

East Rand Artists

LUCAS SITHOLE

Lucas Sithole was born in 1931 in Kwa-Thema, Springs, in Transvaal, where he still lives.

He studied at St Louis Catholic School, obtained a scholarship to the Viakfontein Training College, then studied painting under Cecil Skotnes at the Polly Street Art Centre, Johannesburg, for one year. Thereafter he established his medium — sculpture in hardwoods, stone and liquid steel, which are indigenous both in form and concept.

He held one-man exhibitions in Johannesburg in 1966, 1970, 1972 and 1974, and in Cape Town in 1973 and Durban in 1974. He was included in the South African group show at Piccadilly Gallery, London in 1965 and represented at the Venice Biennale in 1968.

His works have been acquired by the South African National Gallery, in Cape Town, the Universities of Fort Hare and the Witwatersrand, the Schlesinger Organisation, and many more private collectors in the USA, Europe and South Africa. His works are permanently on show at Gallery 21, London and Johannesburg.



STANLEY NKOSI

Stanley Nkosi was born in 1945 in Newcastle. His artistic talents were discovered at the early age of 10 years, while he was playing with clay.

He studied under Peter Haden as a private student in Johannesburg in 1967. He held one-man exhibitions in the Hopman Gallery, Johannesburg, Gallery 21, and Downstairs Gallery in Benoni. His last local one-man show was in the Schweikerdt Gallery in Pretoria before leaving for England where he was invited to a one-man exhibition.

He took London by a big surprise. It was his first international exhibition. He sold everything, and even the former British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold MacMillan, bought from him.

Recently he won a first prize in Oklahoma in America for the Wild Life of the World competition. He also held a one-man exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia in August 1978. East Rand exhibitions are not complete without Stanley Nkosi. He has regularly participated in all seven of those exhibitions.



MARTIN TOSE

Martin Tose was born in Katlehong on 20 March 1958 where he attended school. He had no formal training in art, but was discovered at the Katlehong Art Centre where he spends most of his time.

His first exhibition was held in September 1977 in the local D. H. Williams Hall and his participation in the Germiston exhibition in November 1978 was his second attempt. It earned him an award as the "Most Promising Young Artist of 1978" in view of his good progress in sculpture.

POLYGRAPH MODUPE

Polygraph Modupe was born on 30 April 1954 in Apex near Benoni, and now lives in Daveyton.

For lack of funds he could not complete his school career and also had no formal art training.

His first and only exhibition was at the H. F. Verwoerd Building, Germiston in November 1978 where he won an award as "The Most Accomplished Young Artist" of the East Rand.



MORNINGSTAR MOTAUNG

Morningstar Motaung was born in the old Germiston location, Dukatole, where he attended the local public school. The Administration Board has details on file of an open art competition won by Morningstar in September 1953 at the age of 15 years.

His formal art education was limited to a course offered by Mr. Cecil Skotnes of the Johannesburg Art School at that time, under the patronage of Baroness M. von Treschow.

From that early age he held many one-man and group exhibitions, both in South Africa and overseas. Mr. Peter Penwell of London has acted as his agent through whom many paintings were sold in the United Kingdom.

To commemorate the opening of the H. F. Verwoerd Building in Germiston, he was commissioned by the Administration Board to paint a portrait of the late Dr. Verwoerd. It was a great success. He is a founder member of the Kattlehong Art Society and is still Chairman of the Society. In this capacity he has contributed to a high degree to the promotion of art among the Black inhabitants of the East Rand, with seven annual exhibitions to his credit.



NAPO MOKOENA

Napo Mokoena is possibly the best example of the large crop of young artists born in 1958. His birthday is on the 27th of July. He was born and bred in Katlehong and qualified as a teacher at the Teachers' Training College in Witsieshoek with Art as a major subject.

He is an art teacher at the Katlehong Art Centre where he pays attention to the training of children and young pupils. This young man does good work for his own good name, but especially for the community that he serves.



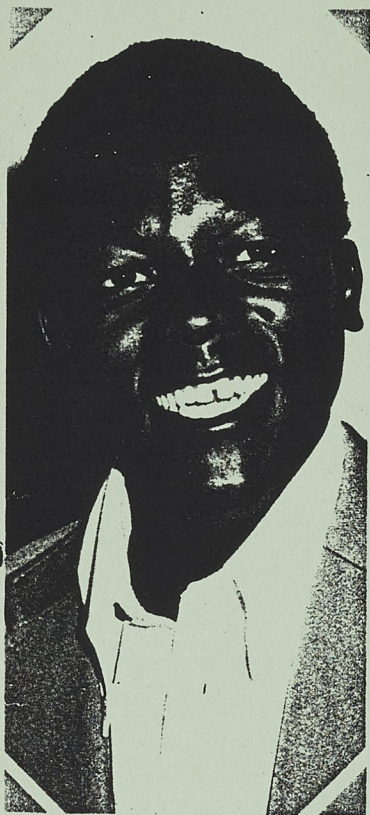
MANDLA MASISO

Mandla Masiso was born in the old Dukatole township and has been living in Katlehong since 1960. He received his art training in Nigeria and the Malagasy Republic, especially in sculpture which he studied at Ntsiroanandidi. He gets wood from Swaziland and also held his first exhibition there.

Other exhibitions include an imposing list — Rio de Janeiro, Fort Hare, Germany, Paris, Australia and various cities in South Africa.

He is a welcome visitor to the American, Canadian and the Australian Embassies. He impressed all visitors to the Weinberg exhibition held in Germiston in April 1977, attended by some 800 people, and he again made his mark at the November 1978 exhibition held in Germiston.

His entries for the January 1979 Pretoria exhibition once again emphasise that he is fast becoming one of South Africa's top Black sculptors.



FLOYD LANGA OF TEMBISA

Floyd Langa was born in Wattville on 16 April 1959. When he was two years old his parents moved to Tembisa where he still attends school. He is in Matric. It is necessary that he pass well, so that he can obtain a bursary next year to enable him to study art at university.

Since 1976 he has participated in four group exhibitions.



MOSES PETLO

Moses Petlo was born on 1 October 1958 in Katlehong. He is a Std 9 pupil of the Katlehong Secondary School and lives very near the Katlehong Art Centre where he spends all his free time.

He took part in two local group exhibitions at the D. H. Williams Hall, as well as in 1978 at the H. F. Verwoerd Building in Germiston.



BILLY MOLOKENG

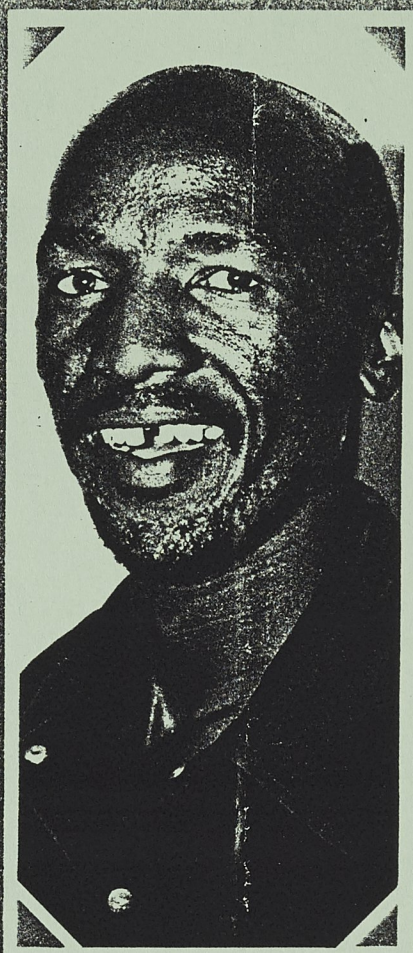
Billy Molokeng is one of the better known artists on the East Rand. Since 1968 he has had successful exhibitions — in the Dorking Building, Gallery 101, Lidchi Gallery, Herbert Evens Gallery, and in Arcadia, Pretoria. In June 1976 he exhibited in the Gallery of the Southern Transvaal Art Association in Johannesburg and received good reviews.

He was born in Alexandra township on 14 September 1944 and has been living in Tembisa for the past six years. He is a full-time artist, entirely dependent on the sales of his work, and does reasonably well for an artist without any formal training.

KENNETH MTHETWA

Kenneth was born in Payneville Springs, on 9 May 1954. The family moved to Kwa-Thema while he was still an infant. He attended a local school and left school at the end of Std 7.

He had no formal art training and learns from other artists. He is a very gifted artist who has made his mark at two exhibitions — in Germiston (November 1978) and at the RANKIN Exhibition in Springs in December 1978. He works in his father's business.

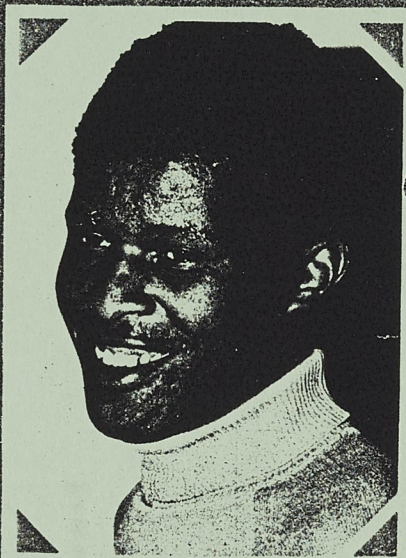


MARIBE MAMABOLO

Maribe Mamabolo was born on 3 January 1953 in Delmas. He attended Hwiti High School, the Mokopane Teachers' Training College and the Rorke's Drift Art School. He also obtained a diploma in fine arts at Witsieshoek.

His art work includes pen and ink and pencil drawings, oil paintings, water colours and graphics.

He has taken part in five group exhibitions since 1977.



BHEKISANE MANYONI

Bhekisane Manyoni was born on 6 September 1945 near Greytown, Natal. His family moved to Dundee district where he was brought up near the Rorke's Drift Art School. He attended the primary school at Rorke's Drift and the Maphululo Junior Secondary School near Stanger.

From Std 7 he attended the Rorke's Drift Art School for three years. On completion of his studies he was employed by the same school for a further two years.

He is fully trained in pottery, weaving, sculpture, graphics and artistic design work. He specialises in sculpture and lino designs. He took part in two successful exhibitions in Pretoria in 1975 and 1976.

As an artist from a rural area he never received the publicity of his urban colleagues. His progress is nevertheless keenly watched by leading art personalities. His works have been sold in Holland, Western Germany and in South Africa.



The **Katlehong Art Society** to which most of the well-known Black artists of the East Rand belong, recently held exhibitions in Germiston and Pretoria.

The first was the **seventh annual art exhibition** of the society and was held at the **H. F. Verwoerd Building**, Germiston. It was officially opened by Mr. W. A. Cruywagen, Minister of National Education. The East Rand Administration Board, in collaboration with the Katlehong Art Centre, the Chamber of Commerce and the Afrikaanse Sakekamer of Germiston, arranged the exhibition.

Above: Mr W. A. Cruywagen, Minister of National Education, looking at a sculpture, "**The Beauty of the World**", by Stanley Nkosi (right), at an exhibition by **East Rand artists** in Germiston. Left is Mr Morningstar Motaung, chairman of the Katlehong Art Society

Left: The well-known painter, Mrs Bettie Cilliers-Barnard, opened the exhibition of the East Rand artists in Pretoria



In Pretoria, the exhibition was arranged by the Northern Transvaal branch of the South African Arts Association. It was held from January 29 to February 16 in the South Gallery on the 36th floor of the New Volkskas Building on Strydom Square.

More than 16 artists exhibited and received certificates of merit. Two artists were presented with trophies.

The trophy for the most promising young artist, given by Mrs. J. Wardhaugh, was presented to Mr. Martin Tose for his contribution to sculpture. Mr. Polygraph Modupe won the trophy for the most accomplished young artist. It was given by Mr. Lew Fischer.

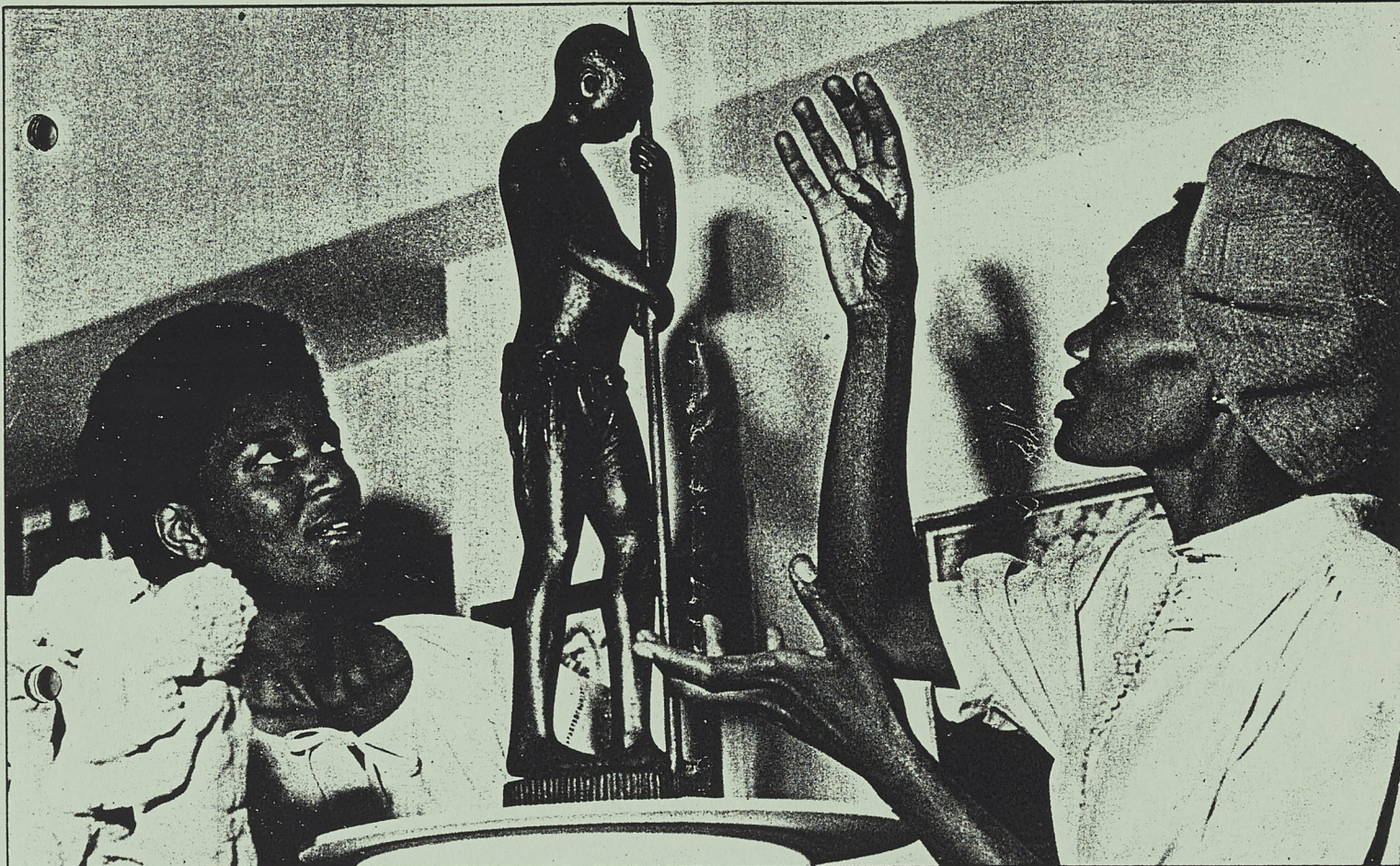
Among the guests at the Germiston Exhibition were the Mayor, Councillor C. Oberholzer, the chairman of the East Rand Administration Board, Mr. S. J. van der Merwe, and the chairman of the Community Council of Kwa-Thema,

Mr. A. M. Kumalo, and the artists.

Mr. Cruywagen praised the artists for the high standard of work and said the Department of Education and Training was planning further projects for Black artists.

A total of 200 entries was received and 120 works were exhibited. Most of the work was done by members of the Katlehong Art Society, but there were also works by other Black artists from the East Rand. Well-known painters included Morningstar Motaung, Stanley Nkosi and Maribe Mamabolo of Katlehong, Polygraph Modupe, of Daveyton, and Floyd Langa and Billy Molokeng, of Tembisa.

About 80 sculptures were entered. Some of the best-known sculptors whose works were exhibited were Mandla Masiso, Stanley Nkosi, Martin Tose and Speelman Mahlangu, of Katlehong, and Kenneth Mtethwa, of Kwa-Thema.



Miss. L. Moloto and Miss Rebecca Khambule admiring a sculpture. "The Herdboy", by S. Sedikane. Left is "Family Tree" by Martin Tose

Left: Admiring an artist at work at the Katlehong Art Centre

Left, above: Present at the opening of the exhibition in Germiston were l. to r. Mr A. M. Kumalo, chairman of the Community Council of Kwa-Thema; Mr Martin Tose, who received the trophy for the most promising young artist; Mr Cruywagen; Mr Polygraph Modupe, who won the trophy for the most accomplished young artist; Mr S. J. van der Merwe, chairman of the East Rand Administration Board; and Mr M. Masiso

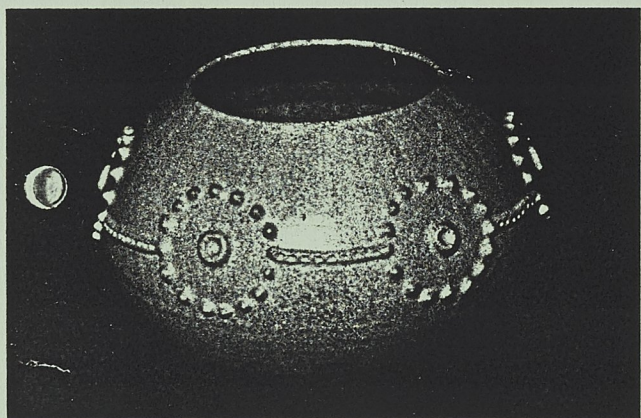
Left, below: Works of art by East Rand artists. The painting, "The Drinkers" is by Polygraph Modupe. In front l. to r. are: a figure in ivory by I. Nkoana; "Lahlalonto" by Mandla Masiso; and "Joy of Living" by Stanley Nkosi



Right: Floyd Langa, of Tembisa, with his painting, "Buried Alive"

Below: Napo Mokoena painting in the Katlehong Art Centre, where he also teaches





Top: Maribe Mamabolo with some of his paintings

Above: Traditional shapes find expression in modern pottery

Right: Pottery made at the Kettlehong Art Centre



Right: Some of the works by Katlehong artists exhibited in Germiston

Below: "Zulu Custom" by Moses Petlo

Students from the new potters' workshop of the Katlehong Art Centre included Victor Petlo, Moses Petlo, Napo Mokoena, Martin Tose and Speelman Mahlangu.

The Katlehong Art Society started seven years ago. The artists asked the town manager at that time, Mr. D. F. Kruger, to support an art exhibition which was a great success. During the first year only nine artists took part in the exhibition. After Mr. Kruger had retired, his successor, Mr. J. L. du Preez, continued to support the annual art exhibitions. He was succeeded by the present town manager, Mr. J. J. Malan, who enthusiastically supports the artists' annual exhibition.

Last year the Katlehong Art Centre, which was founded on April 1 1977, took part for the first time in the annual exhibition of the Katlehong Art Society.

The centre was once a barn which housed a dairy. That was more than 30 years ago before the rural area of Katlehong became the home of more than 100 000 people. The rural past has made way for cultural activities.



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Right: Stanley Nkosi looking at his "Rooikat" (South African lynx)

Below: Pottery is one of the arts taught at the Katlehong Art Centre

Right above: Pottery with special patterns from Katlehong

Right, below: "Street Scene" by Moses Petlo





At the Katlehong Art Centre, instruction out of school is given to idle and interested youths in drawing and painting, in water-colours and oil, sculpture, tile and mosaic work and in pottery. The latest addition to the art centre is weaving for girls. The project will be expanded considerably in 1979.

A studio manager, Mr. Zandberg Jansen, a well-known personality in art circles, supervises the art centre. He is assisted by two Black art teachers and a Black potter.

The Katlehong Art Centre is managed by a committee consisting of Katlehong artists, the Katlehong Advisory committee, the Germiston Chamber of Business, the Chamber of Commerce and the East Rand Administration Board. The board tries to keep in the background and leaves control of the centre in the hands of the Germiston businessmen and the Black leaders.

The art centre has already held a large exhibition in the business centre of Germiston which was visited by 800 people. Thirty-one paintings were sold. During its first year, more than 500 pupils in various stages of training were instructed at the centre. In this way, 26 promising young artists were discovered who now receive more intensive training.

Adolescents, who up to now were frustrated and jobless, get 75 per cent of the amount for which their works are sold, while 25 per cent is kept to defray costs of the art materials used.

The aim is for the arts centre to be self-supporting. No fees are asked for training and all art materials are supplied free to the students by the art centre.

The art centre hopes to train competent teachers for all the Homelands, who could, in turn, start schools or art centres in the Homelands.

The ultimate ideal is an "art colony" — an artists' village on about 10 - 20 acres. The centre hopes to hold stage and radio play readings, poetry readings, musical performances, and talent competitions where personalities of radio, television and film will act as adjudicators.

Several Katlehong artists have contributed to various centres in South Africa, and have also made their mark at

exhibitions overseas.

Mr. Morningstar Motaung, chairman of the Katlehong Art Association, has exhibited in the US and England. He was also commissioned by the East Rand Administration Board to do a painting of the late Dr. H. F. Verwoerd to commemorate the opening of the H. F. Verwoerd Building in Germiston.

Mr. Stanley Nkosi, whose art is highly individualistic — people and animals with limbs that are disproportionately large and that express strong emotions by means of distorted attitudes — sold all his works during his first exhibition in London. This year Mr. Nkosi also won first prize at the International Wild Life competition in Oklahoma in the US.

Mandla Masiso has held successful exhibitions in Scotland, Germany, France and Australia.



Right: Pottery exhibited to be sold for the artists

Below: Dedicated concentration while creating a work of art

