

# New venture deserves to succeed

**HENRY SYMONDS reviews**

**Exhibition:** Various artists

**Gallery :** Galerie de Lyons, 87 Bree Street (till end of August)

CAPE TOWN has been treated to a number of new galleries making their debuts at a time when many were fearing the collapse of mainstream art trading in the city.

Following close on the heels of the modish Labia Gallery at the top of the Buitengracht Street, Galerie de Lyons — housed in a large, elegant space in Bree Street, offers another first rate exhibition locale.

The opening exhibition is an

auspicious entry into this competitive arena with a wide range of interesting work drawn largely from the Transvaal and Natal. Local artists who impress are Stanley Hermans and Louis Jansen van Vuuren who shows supremely poised works, displaying his usual richness of colour and a new compositional complexity. He employs exaggerated perspectives and particularly in No 5 a dramatic sweep of interior and exterior spaces which is most seductive.

The most significant element of the show is the felicitous combination of artists who range from Andrew Verster and Nina Romm to Tommy Motswai and

Sfiso Ka Nkame.

Of particular interest are works by Thomas Kgope who has been attracting some national attention; Jeremy Wafer, who, while a national award-winner, has had little exposure in the Cape; and some intense, intriguing painting by Lola Frost, also an unknown in local art circles.

This seems to suggest that the gallery is committed to introducing fresh material to the local market rather than relying on established local names.

If this is the case, it is a timely and particularly welcome venture that deserves to succeed.