Manfred Zylla's Interaction

At the Community Arts Project in Capel Street, Woodstock, is what is called Manfred Zylla's Interaction, a continuation of the outmoded Happening and a variation on Hardy Botha's Experiment at the SA Association of Arts, Cape Town, some time ago.

The basis of Interaction is nine very large drawings by Manfred Zylla, the subjects soldiers, businessmen and politicians. The interaction consists of viewers writing and drawing over the pictures, the purpose "communication between young and old and between the youth from the townships and the student elite from UCT and UWC". At the opening a reggae group appropriately played in an iron cage.

The trouble is that most of those who wrote on the pictures could not spell — they could not even spell "amandla" let alone "vuil" when coupled with "vark". Also abbreviations of scatological and quasi-pornographic terms, no doubt expressions of common emotions.

Manfred Zylla draws well, his human beings rather squat and suggestive of the character called Hoggenheimer in the Afrikaans Press.

Eldred Green