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THE CLASS OF 2013 – WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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Cover: Artwork: Norman Catherine, *Speaker of the House*, 1989, canvas, metal, wire, wood and acrylic, 2415 x 1180 x 1225mm. Cover image courtesy of the Constitutional Court Trust, as part of the Constitutional Court Art Collection. For more information visit ccac.org.za or follow @concourt_art on Instagram and Twitter. Photograph by Ben Law-Viljoen.



“Speaker of the House”

FRANCOIS LION-CACHET

“Speaker of the House” was made during a time of uncertainty, waiting for the birth of a new South Africa and with expectations of a new, vibrant parliament of African influences, as opposed to the oppressive staid conservatism of the apartheid government.

Renowned South African artist Norman Catherine (1949–) had begun making a series of small satirical sculptures of political characters in 1985/6, using discarded, squashed tin cans for faces. These sculptures incorporated the materials used by roadside artists who made toy cars and animals out of wire, wood and tin can cut-outs. Mexican Day of the Dead curios and the work of outsider artists were also an inspiration for this body of work. “Speaker of the House” was the last and largest of this series of painted mixed media sculptures. ♦

