jacobic, from Yugoslavia, paints in a Cubist derived style. Rodney Dey's abstracts in oils with figurative overtones are promising. Cheryl Petleke's "Crying Girl" appears at first glance to be rather sentimental.

But if it is borne in mind that this artist is only sixteen with no training, this portrait of a Vietnamese refugee is impressive.

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the new emerging nation. At the end of the day it will be relevance and quality of our works that will count.

*. TRAINING COURSES


In order that we produced artists who can lead and control, let our institutions expand the areas of training to include management. National cultural institutions must be managed by us. Computer, marketing, sound mixing, finance and administrating are some of the courses that can prepare us for the future. Should we fail to use this transitional period, we shall find at the end the day that the same people who kept us out of the fancy institutions of culture are there in control.

* RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Most underprivileged of our people are still in Rural Areas. Who ever is serious about development can not over look this factor.

I would like to see cultural institutions creating rural development programme. Our arts must take on responsibilities of teaching rural communities about issues such as aids, democracy, modern culture of industry and urban life styles. True freedom and democracy will only be possible when the majority of our people posses basic skills to manage their lives.. Literacy campaign is one task that needs attention from us. The vast cultural experience of our people lie unexposed especially in rural areas. Most of these traditions and experiences are articulated in oral poetry, songs and chants or slogans. It would be better if those singers and poets are taught to write than to have some one else writing on their behalf. Surely this is our task as grassroot cultural institutions.

Thank You,


Ml Hlatshwayo

National Coordinator Of South African Workers Cultural Unit