

INSTITUUT VIR EIEITYDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat

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Pain and colour

An exhibitionâ\200\235 oath at the Fuba Gallery, held in conjunction with the US-SA Leadership Exchange Programme, presents the works of 15 black artists. One will be chosen to attend the Triangle Artistsâ\200\231 Workshop in New York; three have been nominated. Nominee%Garth Erasmusâ\200\231s mixed media painting How It Is expresses one of the most potent images in the exhibition. A mutilated figure (with its arm stumps upraised and its face concealed behind a grimacing white mask) dominates the composition. The mid-ground is an intricate interweaving of

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heavy lines, forms and sombre colours
* suggesting turmoil and devastation.
Above is a flat blue sky containing an ironic red cross emblem. Framing the composition is a quotation from Samuel Beckett which is juxtaposed with a

legend that ends â\200\234... only the victims
journeyed.â\200\235 The whole is an
exceptionally powerful statement...
The second of the nominees, â\200\230Fikile,
explores mystical dream images that
are imbued with menacing symbols.
Clouds and moon, landscape and ana-
tomy merge in the background of an
untitled pencil drawing, while a skull in
the foreground is pierced with barbed
wire. A less obviously symbolic work,
and a more successful composition, is

_ his mixed-media Ancestral Images. In

this evocative. work; faces mergeâ\200\231as **~
they weep and brood, slumber and -

â\200\230 WOK Cem EN S|

@PRadzani Nemasetoni, the third

â\200\234nominee, uses vibrant colour and thick-
ly applied accretions of oils to convey
an abstract impression of a traditional
Venda game in his series of three
works, Mphogoli. In Jacaranda, a
riot of thick and rich purple, green, and
orange paint is simultaneously linked
and riven by a lightning flash of yellow,
carved in horizontal zigzags through
the composition. The almost painful
appreciation of voluptuous lushness is
underscored in this joyful work.
O Fifteen Black Artists: Fuba Gallery,
Wolhuter Street (opposite the Market
Theatre); March 4-19. Jennifer Addleson

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