

The art collection



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The Library Service stocks a high quality selection of graphics and reproductions of paintings, mainly by South African artists.

The collection of original artworks consists of oil paintings, watercolours, mixed media, etchings, lithographs and pencil sketches and comprises works of many well-known artists such as Tyrone Appollis, Peter Clarke, William Kentridge, Dirk Meerkotter, Motshile Nthodi, Hargreaves Ntukwane, Lukas van Vuuren, and Cecil and Pippa Skotnes. Several original artworks by Willie Bester also form part of the collection. Original art created for the Publication and Promotions Section is also kept in the Art collection. This is based on books and

cover designs of previous editions of **Cape Librarian**.

For many years artworks and prints were distributed to libraries for use in exhibitions but as result of the tremendous increase in value it became too risky to allow their circulation. The Provincial Library Service is at present thus unable to continue with the provision of artworks to public libraries and this service was phased out in the mid-1990s. The South African original art collection will at a later stage be moved to the Museum Service.

The art prints are, however, still available to public libraries, organisations and institutions for exhibitions and functions. Permission from Central Collection (SN) is required to exhibit and display art prints.



▲ One of a portfolio of five prints by Irma Stern, titled *Head of a young girl*

Artists

Highlights in the art collection include works of South African artist, Tyrone Appollis, who is a well-known Cape Town artist and musician. His career as an artist began in 1980. His acrylic, paint and fine colourful artworks reflect the changing times in South

◀ Assistant Director Neville Adonis and Hoeda Salaam, the film library assistant who is the 'keeper of the key' to this treasure trove of art, inspect some of the art prints

Africa during the liberation struggle. His works are based on scenes of despair and destruction during the struggle. Artworks by the artist between 1987-1988 include **District Six** in gouache; **Langa train** in linocut on paper; **Mitchells Plain train** in linocut on paper; and **Off Eden Road, District Six** in oil and on canvas.

The South African artist William Kentridge was born in Johannesburg in 1955. He was known for his pastel and charcoal drawings.





▲ One of a portfolio of five prints by Irma Stern, titled *Reclining nude*

Kentridge's art can be best described as the art of motivity and energetic movement, both subtly and graphically. Artworks by this artist include **Small reservoir** in charcoal and pastel on paper, and **Wadeville** in charcoal and pastel on paper.

Irma Stern was born in Schweizer-

Renecke in 1894. As a child she moved with her mother to Berlin where she completed her schooling. Although she was well known for her oil paintings, she also worked as a sculptor. A portfolio of prints by the artist includes: **Head of a young girl** in pen and wash, and **Reclining nude** in gouache and a water soluble medium.

Lionel Abrams wanted to study architecture, but dropped out after his first year and started to study art at the Witwatersrand Technical College and at the London Country Council School of Arts and Crafts. He was well known for his oil paintings and his use of the acrylic medium. Artwork by him includes **Yellow interior** in oil and on canvas.

Walter Battiss was born in the small Karoo town of Somerset East in 1906.

From an early age he showed a keen interest in archaeology and primitive art. He studied at the Witwatersrand Technical College and later completed his degree in fine arts at the University of South Africa. Walter Battiss' works were based on oils and watercolours to graphic art, sketches and tapestries. Artwork created by him includes: **Mothers and children near waterfall** in woodcut, and **Men from space** in

silkscreen and on paper.

The art collection has formed part of the Provincial Library Service's stock since 1961 and comprises 3,764 art prints and artworks, which is divided into:

Originals: 787
Art prints: 2,977



▲ Oil on board by Tyrone Errol Appolis, titled *Party Time*



▲ Mixed media by Willie Bester, titled *District Six*

