Introduction

It is often said that an artist's work is really only valued and appreciated once the artist is no longer around. People nowadays don't appreciate art as they should — but art tells a story about the artist, his life and where he comes from, as well as the history, culture and traditions of his people.

The real value of art lies in the fact that it is an expression of emotion, creativity, energy and passion — it reflects and shapes the society and culture in which we live. It helps us to make sense of our lives. It is a means of communication, a language which can help us to make sense of ourselves, of others and of the future.

Artists play an important role in the community; they question the world around us, and their art, in whichever form, contributes to the creative and intellectual prosperity of our nation. It thus forms an important part of the country’s history, reflecting social, moral and political attitudes.

South Africa has an abundance of artistic talent among its people, and this rich development of contemporary art must be nurtured and celebrated.

The collection of art books — specifically about emerging young and promising South African artists of all cultural groups — in SN is therefore one that should be visited by all who want to experience the creative spirits of these talented people.

A selected list of titles is offered here — there are many more on the SN shelves!

Directories and catalogues


Returning the gaze: public arts project at the Cape Town One City Festival, 2000. [Blac?, 2001?]


Individual artists


