



■ Left: Artist Anthony de Klerk and Gordon Millar



■ Right: Luni Art Gallery owner Seelan Sundoo and manager Nadine Liebenberg.

# Artist inspired by dreamers and heroes

LIZAHN WENTZEL

Anthony de Klerk's latest exhibition was inspired by South African icons such as Chris Hani, Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, as well as everyday people who are hoping for a better future.

His exhibition, *Dreamers, Heroes and Monochrome Dreams*, opened recently at the Luni Art Gallery in Salt River and will run until Tuesday July 31.

Anthony, from Hout Bay, said his journey as a fine artist had been defined by a stop, a start, a twist and, recently, a turn.

As a young adult, he was inspired to become an artist while studying graphic design at Wits. His influences were lecturers – up-and-coming young artists of the day like Willem Boshoff, who taught him to think conceptually, Mark Enslin, who awakened his love for painting, and Ryno Swart, who showed him the seduction of life drawing.

This was followed by a “hiatus” of sorts.

“Although I never gave up painting, my energy was, for the next 30 years, mostly consumed by a demanding advertising career. Despite it being a successful and award-winning career during which I produced much loved and well-known work for famous brands, I



■ Cameryn Millar

still felt unfulfilled creatively and constantly yearned to return to my original passion – to be a painter,” he said.

“The ‘start’ of my artistic career therefore overlapped with the end of my advertising one. I began to commit more energy and intent to being a painter. I picked up brushes again, slowly but surely becoming more impassioned and prolific.”

Anthony said his search found real answers in 2017, during a visit to Greece.

“It was on the flight home, however, that I had the strong sense that my life was about to change. When I arrived back in Cape Town, I started to see, in my mind’s eye, very strong images of dreamlike portraits and figures, in a style that came to me as if by divine inter-

vention.”

During the opening night, Anthony, spoke about the paintings and where he drew his inspiration from. He said his “show piece” was inspired by one of his students who came to his art-for-beginners class at his Bright Studio in Salt River.

“His look and outlook on life inspired me to do a series of paintings on him in this style that I have developed over this past year. And this continued to happen over the course of the year,” he said.

“I began to meet new people who moved me from all over Africa, and I felt compelled to tell their stories. They don’t have much by way of worldly possessions, but they have much spirit, inspiring dreams, an abundance of optimism and an inspiring outlook on life.”



■ From left, are Brian Pellet, Christopher D’Avito, Sibusiso Ngwazi, Juliette Accadebled and Naoki Araiza.



■ Sarah Jayne Fell

Another such inspiration was Sibusiso Ngwazi – who attended the opening. Anthony said he had been the subject of a few of his paintings and was a top seller – with paintings sold in Germany and the UK.

Anthony said he was on a mission to showcase young African people with a positive outlook on life, in a positive light.

The Luni Art Gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm.

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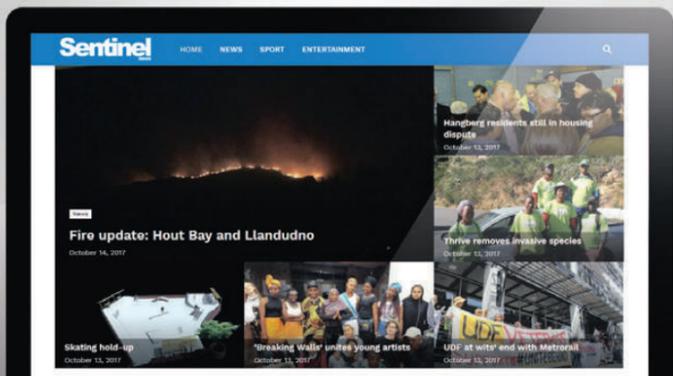
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## Read of the Week

Connect  
Julian Gough  
Picador  
Review: Lauren O’Connor-May

I started off really liking this book and continued liking it, until I got to the end.

The story ends with an orgasm – yet, ironically I found it anticlimactic.

*Connect* is a story seemingly set in the near future – based on the pop-culture references.

It is about a dysfunctional family of awkward geniuses, all of whom are on the verge of major breakthroughs in their personal fields; biology, coding and military.

The breakthroughs catalyse each other and become interlinked in an artificial intelligence.

This book is very science heavy and is not an easy digest.

Nearly every scientific field gets a bit of spotlight in the story – biology, physics,

chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, technology – which is held together with thick stitches of philosophy and religion.

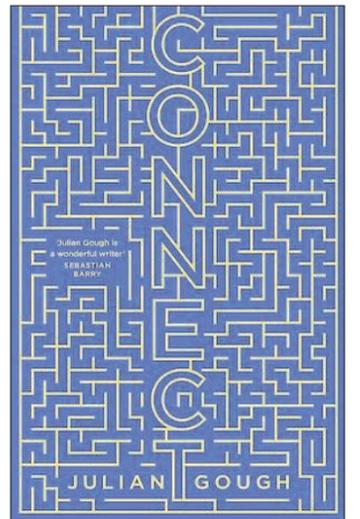
The themes in the book are not new: craving connection in a more and more disconnected society, the bad, big brother government, outsourcing more and more natural processing to artificial intelligence etc – but the story is clever and original and does not feel stale.

The edgy pace, which matches the characters’ predominant mood, is pushed along by a fair amount of intrigue and surprise, making for an enjoyable, albeit intense, read.

The only thing I didn’t like about the book – apart from the flat ending – was the over-simplification of complex spiritual and emotional concepts.

According to the story, inherently human drives like love and faith are purely primal or biological reflexes.

This book will find a ready audience



with fans of dry and detached, old-school sci-fi.

### (From page 8) Answers

1. There is no waste – everything is used
2. Biological and non-biological (or man-made)
3. “Residual waste” equals “Total waste” minus “Recyclables and biological (compostable) waste”

4. Reduce (such that over time there is less waste to have to “throw away”)
5. Natural and industrial waste management systems
6. Worm bin, compost bin, compost heap, bokashi bin, compost toilet (not mentioned)
7. Glass, paper, cardboard, aluminium cans and tins, PET

8. Hazardous waste (eg batteries, CFLs, motor oil, cooking oil, medical and electronic waste, paint)
9. Landfill sites (where it is buried, out of sight)
10. Seven grades (Grade 1 being the most recyclable, most valuable)