

## ART

# Where art thou ... patrons of black talent?

When it comes to art galleries, those which sell exclusively paintings by black artists seem to have the highest mortality rate.

This is not necessarily because of the quality of the art but mainly, it seems, because of the lack of money and consequently adequate premises, to keep commercial enterprises of this kind going.

On every occasion I recall that a gallery to sell the work of our black artists has been mooted, decided upon or in fact almost got started, the results have been disaster.

The latest to fall into this problematical area is the venture by artist Joe Masoko, who started 'The Art Mart' in Zygman's House, Kruls Street, with the object of selling exclusively art by black artists.

This venue has now dwindled from two viewing rooms and an office to only an office cluttered with work on the walls and standing stacked on the floor.

Masoko is reticent to say exactly what happened here but the situation speaks for itself. The 200 paintings represent about 35 black artists who support the

JOHN  
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gallery with work and one feels, in a city the size of Johannesburg and with the kind of money available, a venue and some finance could be channelled in the direction of finding a home in the city for this fairly prolific output.

Masoko says there is interest in showing work selected from what is there, in Australia, and the feeling is that it should get a good reception across the water. If this is the case it would be a sad indictment on the apparent attitudes here.

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Galleries devoted only to crafts are not too numerous but making a new venture into this area is Uschi Leichter who has established a craft gallery at her home at 22 Dante Road, Rembrandt Park.

Most of her work she'll be showing at the

opening of the gallery on October 2 is from overseas, work she brought back with her after a recent trip to Europe. There is a wide variety ranging from copper jewellery to wall hangings and rugs woven at mission stations in this country.

A highlight is her own work, namely translucent lampshades which have woven into them grasses, butterflies and other veldt fragments.

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The Brush and Chisel Club is the oldest art club in South Africa and was founded 35 years ago by the landscape painter W H Coetzer and the late E Gladstone Solomon. Opening at the Total Gallery on October 5 will be the club's 34th exhibition which will show selected oils, watercolours and sculpture.

Water and its associations, will be one of

the themes of the exhibition this year.

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An artist who gave up sugar farming in Rhodesia to pursue his painting in this country is Paddy Starling from Cape Town who specialises in landscapes, still lifes and seascapes.

He'll be showing watercolours and pen drawings at the Nedbank Centre in Main Street, Johannesburg, from October 1. Until fairly recently he owned the Paddy Starling Gallery in Knysna.

He's a self-taught artist and has had several exhibitions in coastal towns such as Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London.



JOE MASOKO  
in Africa