

CAPE TIMES THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2011

ARTS 9

LIGHT FROM AFRICA



JUNGLE GYM: An Ardmore couch.

Forest of nudes and wild animals

SMALL SPACES. A premier exhibition of multimedia artwork. Etchings Jane Eppel, Tracy Payne, Sarah Pratt and Judy Woodborne; paintings Gabby Raaf, Daniel Levi; pencil and ink drawings Michael Taylor; paper cut-outs Lyndi Sales; digital prints Julia Rosa Clark and Cameron Platter; and lino prints Jan-Henri Booyens. Proceeds go to Light From Africa Foundation. Curated by Jennifer Fair Cohen. At Art in the Forest in Cecilia Forest until September 7. **LUCINDA JOLLY** reviews

THERE IS an anecdote about this beautifully situated studio, Art in the Forest, the first "art hub" of the Light From Africa Foundation to be launched, which concerns Tretchikoff.

Surrounded by forest and fronted by a terraced garden containing sculptures by Paul du Toit,

the studio has double volume proportions and a wall of glass windows which provides 180° views and stretches out all the way out as far as Hangklip.

It's no wonder that the Parks Board is still scratching its head as to how the original owner procured a piece of essentially off-limits conservational land.

It is reputed that back in the 1950s, hikers coming down from a day on the mountain were sometimes met by the sounds of classical music. Drawn by the music they would investigate to find the Liberator of popular taste himself, Tretchikoff, painting a luscious nude. Nice way to end a day in the rough.

So it feels like an appropriate context to mention some of the more salacious Ardmore pieces which dominate a corner of the exhibition: a gangly legged giraffe

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posed nonchalantly on its back and enjoying the attentions of a wicked monkey whose bright pink extended tongue, and other parts, are a sure indicator of their rapturous pleasure.

One can imagine the prissy guest at a refined dinner leaning forward to examine the delicate and fruity colours of the Ardmore creation only to realise the precise nature of what they are examining.

And why shouldn't the energies of the risqué, the aesthetically



WILD: Ardmore's ceramic art can be seen at Art in the Forest in Cecilia Forest.

pleasing and the home-grown converge to provide funds for the most vulnerable of vulnerable, children at risk in the shape of Fikelela Children Care in Khayelitsha.

The seven-year-old Light in Africa Foundation was founded by South African Anthony Record and his American wife, Carol. The Records, who also purchased the studio, wanted to put something back into Anthony's birthplace.

Functioning also as ceramic boutique and an exhibition space, Art in the Forest also provides work space for four in-house artists: Chuma Maweni, Madoda Fani, Nkosikho Vulangengqele and Lundikazi Matyala, from as close by as Hout Bay to further afield.

Big names such as Paul du Toit, Jan Vermeiren, Tracy Payne and Hardy Botha have committed themselves to spend time workshopping with the artists.

Others such as Dylan Lewis, Arabella Caccia, Denby Meyer, Lisa Strachan, Peter van Straten and Shany van den Berg will be involved with in-house ceramicists in the making of functional ceramic pieces.

Upstairs is the ceramic boutique. For those who are looking for delicacy, there are Joan Shaer's tealight holders influenced by cake decorations and clothing which can also be found in Lyndi Sales laser cut Fortunes Fortune.

And for those who prefer something a little more robust, there are the volcanic textured, coloured tea bowls of Ralph Johnson and the tripod cactus holders products of the Bright Ideas project.

Judy Woodbourne's intimate mezzotints, show fragments of nude studies with perfect pecs and thighs and provide a tasteful counterpoint to the animal

frolics of Ardmore.

So next time after you've slogged your way up a forest trail in Cecilia forest, stop on your way down for a cup of coffee, a glorious view and purchase some eye candy for a really good cause, knowing that 100 percent of profits raised through the sale of art and products goes towards homes and general care for South Africa's vulnerable children.

Expect to see a new show every six weeks, meet the in-house artists at work and some of the big names involved in workshopping.

The studio is also available for hire for art-related events.

● *Art in the Forest is in Rhodes Drive, Constantia Nek. Monday to Saturday from 9am to 4pm. 021 794 0291. For information on Light From Africa Foundation, e-mail catherine@lightfromafrica.com or see www.lightfromafrica.com or www.facebook.com/lightfromafrica*

What's on

Blackkurrant gig

Just Us and Blackkurrant will perform at a corporate sundowner at West End in Rylands on Friday. Free from 4pm to 7pm. Call 021 637 9027.

Home expo

The Canal Walk *Home and Lifestyle Expo* will run from Friday to Sunday from 9am to 9pm. Get decor tips and plan your dream home. Stand a chance to win a getaway at Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve and Wellness Retreat. See www.canalwalk.co.za

'Scheme Jy'

Piet Potgieter will perform in *Scheme Jy Ek's Kommin* at The Stage in Bellville on Saturday at 8pm. R60. Call 021 914 3151 or 079 528 8424.

Triple Select

DJ Ashton Abels will play at Pepper Club on the Beach on Saturday from 8pm. The club hosts a *Triple Select Saturday* event on the last Saturday of every month. Call 021 438 3175.

Gaslamp Killer

USDJ The Gaslamp Killer will be on the decks at The Assembly in Harrington Street on Saturday. Doors open at 8pm. His style encompasses psychedelia, world music, dubstep and left-field hip hop. Tickets are R60 pre-sold and before 10.30pm. R80 after. See www.theassembly.co.za

Search Party

Jazz outfit Search Party Quartet perform at Asoka in Kloof Street on Tuesdays. 9pm to 11pm. To book a table for dinner, call 021 422 0909.

Mendelssohn concerto

Pianist Jan Hugo will perform Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto* in the last concert of the Cape Philharmonic symphony season on September 1 at the City Hall. Sebastian Lang-Lessing will conduct. Call Computicket at 0861 915 8000.

'Worlds Collide'

Renovatio Dance Company will stage *Colour Contrast: Where Worlds Collide* at Artscape on September 2 and 3 at 8pm. The hip hop production looks at "the beginning, the legacy, and the immortality" of the dance style. R60 from Computicket at 0861 915 8000.