

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FEATURE

SPOTLIGHT ON
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R45.00 (Inc. VAT)
Vol 20 No 8, September 2020

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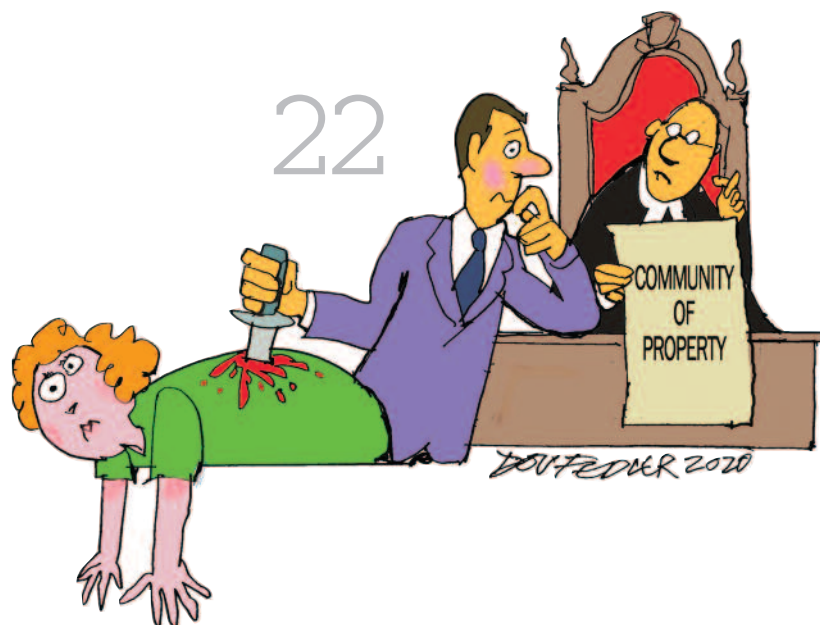
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Cover: Artwork: Cecil Skotnes (1926-2009), Hamilton Budaza (1958-), *Freedom*, 1995, acrylic and varnish engraved wood panels. 2535 x 2780 mm. Donated by the artists in 1995. Cover image courtesy of the Constitutional Court Trust, as part of the Constitutional Court Art Collection (CCAC). For more information, visit ccac.concourtrust.org.za or follow @concourt_art on Instagram and Twitter.

Photograph by Gisèle Wulfsohn.

Nationalnews



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ConstitutionalCourtArtCollection/covers

Freedom

THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TRUST

“Freedom’ (1995) was the first artwork donated to the CCAC, after the commissioning of the ‘Humanity’ tapestry by Joseph Ndlovu.

After the formation of the Constitutional Court, one of the first people Justice Albie Sachs approached for an artwork donation was Cecil Skotnes. Skotnes had previously designed various panels with an African theme for public buildings in South Africa, and his studio was open to artists who were excluded from art schools during apartheid. Skotnes told Sachs that he was nearing completion on a panel celebrating the achievement of democracy in South Africa. To complete the work, Skotnes

invited Hamilton Budaza to collaborate on creating this tribute to democracy.

The central panel by Skotnes shows a figure reaching for the sky; the birds, hands and faces by Budaza similarly herald the new dawn in 1994. It is one of the CCAC’s most confident and optimistic works.

As this was the first artwork to be installed in the Constitutional Court’s temporary offices at Braampark, Sachs was unsure how it would be received. He says: “I was anxious about how it would be received since it did not contain familiar court iconography. Fortunately, the public response was enthusiastic and the way was now open to receive further work from sympathetic artists and galleries.” In a sense, this artwork paved the way for the hundreds of artwork donations that would follow and form the Constitutional Court Art Collection.

As South Africa celebrates Heritage Day on the 24th of September, this artwork is a reminder of our shared past and our responsibility to shape our common future, together. ♦

