

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 92-09-10
ART GALLERY COMMITTEE 92-02-06

COMMITTEE

CULTURE AND RECREATION DIRECTORATE
(LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT)

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 92-09-10
ART GALLERY COMMITTEE 92-02-06

CULTURE AND RECREATION DIRECTORATE
(LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT)

Item B3 contd

B3 PURCHASE OF WORKS ART

The Art Gallery Committee has recommend the purchase of the following works of art:

Artist	Title	Medium
Arnold, Ben	Lion of Judah	terracotta
Bhengu, Gerard	No title (portrait)	watercolour on paper
Dumile	No title	ink on paper
	No title	ink on paper
Kekana, Job	No title (bust), 1963	bronze
	Portrait of Sister Pauline, c.1989	wood (jacaranda and afromosia)
Kubheka, K.	No title (portrait)	oil on board
Mohl, John Koenakeefe	Magaliesburg in midwinter	oil on board
Ntuli, Jabulani	Hunting scene, c.1977/8	pencil on paper
Pemba, George	Self-portrait, 1980/1	oil on board
	Kwa-Stemele: Stemele's place in the 1930s	oil on board
Sekoto, Gerard	Girl with orange	oil on canvas
Sithole, Lucas	I didn't expect this	wood.

The collection was assembled over a fifteen-year period, beginning in approximately 1975, by Professor Tim Couzens of the African Studies Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand while he was undertaking research on the history of literature by black South Africans. The price of the collection is R85 000.

/Some

Some of the works are highly significant examples of the oeuvres of individual artists. For example: Magaliesburg in Midwinter by John Koenakeefe Mohl (b.1903, Zeerust) was exhibited in the prestigious 1943 South African Academy exhibition and is a very important work by the artist. Girl with orange by Gerard Sekoto (b.1913, Botshabelo) has recently been included in a number of exhibitions (including The Neglected Tradition exhibition and the major retrospective of Sekoto's work organised by the Johannesburg Art Gallery) which re-examined and re-evaluated the history of South African art. It would be a very welcome addition to the Gallery's collection of work by Sekoto since the Gallery has neither a portrait nor a work from Sekoto's District Six period and this painting would fill those two gaps in the Gallery's representation of Sekoto's early oeuvre.

The works by Dumile (b.1939, Worcester, Cape d.1991, New York) and Gerard Bhengu (b.1910, Bulwer District, Natal) which are very typical examples would also be welcome additions to the Gallery's holdings of these artists works.

The collection also fills significant gaps in the Gallery's representation of works by early black artists: Ben Arnold (b.1942, Johannesburg) studied at the Polly Street Art Centre and subsequently taught art at a number of institutions. He has been included in numerous exhibitions, and Lion of Judah was included in The Neglected Tradition exhibition.

Job Kekana (b.1916, Potgietersrus) studied wood carving at the Diocesan Training College, Grace Dieu, under Sister Pauline. The Portrait of Sister Pauline was commissioned by Couzens in the late 1980's. In the early 1960's he studied in England at the Sir John Cass College and at the Camberwell School of Art. The bust which was executed in 1963 displays the effects of this academic training. He held three successful exhibitions in England and then returned to teach art in Rhodesia in 1965.

Jabulani Ntuli (b.1898, Eshowe District, Natal) had no formal art training. However his work was recognised by Killie Campbell and acquired for her collection. His work is also to be found in the Zululand Historical Museum in Eshowe, Natal. This Hunting scene was executed for Couzens in the late 1970's.

George Pemba (b.1912, Hllskraal, Port Elizabeth) obtained a teacher's diploma at Lovedale Training College in 1931. He studied briefly at the University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University. His work has been included in a number of exhibitions including the South African Academy and Neglected Tradition exhibitions. The Self-portrait and Kwa-Stemele: Stemele's place in the 1930's are representative of Pemba's later work in portraiture and genre scenes.

/Lucas

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
ART GALLERY COMMITTEE 92.02.06

CULTURE AND RECREATION DIRECTORATE
(LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT)

Jabulani Ntuli (b.1898, Eshowe District, Natal) had no formal art training. However his work was recognised by Killie Campbell and acquired for her collection. His work is also to be found in the Zululand Historical Museum in Eshowe, Natal. This Hunting scene was executed for Couzens in the late 1970s.

George Pemba (b.1912, Hillskraal, Port Elizabeth) obtained a teacher's diploma at Lovedale Training College in 1931. He studied briefly at the University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University. His work has been included in a number of exhibitions including the South African Academy and Neglected Tradition exhibitions. The Self-portrait and Kwa-Stemele: Stemele's place in the 1930s are representative of Pemba's later work in portraiture and genre scenes.

Lucas Sithole (b.1931, KwaThema, Springs) studied at the Polly Street Art Centre and has been included in countless solo and group exhibitions. I didn't expect this is a charming, representative example of Sithole's figurative sculpture.

Little information has been uncovered about the life and work of K. Kubheka. However, the portrait is fascinating for its relationship with traditionally acknowledged South African portrait artists such as Neville Lewis (b.1895, Cape Town).

As a whole, the collection visually documents an aspect of the process of rediscovery and acknowledgement of the pioneers of black art and literature that has taken place over the last two decades.

Issues of collecting practice which arise as a result of the viewpoint and interests of individual collectors are an important topic of academic research. A number of portraits of important political and literary figures from the Couzens Collection have been acquired by the Africana Museum. These, together with the works at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, constitute a collection that will be of importance for future research into the development of collections.

/The

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
ART GALLERY COMMITTEE 1992.02.06

CULTURE AND RECREATION DIRECTORATE
(LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT)

The collection is accompanied by a taped interview between Couzens and Mohl undertaken before the artist's death in 1985, two taped interviews with Gerard Bhengu and a series of highly informative letters between Couzens and Pemba. These will be invaluable additions to the Gallery's archives on South African art.

Provision for this expenditure exists in the 1992/1993 Capital Estimate.

IT IS RECOMMENDED

That the works of art detailed in the item be purchased and that the estimated expenditure of R85 000, subject to the final approval of the Financial Planning and Review Committee, be approved.

(VOTE : 3175/036 : 90192035 : PURCHASE OF WORKS OF ART)

AG 15/92

Mrs R Keene
Ext. 6857

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
CULTURE AND RECREATION

CULTURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE 92-09-10
ART GALLERY COMMITTEE 92-02-06

CULTURE AND RECREATION DIRECTORATE
(LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS DEPARTMENT)

Item B3 contd

Lucas Sithole (b.1931, KwaThema, Springs) studied at the Polly Street Art Centre and has been included in countless solo and group exhibitions. I didn't expect this is a charming, representative example of Sithole's figurative sculpture.

Little information has been uncovered about the life and work of K. Kubheka. However, the portrait is fascinating for its relationship with traditionally acknowledged South African portrait artists such as Neville Lewis (b.1985. Cape Town).

As a whole, the collection visually documents an aspect of the process of rediscovery and acknowledgement of the pioneers of black art and literature that has taken place over the last two decades.

Issues of collection practice which arise as a result of the viewpoint and interests of individual collectors are an important topic of academic research. A number of portraits of important political and literary figures from the Couzens Collection have been acquired by the Africana Museum. These, together with the works at the Johannesburg Art Gallery, constitute a collection that will be of importance for future research into the development of collections.

The collection is accompanied by a taped interview between Couzens and Mohl undertaken before the artist's death in 1985, two taped interviews with Gerard Bhengu and a series of highly informative letters between Couzens and Pemba. These will be invaluable additions to the Gallery's archives on South African art.

Provision for this expenditure exists in the 1992/93 Capital Estimate.

IT IS RECOMMENDED

That the works of art detailed in the item be purchased and that the estimated expenditure of R85 000, subject to the final approval of the Financial Planning and Capital Projects Review Committee, be approved.

(VOTE : 3175/036 : 90192035 : PURCHASE OF WORKS OF ART)

(160/3/1)
(CR:D(LM) 15/92)

4541N
AL/JA