

## INSTITUUT VIR EIETYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat


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# 'Narrative' art exhibition in Glenwood

ART REVIEW BY CAROL BROWN

EXHIBITION: WORKS BY ZAMOKWAKHE GUMEDE, EDMOND MJI MSELEKU, MDUDUZI CEBEKHULU, PAUL SIBISI, SFISO MKAME — OFFICES OF PAUL MIKULA &amp; ASSOCIATES, 41 CEDAR RD, GLENWOOD.

**A**N exhibition of works by five artists ends today in the Glenwood offices of architect, Paul Mikula.

The exhibition is small but varied and if there is a connecting thread it is that the artists all work in a narrative vein and their work is therefore easily understood and "readable".

Story telling is a tradition of the Zulu people who have passed on many folk tales and legends mainly through the spoken word. The making of objects has also contributed to the passing on of information and it is this tradition which gives the exhibition its interest.

Zamokwakhe Gumede, for example, carves intricate pieces which have an obvious tale to tell. They are rich in incident and detail and there is much action. Even if we do not grasp the entire event or moral we nevertheless find things to wonder about or speculate upon.

These anecdotal pieces are balanced by simple figures which express characters or occupations and all show a great deal of obser-

vation. Edmond Mji Mseleku and Mduduzi Cebekhulu also make little figures in different attitudes.

These two do not have a large amount of work on show but demonstrate a natural affinity for their medium and the same sense of observation.

Paul Sibisi's work is the best known of the group. He has mastered a technique and a certain facility of line which he too uses to illustrate events. He uses attrac-

tive muted colours and it would be rewarding to see him try a new form of expression or to develop that which he presently employs.

Sfiso Mkwane on the other hand uses a variety of media and subject matter. He is experimenting with many different ideas. On the one hand his work is highly realistic and on the other it is abstract.

His most successful work, how-

## TREFWOORDE

- 1 Paul M. Mikula (Glenwood)
- 2 Zamokwakhe Gumede
- 3 Edmond Mji Mseleku

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ever, is "Letters to a Child". In this he uses layers of oil pastels which give a subtle effect.

This composition is divided into small areas which are envelope size and shape each representing a different aspect of the life awaiting the unborn child. The work has a vitality due to its unevenness of composition and a perspective effect which emerges from the different shapes of the "grids".

This exhibition shows that creativity and experimentation are taking place and that the artists concerned show a dedication to their craft.