

## ART and ARTISTS . . . by PETER PEER

# EXPERT BOYCOTTS S.A. EXHIBITION

**IT HAD TO HAPPEN.** With boycotts and threats of boycotts swarming about all other things South African, it had to happen that a South African art show would receive the inevitable treatment.

It happened in New York this month, on July 4.

An exhibition of paintings and batiks by a group of South Africans was hung in a New York gallery and was scheduled for private viewing by museum directors on July 4. The New York Painter, Willem de Kooning, generally regarded as the greatest name in American non-representational painting, was to open the show.

### *White painters*

Everything went according to plan—until de Kooning arrived to open the exhibition.

Then, when he discovered that the works were by White painters only, he refused point-blank to go through with it. The show opened without his help.

The painters represented on the show were Gordon Vorster,

Jan Dingemans, Judith Mason and Fred Schimmel, and the batik artist Louis Steyn.

De Kooning's boycott example could have a substantial ripple effect on exhibitions of South African work in the States. There are quite a number scheduled for showing in various cities.

No matter how you take your

politics, this is a silly move. Even the best-intentioned art follower in this country would never stand by the statement that the best in art in South Africa is being produced by non-Whites — of whom there are only a handful, anyway.

This, like quite a number of other boycotts, seems a case of good intentions gone haywire.