

# Striking shifts in ceramics

An exhibition of KZN artists finding new ways to reinvent clay

ESTELLE SINKINS

SOME of the country's best ceramic artists are represented in a new exhibition at the KZNSA Gallery in Bulwer Road, Glenwood.

"More Fired Up", which runs until June 17, is an extension of the "All Fired Up: Conversations between Kiln and Collection" exhibition staged at the Durban Art Gallery (Dag) recently.

The Dag exhibition rekindled public interest in ceramics and due to public demand, the KZNSA, working with the exhibition curator Jenny Stretton, curator of collections at Dag, is presenting a reconfigured collection of ceramic works.

Having long outgrown the title of "pottery", contemporary ceramic art is a fusion of art and science as its practitioners devise ever more innovative ways to reinvent their clay.

The invited artists are either lecturers or masters graduates from the ceramic departments of Durban University of Technology and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg.

Stretton believes that ceramics have a special role to play because ceramic art is three-dimensional.

"It has more claim to the immediate dynamics of society than other visual art forms: it intrudes, demands space — almost as people do — and can alter its form as one circles it," she said.

"Ceramics in broader society has become one of the darlings of the material sciences, chemists and physicists, who use ceramics to create jet turbine blades, flexible springs and semiconductors.

"Set in the context of South Africa in 2012, a transforming social and political landscape, the shift in subject matter for artists is striking.

"Almost without exception, the artists speak of the transformational power of the kiln.

"It is a sacred space that has no master, manipulating elements at an alchemic level. God knows what Faustian deals are done as the artist closes the door of the kiln!"

Artists taking part in the exhibition include Juliet Armstrong, Kim Bagley, Ian Calder, Astrid Dahl, Carla da Cruz, Leanne Frisinger, Raksha Gobardan, Carol Hayward Fell, Isaac Nkosinathi Khanyile, Fahmeeda Omar, Mhairi Pattenden, Sharon Weaving, Clive Sithole, Georg Hendrik Stroebel and Martha Zettler. The KZNSA Gallery is open from 9 am to 5 pm from Tuesday to Friday, Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 3 pm. Call 031 277 1705 for inquiries.

• [arts@witness.co.za](http://arts@witness.co.za)



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Bradley Schwartz's *Self Portrait*, which forms part of his exhibition at artSPACE durban.

## ARTSPACE DURBAN

ANOTHER exhibition worth visiting is Bradley Schwartz's "A Journey into Ink", which can be seen at artSPACE durban until June 16.

Based in Amanzimtoti, Schwartz spent the last four years developing a technique, using acrylic drawing ink on canvas, which is the dominant feature of his new work.

Although he admits to having had no formal training in the arts — other than the drawing skills he picked up as a design draughtsman — Schwartz says he has always had an interest in drawing, sculpture and painting.

His mother and his brother are artists.

Schwartz works in acrylic ink on canvas and teaches his methods to art groups in workshops and gives lessons at his studio on the South Coast.

The subject matter ranges from portraiture and abstract to sculpture and wildlife, and there's something for everyone.

artSPACE durban is at 3 Millar Road, Durban. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm. Inquiries: 031 312 0793.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED  
Hendrik Stroebel's *Arabesque*, which can be viewed at the KZNSA Gallery.



Juliet Armstrong's *A South African Carrier Shell*, which can be viewed at the KZNSA Gallery in Durban.

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Ezequiel Mabote will be showing his work at the Artisan Gallery in Durban.

## ARTISAN GALLERY

DURBAN artist Ezequiel Mabote, who will be exhibiting his colourful woodblock prints at the Artisan Gallery in Florida Road, Durban, until June 23, is well known for his vivid and often humorous look at the world around him, and his multi-coloured views of Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Also showing his work at the gallery is Nicholas Jaji, who combines the traditional with the contemporary to produce dynamic pots and bowls.

Inquiries: 031 312 4364.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Carl Roberts's *The Turn of the Dancer*, which will be on display at the Imbizo Gallery in Ballito.

## IMBIZO GALLERY

THE Imbizo Gallery at the Ballito Life Style Centre is hosting an exhibition of works by sculptors Carl Roberts, Sarah Richards, Marke Meyer, Izidro Duarte, Anton Smit, Carol Hayward Fell and Wendy von Varendorff from June 14 to July 31.

Isabel Roos, curator and owner of the gallery, said the theme of the exhibition was strongly evident in all the works.

Some of the sculptors would be showing photography, silk screens and paintings alongside their three-dimensional works.

The gallery is open daily between 9 am and 6 pm.

Inquiries: 032 946 1937.