

SABC Art Collection

Welcome to It's About Art!

Introducing you to *your* collection.

See you at walkabouts re-opening soon,

Koulla Xinisteris
Curator

As the Curator of the SABC Art Collection, I would like to welcome you to IT'S ABOUT ART!



Sam NHLENGETHWA, *Midnight Blue*, oil & collage on canvas, (triptych) 150 x 360cm

During walkabouts you will be introduced to one of the most distinctive Art Collections of South African Art in the world. Although, the SABC has collected artworks for much longer, I look forward to engaging with you about works that were acquired since 1997 when the collection was formalised under my curatorship for the first time.

Since then, the collection has reflected a curatorial concern to obtain works that are representative of the broad spectrum of artworks produced in South Africa rather than in the Southern African region or in Africa at large. We have been particularly concerned to acquire the work of black artists who were under-represented in the original collection.



Robert HODGINS, (1920 -2010), *Four Figures For A Sistine*, 1999, oil on canvas, 122 x 368cm

The collection ranges from a bust celebrating the apartheid architect Hendrik Verwoerd (now reduced to standing in a corner of the soundproof art storeroom, awaiting curation as part of a political history that would include news footage from the SABC's radio and television archive), juxtaposed with works of suffering and resistance by artists who were in exile (like Dumile Feni and Gerard Sekoto), and to lesser-known Eastern Cape artists like Dorothy Kay and Fred Page.

The collection also holds works of a different kind and era such as those by Irma Stern and Pierneef – works worth millions in today's art markets – alongside our other greats: Julian Motau, Marlene Duma, Noria Mabasa, William Kentridge, Sam Nhlengethwa and the late David Koloane. All of these incredible contributions to South African Art will be part of the experience of IT'S ABOUT ART!

During the walkabouts, I speak about how one 'enters' an artwork. I introduce you to the meanings, messages and silences in artworks as renditions of the human condition, and to the states of animation or lifelessness they enable or hold/capture. Works that challenge or that, at first glance, appear to offend may surprise you as we consider [their multiple contexts and] their gravity, significance and difference.

Walkabouts focus on our various exhibitions, including the SABC's *Making Waves* widely acclaimed, award-winning exhibition co-curated by Graham Neame and myself.

Talks include specific artworks and artworks that have gone on loan locally to museums and exhibitions abroad. Considering the absence or presence of social, political or cultural concerns and influence, and thinking with great genres, history and different media, you will be introduced to artist's works and, in time, to the artists themselves whom I occasionally ask to offer their time and thinking to these walkabouts.

Among these, Tracey Rose, Simon Gush, Lawrence Lemoana, Dean Hutten and Sam Nhlengethwa are artists who may refreshingly challenge us. In the hope that I can share the collection with you, I look forward to meeting you and to your participation.

It's About Art!

Koulla Xinisteris
Curator

Get in touch

Walkabouts will start up again soon

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