

ABOUT TOWN



Narissa Ramdhani, vice-chancellor Lawrence Cram, Carol Brown, Malcolm Fraser and Nancy Sievers.



Brian Mwesigwa and Aimee Komugabe.



Claire Walters and Katie Tong.

Telling stories from South Africa's soul

Home and Away - a return to the south

STORY AND PHOTOS: LYN MILLS

Home and Away is not an exhibition about a long-running Aussie soap, one I can honestly say I've never watched. The show is far removed from the nature of this exhibition, *Home and Away: a return to the south, as black from white*.

To see this exhibition is to be reminded of so much pain and suffering, and knowing the history South Africa has buried in its soul, there are many stories that harbor rancour.

In the arts, that history will be catalogued and maintained for posterity, and this exhibition is a thought-provoking cross-section. The often-used line about a tune of sorts being played on just the black keys of a piano as well as one on just the white keys has far less impact than the music of both colours was one aspect of the heartfelt opening speech by former prime minister Malcolm Fraser. This exhibition features art

works by artists in and outside South Africa, works collected and taken home by diplomats after their postings, works finally collated, many loaned by the owners, and repatriated back by the Ifa Lethu Foundation which was established to make that happen.

Integral to the foundation's establishment was the work of Australian diplomats Diane Johnstone and Bruce Haigh, with Malcolm Fraser among the formidable members of The Global Advisory Council of Ifa Lethu. Fittingly added to those artworks is the Art Against Apartheid collection, internationally recognised artists who supported the struggle against the regime.

But most importantly this exhibition validates the artists from the era of cultural boycotting, lifting the mantle of inferiority they endured. *Home and Away* has its only Australian exhibition in Canberra at the Drill Hall Gallery.

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Karen Jameson and Margaret Johnston.



Daniel Sanderson and Jonathan O'Neill.



Chris Dalziel, Katrina Osborne, Meredith Trinko and Tamsin Hong.



Garth Alperstein and Melissa Becker with Michael Levy.



Diane Johnstone and Peter Lundy with Deborah Stern and her daughter Sylvie Stern.



Jordie Kilby, Soli Meddleby, Jack Lyndon, Ayumi Sakamoto and Ben Esguerra.