



CHS Drum Beat

The beat goes on

Setting the benchmark



Fabian Wargau video artwork *Dripping actuality*

Gwenneth Miller, *Urban landscape* (2010)

A benchmark has been once set by the team of Unisa lecturers Gwen Miller and Fabian Wargau both from the Department of Art History, Visual Arts and Musicology who will be represented the University at the East Africa Biennale that will take place in Dar-Es-Salaam from 2 November until 16 November.

“The thing that excites me about this participation is that it’s a big event in our own continent, Africa and as lectures it encourages us to be involved in promoting contemporary artwork. I see it as the Department enforcing ties with Dar-Es-Salaam and hopefully the participation will open opportunities,” said Gwen Miller.

The East Africa Art Biennale association is a non-profit, non-commercial and non-governmental organisation registered with the Tanzanian National of Arts depending solely on donations, and sponsorships in funds or services from national and international companies.

The aim for this edition is to select the greatest fine artists from the five countries constituting the East Africa Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) who will participate and have their recent works (paintings, sculptures, photographs, ceramics, installations) displayed at five different venues across the city “I feel very lucky to be part of this Biennale and getting exposure in Tanzania. Exhibiting in another country on the African continent is an extreme privilege for me,” Wargau enthuses.

Gwen Miller furthermore advises that her artwork that is made from glass laboratory equipment recalls the continuous alliance between technology and urban life. These works concern the values of purity and intellect that society promotes, while acknowledging the grinding, organic, underlying imperfection of physical existence. In addition, she states that “My work is a new media work it’s called urban night, it depicts a kind of inner city which deals with how we live in a system”.

Wargau also describes what his work is made out of “The original image is digitally printed and has acrylic paint dripped on in the format of little beads, or what I like to call ‘drips’”. These ‘drips’ run in lines (almost as if they were themselves printed) and allude to the visual process a television screen or scanner employs”.

He expresses how his work is a somewhat abstract depiction of images taken from a television screen and a digital scanner. “It talks about mediation and the visual spectrum which I attempt to ‘print’ with paint”.

A presentation of the best artworks recently produced by more than Ninety-two artists coming from different countries East Africa artists represent 80 percent will exhibits.

By Busi Mabaso