

INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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Critic's praise for gallery's 186k efforts

IMAGINE someone with natural Titian-red hair and green eyes just a dash less vivid than the emerald green colour she loves wearing, and you'll gain an idea of what art critic Samantha James looks like.

She has an exceedingly direct manner and her large eyes pierce into you as though she wishes right away to discover the kind of person she's dealing with — and she appears particularly determined to find precisely the right phrases for whatever she says.

She makes a kind of murmured "mmm" sound as she ruminatively decides on sentences or words that she feels will best illustrate her thinking — in this instance about the large collection of art that currently is on view at FUBA Gallery (diagonally opposite the Market Theatre), and which possibly is the first really ambitious art show that blends (or fuses) all the varied approaches by the varied peoples of South Africa.

"Aside from the work being of a high standard — No, I wasn't surprised at that fact as I fully expected a show of this kind to attract art of ability and

originality — I was delighted at the opportunity the sponsors (Sterns Jewellers) afforded the many artists who don't have the chance of exhibiting their work, participating.

"One hopes that this event will become the annual Art Quest which the sponsors wish it to be."

Samantha James was one of a panel of six judges at the Delfin/FUBA Art Quest competition exhibition who singled out Lovemore Sibanda and Elias Maneli for scholarship awards of a year's study, each at the FUBA School of the Arts. There also were seven merit awards.

"Artists very often are so involved with creative work," Samantha James mused, "that they find it hard to 'step outside' and make contact with people and situations that can further their professions."

She feels that FUBA Gallery is of extreme importance to our Johannesburg cultural world. "It is a very vital art framework because artists can both study and exhibit there. The Delfin/FUBA Art Quest exhibition has brought forth much very worthwhile work".