

Rare township artworks shown for first time

JOHANNESBURG – A collection of artworks depicting township life under apartheid was shown for the first time over the weekend as a campaign was launched for the return of “township art”.

The 70 paintings, drawings and sculptures were brought together by the

Ifa Lethu Foundation, a non-profit organisation funded by the government.

The works from the 1970s portray the turmoil of township life at the height of apartheid. “These are works of that time that haven’t been seen. They remind us of our days when everything was hard,” said

artist Michael Maapola. Hundreds of works by black artists are now overseas.

“People should consider the context in which this art found its way abroad and return it,” said Diane Johnstone, an Australian diplomat who donated 17 pieces bought in the ’70s. – *Sapa-AFP*