

A boost for local art galleries



FynArts Festival Artist Louis Jansen van Vuuren at the opening of his solo exhibition at Rossouw Modern SPACE Gallery.

The special art exhibitions hosted during this year's FynArts Festival from 10 – 19 June drew many festivalgoers into the local art galleries of Hermanus. The enthusiastic response saw galleries packed beyond capacity during the openings and a steady stream of feet across their doorsteps. This not only resulted in increased sales for the artists and gallery owners, but further cemented the growing reputation of Hermanus as an art destination.

Terry Kobus of Originals Gallery says the value of FynArts to local businesses continues to increase every year. "For the local artists especially it

creates the opportunity to put on special exhibitions of their work and reach a wide audience. The response this year was absolutely fantastic and there were days when we had 200 to 300 people through the gallery. It was especially encouraging to note that some festivalgoers had flown in especially for FynArts from as far away as Johannesburg. We also had more sales than in previous years and I think the next step would be for FynArts to attract art lovers who attend the festival specifically to buy art."

Joshua Rossouw of Rossouw Modern and SPACE Gallery

also hosted special FynArts exhibitions and says he thought the festival was "phenomenal". More people than could fit into the gallery attended the opening of festival artist Louis Jansen van Vuuren's exhibition at SPACE, and the opening of Abalone Art Gallery's exhibitions of works by renowned artists Nel Erasmus and Judith Mason also attracted throngs of art lovers who were thrilled to engage personally with the artists. The owner of Abalone, Ortrud Mulder, says she was surprised by the attendance because there were many more art exhibitions this year than previously.

Liz Coates, owner of Pure South Gallery and curator of the ceramic exhibition at the Windsor Hotel, Forms of Expression 2, says "It was an excellent festival". The venue was packed during the opening of the ceramic exhibition and continued to draw visitors during the festival. "I also had good sales at my gallery where my exhibiting artist was Errol Norbury. The workshop hosted at Pure South was fully booked, as were the ceramic workshops presented by ceramic artists Rae

Goosen and Tania Babb."

Liz says the standard of the concerts and exhibitions during this year's FynArts was very high. "I think the festival is getting better every year and is building on its good reputation. People now know about it and it's on their calendar of things to do. What is especially encouraging is that some of the people visiting the galleries said they had come specifically to buy art."

Ed Bredenkamp of Lembu and Forty x 40 Gallery says the opening of Christa Clark's exhibition was so well attended that they couldn't fit everyone in the gallery. "The response was quite unexpected and the gallery was chock-a-block," says Ed. "This was Christa's first solo exhibition and we sold 16 of her paintings."

Ed also reported good attendance and sales for his solo exhibition at Lembu Gallery. "It was wonderful to see the town buzzing with visitors walking around with the programme booklet and supporting all the local galleries. The Monday after FynArts had ended the whole town felt deserted!"

- Hedda Mittner



The owner and curator of Abalone Art Gallery, Ortrud Mulder, with renowned artists Nel Erasmus and Judith Mason, who had solo exhibitions at Abalone during FynArts.



Local artists Danny Myburgh and Terry Kobus, who hosted a joint exhibition at Originals Gallery entitled 'Crossings'.



Local artist Christa Clark (middle) with her sister, fellow artist Louise Hennigs and husband Michael Clark at the opening of her first solo exhibition at Forty x 40 Gallery.