

## Zondi in Pretoria

A one-man exhibition by a Black artist in Pretoria is not yet an everyday event.

But the breakthrough has been made, and Michael Zondi, in the rapidly changing climate towards Black-White understanding, made it.

The reaction of White opinion to his exhibition was put succinctly by no other than the Deputy Minister for Bantu Administration and Education, Mr Punt Janson, who opened it.

"This art of Zondi," he said, "flows from his heart and speaks to all of us, irrespective of our colour".

"It is not a voice which represents only the Black people of South Africa, but a true voice of all Africa of which we, Black and White, are a part."

And he warned the Whites who were present against artistic paternalism. "Let nobody think he is doing Zondi a favour by purchasing his work. Ours is the privilege - his is great art in its own intrinsic right."

For Zondi, human development can only emerge out of the spirit of creation, never through that of destruction.

## Reconciliation

The cover picture is of Michael Zondi and his moving group of two figures - a Black man and a White. Each has a hand on the other's shoulder, in a silent, eloquent gesture of reconciliation.

## A sense of values

by Michael Zondi

There is currently a great stirring among Black people - they are discovering the true nature of their art and the richness it affords the very quality of life.

It is becoming part of the actual progress and practical development of our communities.

While an increasing number of

Black artists are gaining recognition, there is a pressing need for more support for them from a still wider section of their own people. The origin of much of the existing recognition is due to the encouragement and support of our White friends.

The growth of interest among

the Black population can only be sustained and stimulated by a wider education into the values of art - not only aesthetic values, but also that of its dynamic role in the actual and comprehensive development of our people; and also for its value in bridge-building among all peoples, all colours, and for all time.

## The art of a husbandman

Southern Africa has less of a woodcarving tradition than certain other regions of the continent. But now there is a significant emergence of artists who are acquiring international stature.

Among the foremost of these is the Zulu, Michael Zondi.

But Zondi is much more than a great woodcarver. He is a man deeply conscious of an intensely personal responsibility to his fellow man.

His roots are deep in the African earth - he identifies the soil and its husbandry as being as much an integral

part of human destiny as the art which it inspires.

For Zondi, art is a powerful yet infinitely sensitive component in the total landscape of practical effort towards human development.

And, above all, Zondi's art in true and absolute character transcends cultural divisions, race, and time itself. It betrays its creator as a man in love with humanity, and with the idea and inevitability of reconciliation.

L.M.

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