

OCTOBER 2004

# BOTAKI

SETSWANA FOR ARTWORKS,  
HOWEVER FOR OMAM IT'S A DEEP-  
ROOTED BELIEF IN THE ABILITIES  
OF TALENTED ARTISTS WHO KEEP  
BELIEVING IN THEIR OWN IDEALS.

FEATURED ARTIST.

TIMOTHY MAFENUKA (1966-2003)

ALSO FEATURING WORKS BY:

TYRONNE APPOLLIS

LIONEL DAVIS

GARTH ERASMUS

IVAN FRANCKE

RANDOLPH HARTZENBERG

ISAAC MAKELENI

XOLILE MTAKATYA

MADI PHALA

DONOVAN WARD



To purchase these works, contact OMAM (Loreen de Graaf) at 509 4010.

# Conversations with South African artists

South Africa has many fine artists, and consequently becoming a professional artist is to enter a very competitive field where it takes more than artistic talent to succeed. Generally speaking those artists that are most in the public eye are not necessarily better than those who are less visible. In most cases “successful” artists are also good at marketing themselves and/or are promoted by a small, influential group of dealers and galleries with good connections to the leading art centres in the West. Artists who do not aggressively market themselves, who do not take their cue from the dominant trends of the day, or have non-sycophantic personalities that range from the reclusive to the abrasive often tend to be overlooked or ignored by the art market. Consequently some of our best artists do not get the exposure that their work merits.



☺ In 2003 Old Mutual Asset Managers approached Jill Joubert of the Frank Joubert Art Centre about organising a series of exhibitions for their new offices in Pinelands. Jill referred the request to me and I immediately saw it as an opportunity to contribute, albeit in a modest way, to raising the profile of artists whom I respect, and to introduce the work of these artists to an audience that may not be familiar with most of these names.

The initial brief was relatively low-key: OMAM does not operate a commercial gallery and the idea was to target its own "community". Consequently the emphasis has been on selecting modestly priced, qualitative works, and to provide information about these artists and works in an accessible manner.

The format chosen for these exhibitions has been to feature three works from one artist, and to complement these with single works from other artists that "converse" in various ways, some directly and others more obliquely, with the key artistic concerns of the featured artist. For example, the first featured artist is the late Timothy Mafenuka (1966-2003), a self-taught artist whose untimely death was lamentably ignored by the art media. Mafenuka was a poetic artist of the imagination; an innovative artist who introduced unorthodox materials into his sculptures; and not least an artist with a sense of humour. The other artists on this show: Tyrone Appollis, Lionel Davis, Garth Erasmus, Ivan Francke, Randolph Hartzenberg, Isaac Makeleni, Xolile Mtakatya, Madi Phala and Donovan Ward, all manifest some of these qualities in their own works; and it is in this spirit that I have curated "conversations with Timothy Mafenuka".

Mario Pissarra, July 2004



## Mario Pissarra

Mario Pissarra is an independent arts writer and educator. He has lectured in art history at UCT and is the former director of the Community Arts Project. His writing has featured in numerous print and on-line publications including Third Text and Art South Africa. Current projects include co-authoring Art & Design for Everyone (Juta, in print) and lecturing in contemporary African art at Stellenbosch University.

## Appollis, Tyrone (b. 1957, Cape Town)



Title	Songs for the Renaissance
Remarks	Acrylic paint on board, 72 x 49.5 cm, 2004
Price	Celebratory vision of the spirit of social transformation. Recent work produced in response to the concept of the African Renaissance.
	R8,000

Remarks	Visual artist, musician and poet best known for his vibrant and imaginative acrylic paintings.
Art Education	Mostly self-taught, part-time student at Community Arts Project with Cecil Skotnes (1982-1987).
Residencies	UK; and Altes Spital, Switzerland (2003).
Collections	Public collections include national galleries of South Africa and Namibia; Universities of Kansas (USA), Cape Town and Western Cape; Norton Museum, Florida (USA) and Durban Art Gallery; Department of Education, South Africa; Groote Schuur Hospital; SASOL and SANLAM. Private collections include that of former Archbishop Tutu, Albie Sachs, Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, David Kramer and Prof. Brian O' Connel.
Commissions	Several, including mural, UWC; Cape Town Unicity; SA Gourmet Festival; J&B Metropolitan Race; and Woolworths.
Publications	Several magazine illustrations since 1985; book covers; invitations and catalogue cover, <i>Namibian Independence Exhibition</i> (1990); McGee & Vuyiya <i>Luggage is Still Labeled</i> (video, 2003). Various newspapers and magazines including Washington Post. Several television interviews. <i>Made in Wood: Work from the Western Cape</i> , SANG (1993).
Awards	Honoured in Parliament for contributions to democracy in field of art (2004).
Current	Full-time artist since 1986. Lives in Athlone.



## Davis, Lionel (b. 1936, Cape Town)

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<b>Remarks</b>	Superb draughtsman, also well known for his prints and paintings.
<b>Art Education</b>	Part-time student at Community Arts Project (late 70s); Diploma in Fine Arts, Evangelical Art & Craft Centre, Rorke's Drift (1980-1); BA Fine Arts, UCT (1991-4); Diploma in teacher training, Curriculum Development Project (1995).
<b>Workshops</b>	Nine Thupelo artists workshops in South Africa (1986-2001). Also international artists workshops: Triangle, USA (1987); Thapong, Botswana (1989); and Pachinпамwe, Zimbabwe (1992).
<b>Collections</b>	Public collections include national galleries (Botswana, Zimbabwe), District Six Museum.
<b>Publications</b>	Several, including Manaka <i>Echoes of African Art</i> (1987); Sack <i>Neglected Tradition</i> (1988); Elliott <i>Art from South Africa</i> (1990); Rankin & Hobbs <i>Printmaking in a Transforming South Africa</i> (1997); Law & Picton <i>Crosscurrents</i> (2000); McGee & Voyiya <i>Luggage is Still Labeled</i> (video, 2003).
<b>Other</b>	Political prisoner, Robben Island (1964-71). House arrest (1971-7). Member, Vakalisa Arts Collective. Stalwart, Thupelo Workshop. Taught art and media for Community Arts Project (1989-90, 1983-8) and SANG (1995-6). Freelance graphic designer (1995-7). Served on boards of Sakhile Children's Art Project; Thupelo Arts Associates (1987-98); Community Arts Project (1993); and SA National Gallery (1996-8).
<b>Current</b>	Employed by the Robben Island Museum since 1997, first as a tour guide, and since 2001 as a heritage educator. Lives on Robben Island.

## Erasmus, Garth (b. 1956, Uitenhage, Eastern Cape)



Title	Mantis Praise
Remarks	Paint and mixed media on paper, 29.5 x 20.8 cm, 2002 Archetypal image that resonates with the vitality and resilience of the human spirit. Part of a series exploring the use of accessible materials and modest scale in representing spiritual themes.
Price	R3,375

<b>Remarks</b>	Innovative artist, art teacher and musician renowned for his unorthodox use of materials.
<b>Art Education</b>	Art Teaching Diploma, Hewat College of Education (1975-7); Diploma in Fine Art, Rhodes University (1978-80).
<b>Workshops &amp; Residencies</b>	International workshops, South Africa and USA (1985, 1995, 1999). Thupelo workshops, Cape Town (1992-2000). Residencies at Greatmore Studios, Cape Town and Caversham Press, KZN (2003).
<b>Collections</b>	Public, private and corporate collections including Museum of African Art, Smithsonian, USA.
<b>Publications</b>	Artwork featured in Vakalisa Art Group calendars, <i>Staffrider</i> and various publications since 1985. Included in several surveys and catalogues, eg. Sack <i>The Neglected Tradition</i> (1988); Williamson <i>Resistance Art in SA</i> (1989); Picton & Law <i>Crosscurrents</i> (2000); McGee & Voyiya <i>Luggage is Still Labeled</i> (video, 2003).
<b>Awards / Grants</b>	Travel and project grants from the United States – South Africa Leadership Exchange Program (1985) and National Arts Council (1998).
<b>Other</b>	Art teacher at Zonnebloem Children's Art Centre (1982-1997). Guest teacher at Community Arts Project (1982-92) and Robben Island Museum's Spring School (2002-3). Also guest teacher at Calder Kids Adventure Playground for disabled children, Liverpool (1999); and 10 schools in Devonshire, UK (2003). Musical performances at cultural events since 1992.
<b>Current</b>	Full-time artist since 1997. Lives in North Pine, Brackenfell.

## Featured Artist. Mafenuka, Timothy (Born Cape Town, 1966. Died Cape Town, 2003)



Title	Untitled [Jazz] Chalk pastel and charcoal on paper, 60 x 45 cm, 1997
Remarks	A gently provocative image: two female jazz musicians (a rare sight), with the central figure appearing to be handing her instrument to a not so traditional "Xhosa pipe-smoking woman" who puffs a man's pipe. Musical vibrations and smoke mingle as one multi-directional ground.
Price	R1,500

### Remarks

Best known for his poetic and vibrant colour mono-prints and for combining unorthodox materials such as shells, glass and wood in magical sculptures, Mafenuka was an enterprising artist who sold his works through a wide range of private galleries throughout the Cape. His crowning achievement was a series of six large totemic sculptures that rank among Southern Africa's finest wood sculptures. Three of these major works were bought by private collectors (UK, Japan and Cyprus) and one has recently been purchased by the SA National Gallery and will feature on their exhibition. Proceeds of sales will go to the family of the artist, who died prematurely last year.

### Art Education

Self-taught. Informally mentored by Xolile Mtakatya.

### Workshops

Several regional Thupelo Artists Workshops.

### Collections

South African National Gallery; numerous private collections in South Africa and abroad.

### Commissions

Woolworths

### Publications

*Made in Wood: Work from the Western Cape*, SANG (1993); *The Big Issue* (2003).





Title

Happy People Dancing

Acrylic paint on canvas, 2 x 1.6 m, c. 2000

Remarks

Exuberant fusion of musicians and dancers, and synthesis of figurative and non-representational elements. A painting about the "simple things in life", its celebratory character is tempered by a tinge of melancholy, even anxiety. Note the delightfully irrational details such as the child on the woman's back who is simultaneously a saxophonist.

Price

R8,000



Title

Untitled [Totem]

Wood and sea shells, 39.5 cm x 1.8 m, c. 1998

Remarks

Dreamlike totem centred on the image of the heart, implying union between vision and passion. Seen from the rear the textured surface creates another mood entirely, enhancing the transformative qualities of the sculpture as a whole.

Price

R25,000

## Francke, Ivan (b. 1948, Cape Town)



Title	Starry Night Oils on cardboard, 42 x 30 cm, 2003
Remarks	Combines impressionistic brush strokes with expressionist intent, creating a landscape that is as much an interior state of mind as it is an image of an exterior space.
Price	R1,200

### Remarks

A "late bloomer", Francke draws on inspiration from published images and his imagination. He uses "impressionistic" brush strokes to create evocative and dreamlike landscapes.

### Art Education

Self-taught, attended a few workshops at The Big Issue.

### Collections

Private

### Publications

Featured in several issues of *The Big Issue*, including one cover (2003).

### Current

A worker for an academic institution for much of his adult life, Francke found himself experiencing hard times and began selling *The Big Issue* several years ago. He discovered painting after attending a workshop at their Wynberg depot. Since then painting has been a central part of his daily life. Lives in Retreat.

## Hartzenberg, Randolph (b. 1948, Cape Town)



Title	Map of the Neighbourhood XXX Monotype, 35.5 x 48.5 cm, 1999
Remarks	Alludes to notions of memory, loss, healing, migration, transformation and identity of a "community" using experimental printmaking techniques. One of an ongoing series exploring the theme of "neighbourhood".
Price	R4,375

<b>Remarks</b>	Widely respected multi-media artist (paintings, graphics, sculpture, video and performance) who creates intensely personal works that reflect on critical issues of social concern.
<b>Art Education</b>	Higher Diploma Drama-in-Education (1982); MA Fine Arts, UCT (1994).
<b>Collections</b>	South African National Gallery; Universities of Cape Town and Witwatersrand; Vodacom; North Western University, Chicago; and Norad, Oslo.
<b>Commissions</b>	Commissioned participant in Malcolm Payne's installation for the Venice Biennale, Italy (1995); video for Kwere Kwere exhibition (Cape Town, Johannesburg 2000, and Amsterdam 2003).
<b>Residencies</b>	Artist in Residence, Grahamstown Festival (1996).
<b>Publications</b>	Several, including <i>Younge Art of the SA Townships</i> (1989); Univ. Of Wits Galleries <i>Panoramas of Passage</i> (1995); Williamson & Jamal <i>Art in SA: The Future Present</i> (1996); Bedford <i>Contemporary South African Art 1985-1995</i> (1997); and Rankin & Hobbs <i>Printmaking in a Transforming SA</i> (1997).
<b>Other</b>	Taught art at Alexander Sinton (1969-85). Five public performances, Cape Town, 1976 -2000.
<b>Current</b>	Lecturer at School of Design, Cape Technikon since 1996. Lives in Crawford.

## Makeleni, Isaac (b. 1950, Cape Town)



Title	Together For Ever
	Wood, 530 cm x 1.48 m, 1996 / 2003
Remarks	Intimate affirmation of union between man and woman
Price	R7,500

### Remarks

Imaginative sculptor and painter who creates vivid artworks that combine technical dexterity and immediacy with tenderness and warmth.

### Art Education

Self-taught.

### Residencies

Robben Island (1997).

### Collections

Public collections include South African National Gallery; University of the Western Cape; Robben Island Museum; Safmarine House, Cape Town; and Museum of Modern Art, Oxford. Private collections include that of Prof. Sandra Klopper.

### Commissions

Mosaic, Zolani Centre, Nyanga East. Nobel Square, 2004 (one of seven sculptors nationally who were invited to submit maquettes for a public sculpture competition to commemorate SA Nobel Peace Prize laureates).

### Publications

*Made in Wood: Work from the Western Cape*, SANG (1993).

### Other

Active member, Visual Arts Group. Long history of teaching art to children in his community.

### Current

Full-time artist since 1981. Lives in Nyanga East.

## Mtakatya, Xolile (b. 1968, Cape Town)



Title	Statements from Within
	Screen-print on paper (6/30), 73.2 x 62 cm, 2001
Remarks	References migration and xenophobia in the context of redefining the identity of South Africa. Dates back to the artist's residency at the Caversham Press.
Price	R1,500

<b>Remarks</b>	Mtakatya is best known for his imaginative chalk-pastel drawings but is equally adept as a graphic artist.
<b>Art Education</b>	Part-time student at Community Arts Project (1987-89). Diploma in Fine Art, Foundation School of Art (1993).
<b>Workshops and Residencies</b>	Several regional and national Thupelo Artists Workshops. Also attended Thupelo international workshop, Malmesbury (2000) as well as artists workshops in Germany (1999) and Thapong, Botswana (1999). Residency at Caversham Press, KZN (2001).
<b>Collections</b>	Old Mutual, Cape Town; Spier, Stellenbosch; Nandos, London. Numerous private collections in South Africa, also in The Netherlands and USA.
<b>Commissions</b>	Nico Malan Opera House (1993); Agenda 21 mural (Germany, 1999).
<b>Publications</b>	Elliott <i>Art From South Africa</i> (1990); <i>Project Conflux</i> (France, 1999); <i>Brett Keeble Awards</i> (2003); Koloane & Kahn <i>Identity</i> (2004).
<b>Other</b>	A former youth activist, Mtakatya began drawing on the walls while a political detainee (1986). In the late 80s and early 90s he ran art and media workshops in his community, and taught screen-printing to unemployed mothers (Philani Project). He also ran media training workshops for the ANC and was an active member of the Visual Arts Group (1988-1993).
<b>Current</b>	Full-time artist since 1993. Lives in Khayelitsha.



## Phala, Madi (b. 1955, Springs)



Title	Herd Boys
Remarks	Paint and collage on paper, 27.7 x 19 cm, 2004 Poetic fusion of human and animal forms and the landscape. The sublime qualities of the image are rendered all the more powerful through the intimacy of the scale.
Price	R1,500

<b>Remarks</b>	Integrates collage into paintings to create poetic landscapes where the boundaries between dream worlds and reality are dissolved.
<b>Art Education</b>	Arts and crafts at Tlakula High School, Springs Workshops & Residencies, Thupelo Workshops (1985-92). Triangle workshop, USA (1992). Residency at Greatmore Studios, Cape Town (2004).
<b>Collections</b>	Several private collections, South Africa.
<b>Publications</b>	<i>Staffrider</i> ; Burnett Tributaries (1985); <i>Manaka Echoes of African Art</i> (1987); <i>Younge Art of the South African Townships</i> (1988); De Jager <i>Images of Man</i> (1992).
<b>Awards</b>	Jazz Art Poetry Appreciation Award (1984).
<b>Other</b>	Member of the Bayajula arts society (1975-79). Worked for SABC as a sound effects maker. As founder of the Arts Enhancement Programme, Phala taught children art in his garage from 1992-98. Among those he is credited with mentoring is the late Nhlanhla Xaba.
<b>Current</b>	Full-time artist since 1998. Recently relocated to Cape Town.

## Ward, Donovan (b. 1962, Cape Town)



Title	Ou Rooker Mixed media painting (perspex, collage, cement, ash, burnt bone fragments) on board, 70.5 x 55 cm, 2002.
Remarks	Interrogates the spaces between slick corporate-led definitions of popular culture and the gritty street expressions and environment of "ordinary" lives; as well as the disjuncture between promise and delivery. Also alludes to the glamour and allure of gang culture in a scarred landscape; and the resilience of the human spirit.
Price	R3,500

<b>Remarks</b>	Technically innovative and conceptually challenging artist.
<b>Art Education</b>	Livingstone High School, Claremont; and Ruth Prowse School of Art, Salt River (1982-5).
<b>Workshops and Residencies</b>	Thupelo Workshop, Cape Town (1995); and Spirit of the Place workshops, Bangor, Wales (2002).
<b>Collections</b>	Numerous private collections including that of the Earl of Spencer.
<b>Commissions</b>	Cape Town One City Festival (2000).
<b>Publications</b>	Five exhibition catalogues since 1997. Also <i>NKA Journal of Contemporary Art</i> , issues 13/14 (2001).
<b>Awards / Grants</b>	"The Art of Peace" – First prize – Seef Trust Art Gallery, Cape Town (1993). Cape Tercentenary Foundation & Visiting Arts (both 2002).
<b>Current</b>	Full-time artist since 1994. Lives in Woodstock.