

BIOGRAPHY

Ernst de Jong is born in Pretoria, South Africa in 1934. Is awarded a scholarship to study in America. Obtains Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree at the University of Oklahoma, USA. Is awarded the Letzeiser medal for the best student in the faculty of Fine Art. Establishes Ernst de Jong Studios in 1958 which is regarded as the foremost graphic design studio in South Africa.

Lectures in advanced graphic design and painting at the Pretoria Technicon, the University of the Witwatersrand and the University of Pretoria. At the latter, he was instrumental in founding a BA (FA) degree course in 'Information Design'.

Since 1958 he has held 35 solo painting exhibitions and participated in as many group exhibitions in South Africa, Europe and the USA.

In 1972 the 'Oklahoma' series of graphics are shown at the Venice Biennale/RSA Exhibition. Well known for his murals - more than 33 commissions in all. The gigantic 11m x 17m State Theatre firescreen mural is probably his best known work.

Paintings in numerous international public and private collections.

Designer of the first RSA Definitive series of 16 postage stamps.

Honoured with the prestigious Society of Designers in South Africa (SDSA) Award for outstanding design achievement in 1986.

Together with six prominent South African designers he forms a movement to establish a new South African graphic design style named 'Blue Sky', and is nominated by the Friends of the Pretoria Art Museum as the person who had most furthered the cause of Fine Arts in 1989.

In 1992 he advises the Department of Foreign Affairs on the concept and aesthetics for the South African Pavilion at EXPO 1992 Seville, Spain. Designs a mural for the pavilion.

Designs a 'Planet Earth' flag for the Polish Government Pavilion at EXPO 1992 Seville, Spain. Is appointed by the South African Reserve Bank as design director of the new South African banknotes which are released in 1992.

In 1993 he paints a series entitled - 'Spear of the Nation'. Notable paintings are: 'Tomsk - 7/the beginning of the fall', 'Instruments of revolution', 'The fall of a regime', 'The burning continent', 'The miracle', 'Going home', 'Boogie' and 'Viva Hotstix'.

The 'Fall of an Empire' painting is selected for the National Momentum Art 1993 exhibition at the Pretoria Art Museum.

On 7 December 1993 his solo exhibition, as guest artist of the Friends of the Pretoria Art Museum, of works on paper opens at the Pretoria Art Museum.

Twenty five works from the 'Spear of the Nation' series are first exhibited.

On 2 March 1994 Ernst de Jong's Retrospective Exhibition opens at the Pretoria Art Museum.

In April 1994 Ernst de Jong settles in Oslo, Norway to paint.

His wife Lyn becomes First Secretary at the South African Embassy in Oslo.

Ernst de Jong has also won international recognition in sport. American Big 7 and South African springboard diving champion. Fencing champion. Competitor in the national sailing championships and the SA Festival Games offshore catamaran sailing event. Qualified deep sea scuba diver and advanced combat pistol shottist.