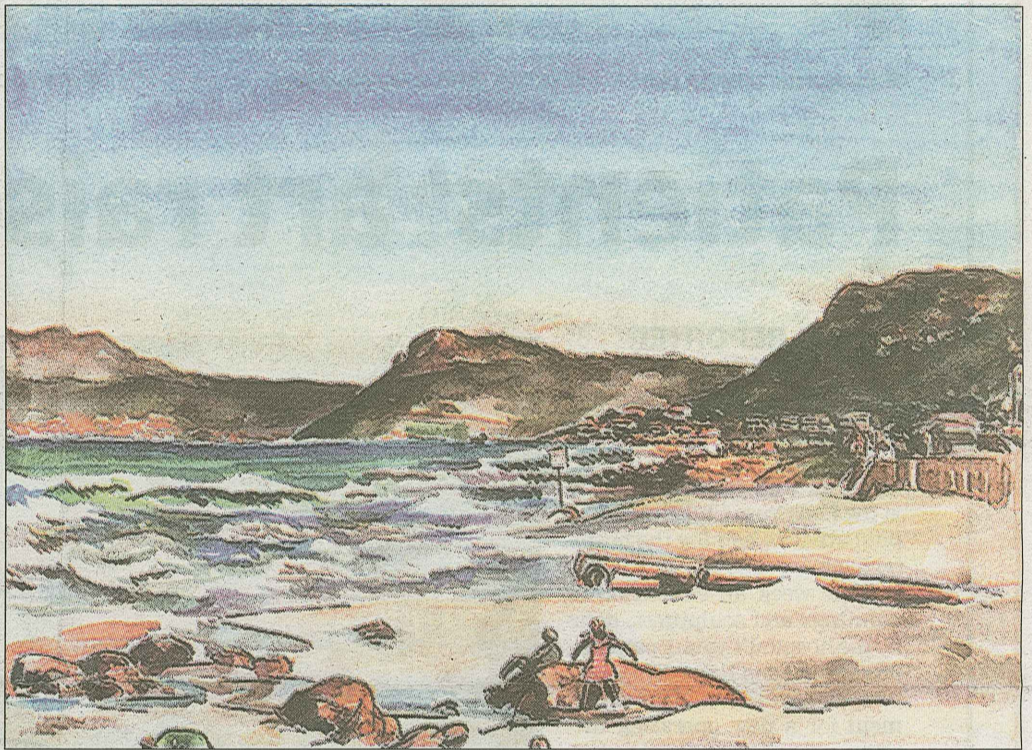
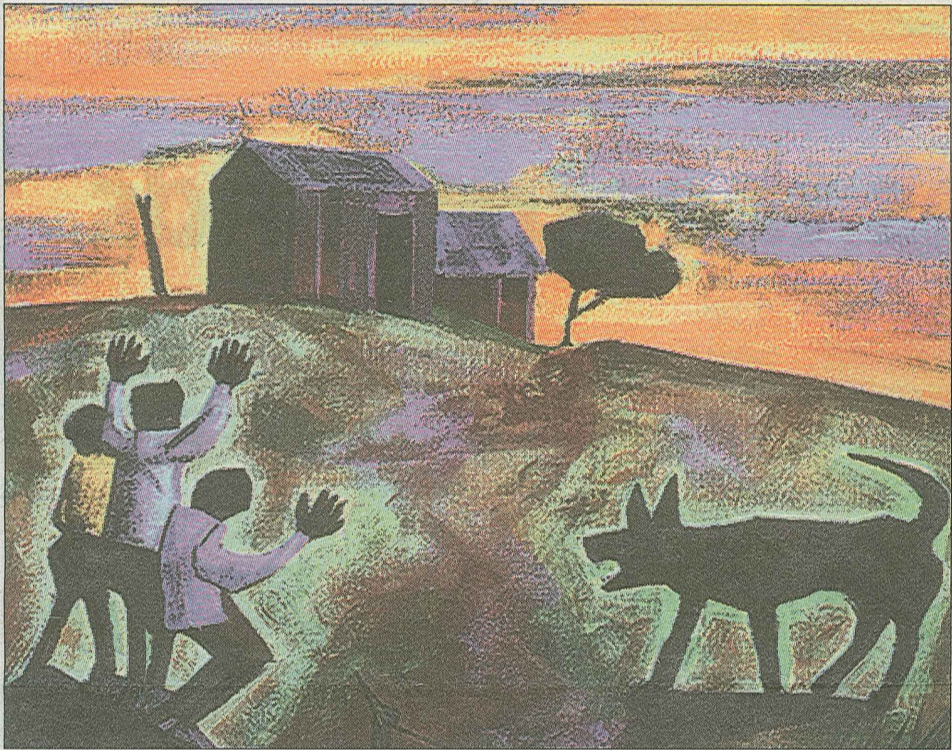


Weekend Argus

JELLYBEAN JOURNAL

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Drawing inspiration from works of art



● Paintings by Peter Clarke, an artist and writer whose life story is related in one of the books in the Great African Artist series

VERONICA WILKINSON

jbjsaturday

There is no reason why you should have to spend a fortune to work with some of South Africa's greatest artists.

A recently published series of books entitled *Great African Artists*, written by artist and educator Donvé Lee, will acquaint you with nine stars in the visual arts field who weren't stripped of their natural creative abilities by dimwits.

A fun project for you to try is included in each slim volume, and there is even an art dictionary to explain, in a simple way, unfamiliar art terms such as "expressionism" and "abstract art".

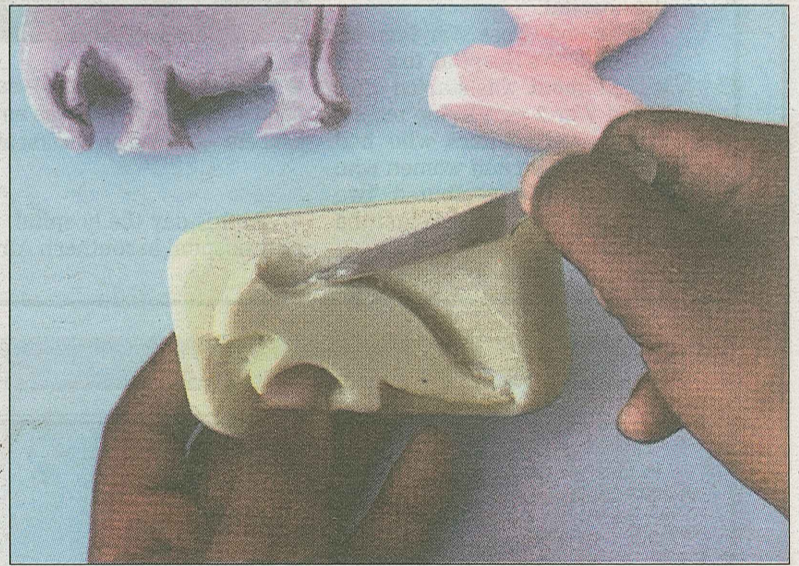
The artists include top artists, like the most famous living South African artist William Kentridge, for starters. Bet you never thought you could introduce your family and friends to high culture by reading a book and making a glove puppet, but you can.

In fact, if your family has any of Mozart's *Magic Flute* music around, you could stage your own version, albeit on a small scale, of Kentridge's acclaimed opera performance of *Flute*.

There is no need to restrict yourself to the living for inspiration either.

Bonnie Ntshalintshali was a talented artist who made marvellous painted clay sculptures but died at a young age.

Lee has kept Bonnie's memory alive for thousands of young people by providing us with the recipe and method for a salt dough (kitchen clay) sculpture, which you can paint when the objects you make are dry and cool. This is a brilliant



● George Pemba is make a colour wheel, left, and shows how easy it is to make soap sculptures, right

idea for unique Christmas decorations that you could even sell.

The series includes artists like Willie Bester who makes art out of unusual elements and believes that "art can restore your pride".

The liquid crystal painter Gail Catlin proves that talent can survive little formal schooling, and our own "godfather of community art" Peter Clarke, features with examples of his art in many forms.

And then there is artist Dumile Feni's charcoal drawing project for those of you who like to get messy.

Noria Mabasa's talent is sculpting soap – a far cry from her magnificent marula wood sculpture standing in the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, but one way to get a feel for sculpture.

(Just don't use the fancy soaps your mom got for her birthday.) We also meet "the painter of the

people" George Pemba, who lived to see Madiba become president and has left more than a thousand works of art to remind us of his gift.

Finally, we can make our own prints using Styrofoam trays while thinking about Dan Rakgoathe before he spent the last 15 years of his life as a blind man because of diabetes.

These colourful, boxed volumes are sturdily bound and have received praise from the National Minister of Education Naledi Pandor.

Reviewers, including me, consider them a valuable resource that will be an asset in any school or public library.

For more information see www.AwarenessPublishing.co.za

● For local children's art, see page 2



● Bonnie Ntshalintshali's clay sculpture