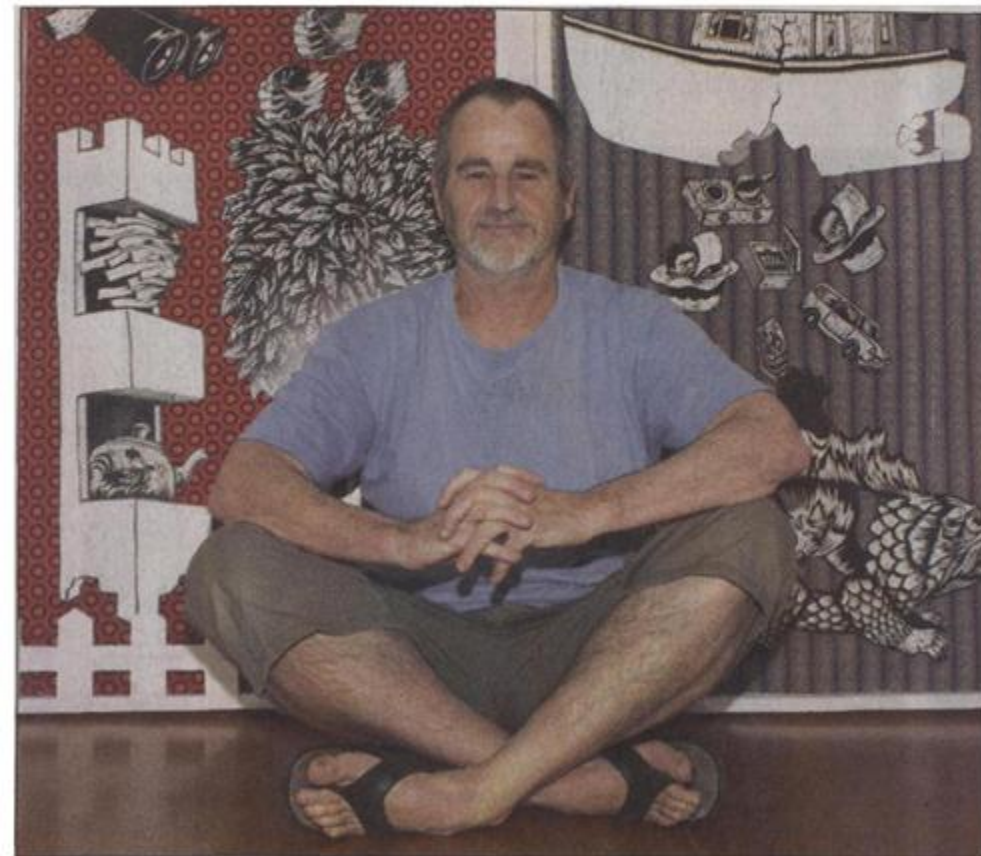


Woodcuts with a local flavour...



STAFF REPORTER

DURBAN-BORN artist Jeff Rankin, now based in the Eastern Cape, is back in his home town for a solo exhibition, *Vessels of a Peculiar Paradise*, to be seen until October 22 at the Fat Tuesday Gallery in Kloof.

This exhibition of new work includes woodcuts, drawings and mixed media.

Rankin's love of the printmaking process began in the 1970s when he was an art student at the Durban University of Technology (then Durban Technikon.)

After more than 30

TIME OUT: Artist Jeff Rankin, who is now exhibiting in Kloof, is pictured with some of his work.

years of teaching visual arts at universities and technikons around South Africa he decided to retire from academic life and devote time to producing his own work.

He established the Albatross Studio at his home on the Eastern Cape coast, close to East London, where he creates his unusual works.

Rankin has spent the past 10 years working with the woodcut process and has taken the printmaking process a step further.

"Traditionally, the woodblock is coated with ink to produce a series of prints, but I have enjoyed seeing the original block become the artwork," he says.

He achieves this by painting bright colours into the carved sections of the wood, resulting in a one-off original.

These painted wood

cuts are often combined with other materials to create the complete work.

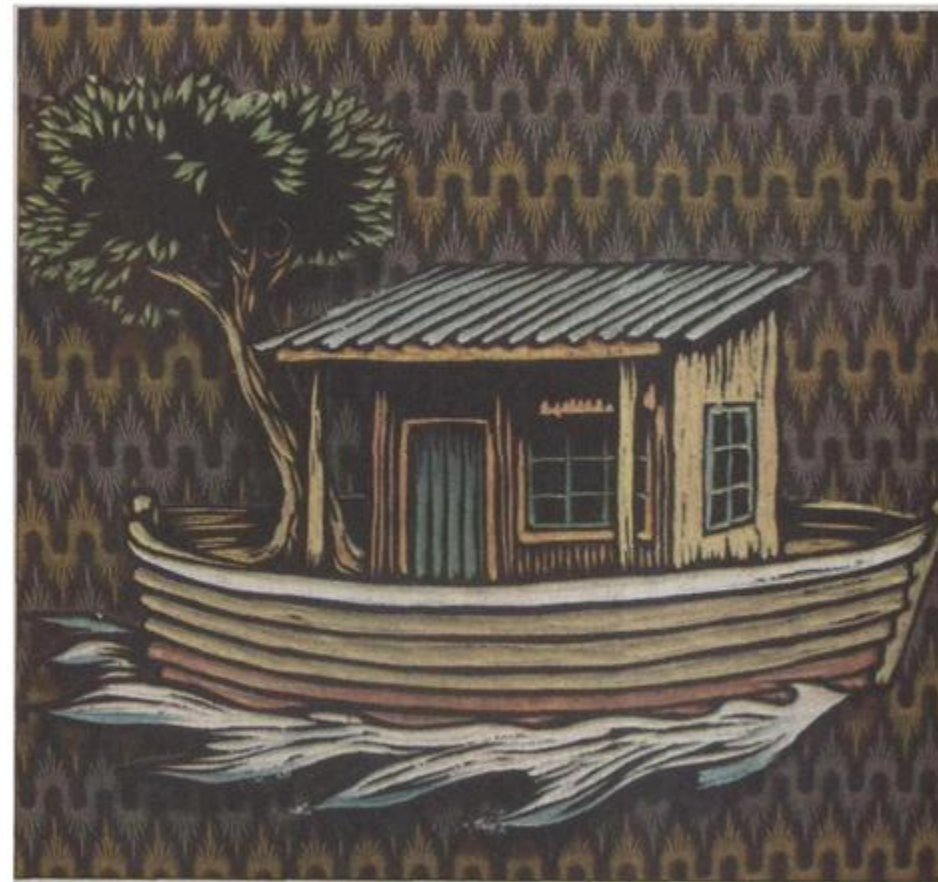
Rankin draws his inspiration from his surroundings, which give his work a home-grown South African sense.

He has a fascination with rural trading stores, images of which are worked into his compositions, alongside taxis and indigenous fauna and flora, often in unusual combinations.

He has worked as a political cartoonist for the Sunday Tribune and the Daily Despatch, and he brings elements of the cartoon genre into his work.

Recently, he returned to drawing, which he combines with mono-prints creating a single edition work.

For more information about the exhibition, call the gallery at 031 717 2785.



STRIKING WORK: A work titled *Shweshwe Voyage*. Rankin has painted the wood-cut block and mounted it on Shweshwe fabric, resulting in an unusual mixed media work. This work is part of a series featuring boats filled with objects.