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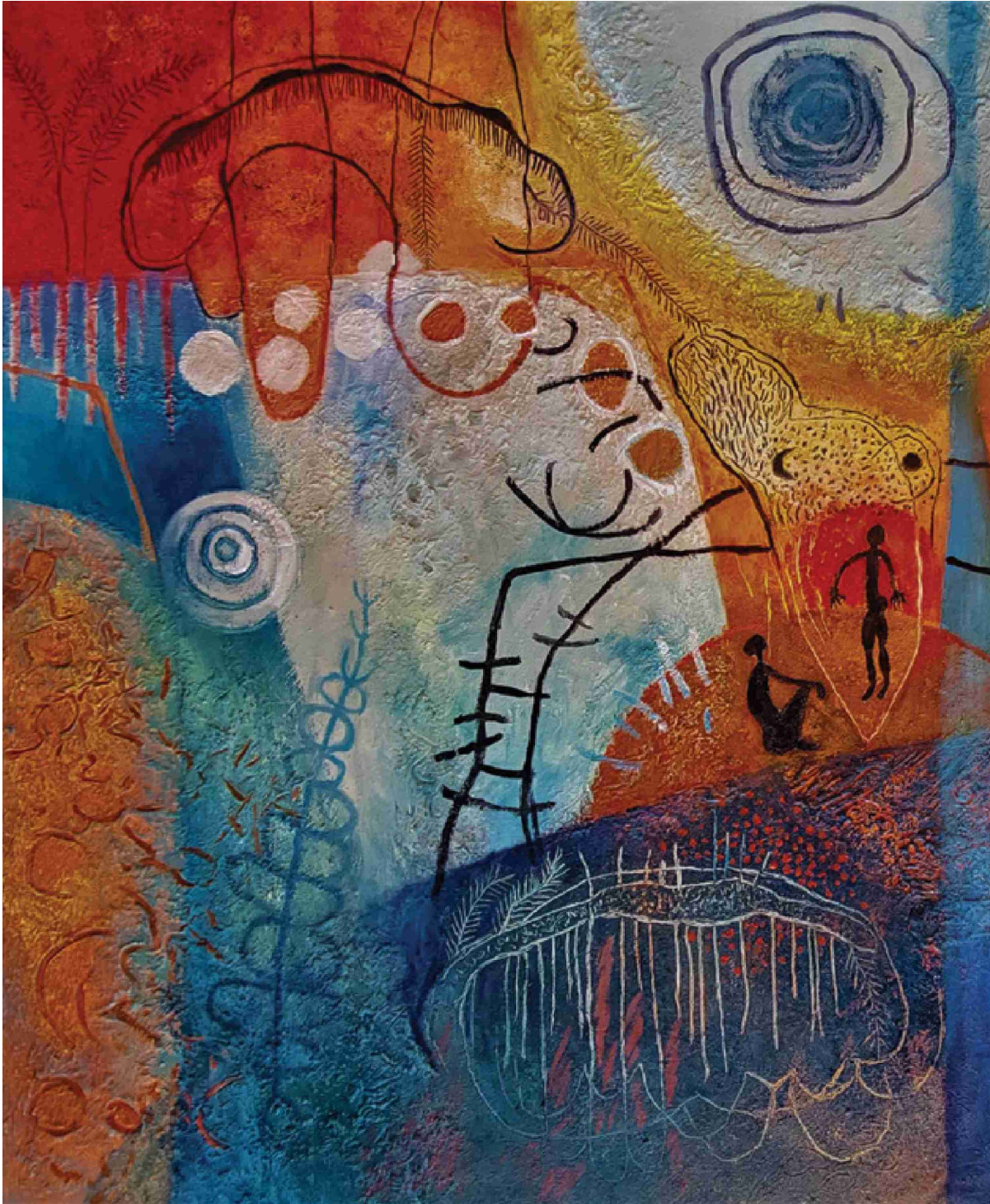
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The Heat is On, Oil on textured canvas, 80 x 100cm

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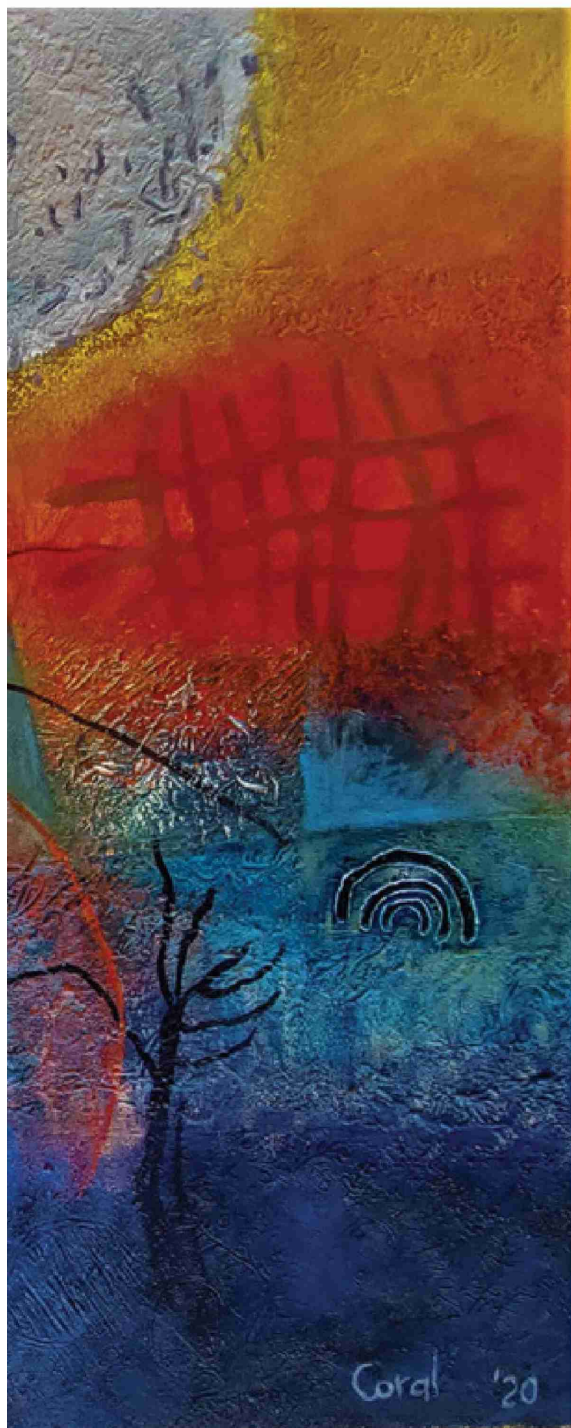
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ECHOES OF TIME: CORAL FOURIE

NWU Art Gallery

10 February - 17 March 2023

blog.sanlam.co.za

The NWU Gallery presents a year of Legacy artists, starting with the exhibition "Echoes of Time" by Coral Fourie. The exhibition will be available for viewing from the 10th of February to 17th of March 2023 at the NWU Main Gallery.

*"the day we die a soft breeze
will wipe out our footprints
in the sand
when the wind dies down
who will tell the timelessness that
once we walked this way
in the dawn of time" – San Song*

Coral Fourie was born in Mahikeng in 1937. During her developmental years in the Kalahari and Botswana Coral formed unique influential friendships with the Bakwena tribe of Batswana, Bakgalagadi, G/hana, G/wii and Khua San peoples. During this time Coral met South African writers, such as P.J. Schoeman and W.A.de Klerk, who were friends of the family. Impactful impressions which can be seen echoing in her work today, however, were created by participating in traditional wall paintings with mud and cow dung with the local women and watching Bushmen doing etchings on ostrich eggshells.

Coral attended Pretoria Teachers' Training College where Walter Battiss was one of her mentors. During Corals later years of art teaching, she was also mentored by Bill Ainslie from the Johannesburg Art Foundation.

Coral has been part of 33 exhibitions, mostly solos and throughout her adult life she has completed numerous commissions. Coral has also been included in numerous collections and has written three books. One of which was translated into German and another one published in four languages: Afrikaans, German, English and French. At retirement age, Coral started with a full-time professional career as an artist and currently resides in Polokwane, Limpopo province.

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Silence of Time, Oil on Canvas, 50 x 50cm

In the new year of 2023, Coral will once again be exhibiting an exciting body of work at the Potchefstroom Campus of the North-West University, as the first artist, part of the Legacy Artists year at the NWU Main Gallery.

In *Echoes of Time*, Coral's body of work is echoing and intertwining through three different timelines; the present, past and future. In the present time we are standing in echoes of the past, echoing into the future. The artworks showcased in this exhibition bring to life echoes of time, time as in the form of reminiscence/representations of our African landscapes, the bush veld, mountain ranges, sands of the Kalahari and the peoples "footprints" echoing from ancient times on African soil. This body of work is rich with symbolism, colour, texture and space, all accumulated through different timelines. It is a representation of the mystery of time and the space it is placed in.

According to the Longman's Dictionary of Contemporary English, echo means "a sound sent back or repeated from a distant surface". In this exhibition the noun 'sound' is replaced by the noun 'ego' and 'surface' is replaced with 'time'.

Therefore, an ego sent back or repeated from distant time.

For years the people of Africa's distant past have been wandering across the plains, mountains, streams, and deserts of this captivating continent. Africa's people have been living from the rich land and have always been part of nature and nature part of them.



Silence in a Vacuum, Oil on Canvas, 50 x 50cm

When we reflect on our presence as human beings on earth, in between nature and its wildlife, we reflect through our ego.

According to Freudian psychology; "an ego is one of the three parts of the mind that connects a person to the outside world, due to it being able to think and act consciously (in a selfless manner).

Through time our ego's have allowed us to experience time and document it through various ways. Originating from ancient times where people living one with nature could think, talk, believe, argue and act consciously along with making art. While making art, the sound of rock pecking on rock echoed into the blue ethereal sky, filling it with echoes into the timelessness of the rocks which, today, can be seen by modern man to admire, imagine and appreciate. Wondering whose ego's were and what they were consciously trying to tell the world. Thus, ancient rock art echoes in this body of work in varying ways, reinterpreted from a different/personal perspective. An ego sent back or repeated from a distant time.

The exhibition opens at the NWU Main Gallery on 10 February 2023 and has a series of associated public events, ranging from artist Q&A walkabout, a demo workshop, educational activities for High School learners and students along with a panel discussion that will be hosted during the first week of the exhibition.