



"On my third birthday the bourgeois circumstances of the time required such an outsize cake for the occasion.

Somehow, I remember that party: there were adults too, ladies with cloche hats and long strings of beads."



"On February 22, 1927 I was born in this house on President Street in Germiston and — as they say in biographies — it has long since been demolished."

1888

1959

1895



"My mother, who was musical and painted when young, taught me to draw, gave me her oil paints and demonstrated how to use them. My father, an electrical engineer and a down-to-earth Hollander, wanted me to follow a safe career but it turned out that he made the frames for my first exhibition and when my paintings sold he couldn't believe it."



"On being released from the necessary disciplines of schooling, my sister Ida and I gleefully entered University — she in a scientific direction and I started painting seriously. After 4 years at the University of the Witwatersrand I studied drawing in London with Iain M'Nab who taught me the value of sound technique. Then followed 2 years of post-graduate work at the University of Edinburgh. The summer of 1949 was spent in Italy at Perugia University and where I investigated the medieval paintings in the Umbrian hill towns making notes, and collecting photographs for my thesis".