

Cape gallerist takes local art to new, international levels

SARAH-JANE BOSCH

A career in the art world does not necessarily mean you have to be a painter or sculpture. The gallerist plays an important part in bringing the work of artists to the attention of the public.

Mrs Sue Lipschitz, who recently opened a new art gallery in one of the oldest parts of Cape Town – the Bo Kaap – says managing an art gallery is stimulating and rewarding, but it is not as simple as it appears.

“Daily tasks include the organisation of exhibitions, which change every few weeks at the Lipschitz Gallery,” she says. “You have to be able to liaise with artists from many different backgrounds to ensure that the work on display is always fresh and varied.”

“You must empathise with the artists and have a good understanding of their art in order to be able to promote them effectively.”



On display: Sue Lipschitz admires the works of Louis Jansen van Vuuren

“Then there is general office administration, ongoing sale of artworks, media communication, research, compilation of artists’ databases and art sources, art consultation, supplying information to the public, and promotion of artists regionally, nationally and even internationally.”

The Lipschitz Gallery’s first exhibitor

was the well-known Louis Jansen van Vuuren, who is preparing for his first Paris exhibition.

“Some of the works displayed here when the gallery opened have been flown to Paris for the exhibition,” says Jansen van Vuuren. “This is a wonderful venue, with plenty of open, uncluttered space, which allows large works to be viewed from a distance as they should be.”

Lipschitz has been involved in art and antiques for many years. In 1972 she was the convener of the first Antique Dealers Fair in Cape Town, and in 1994 became vice chairman of the South African Association of Arts.

She has worked in galleries in South Africa and overseas, including Miami, Florida and Washington in the USA. Since 1996 Lipschitz has been a member of the Cape Town City Council Arts and Culture Steering Committee, and in 1997 initiated Art Safari, a project which introduces

tourists to South African artists at work.

“Capetonians seem to like what we are doing at the Lipschitz Gallery,” she says. “We have had many visitors, particularly young people, which is encouraging, as we see it is an outlet for young artists.”

Lipschitz says the gallery will organise lectures presented by artists and other interesting speakers, and the artists who exhibit will be encouraged to spend time at the gallery and explain their work to visitors.

For more information contact Sue Lipschitz on (021) 22 0280 or fax (021) 22 0281

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