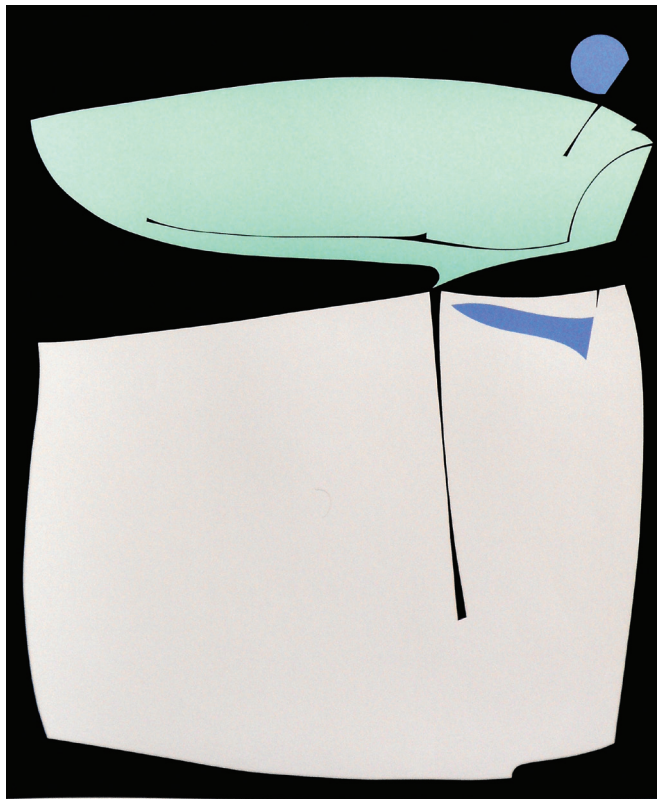
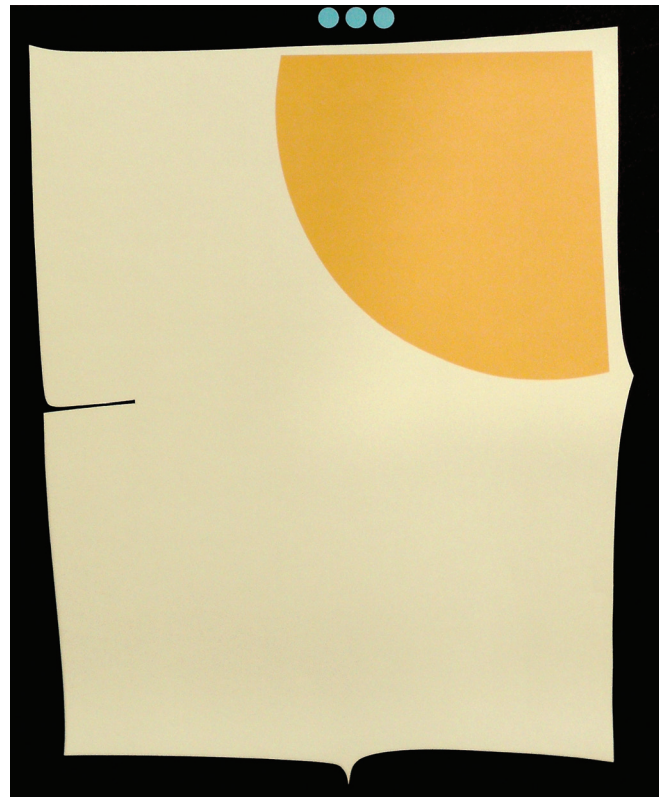
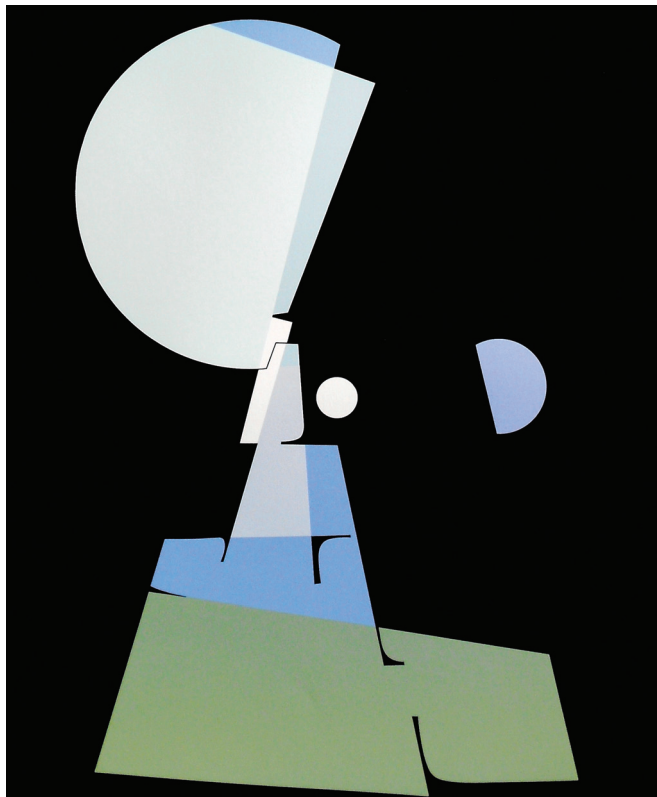


Ernst de Jong

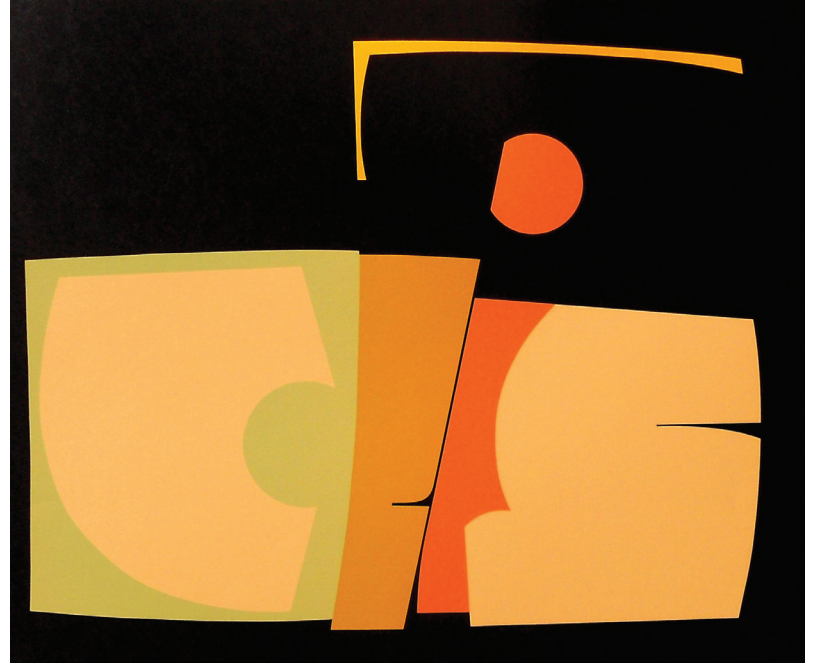


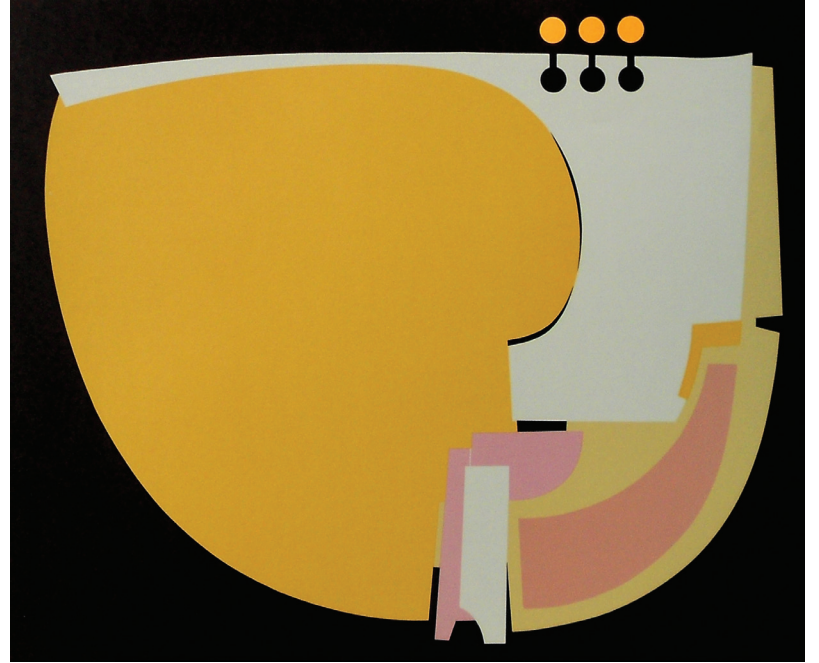
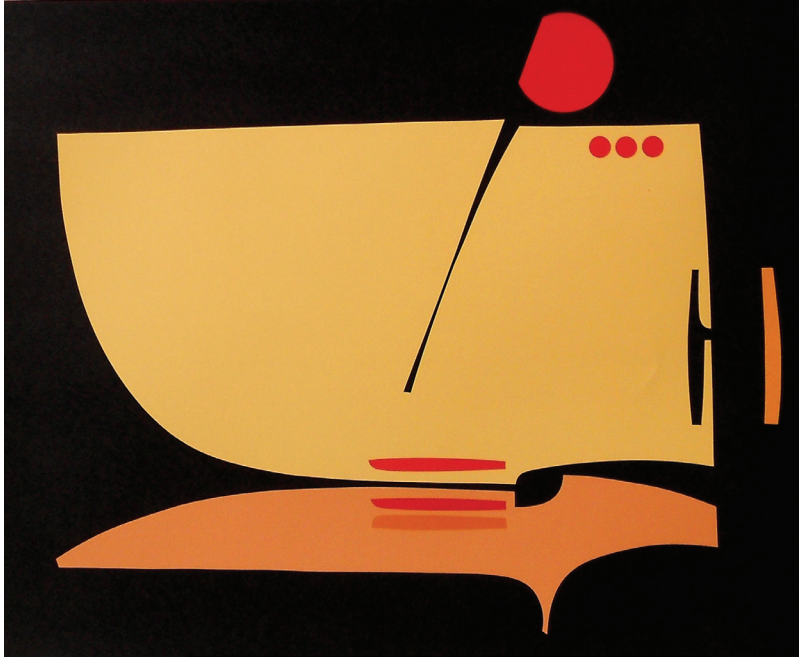


Ernst de Jong was born in Pretoria, South Africa in 1934.

In 1956 he obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art degree at the University of Oklahoma and was adjudged the best student in the faculty of Fine Art. In 1957 he established Ernst de Jong Studios which was long regarded as the foremost graphic design studio in the country. He taught design and painting at various universities in South Africa, Norway and New York. He held 50 solo painting exhibitions, produced 33 murals, and designed the South African Banknotes. He won several awards for outstanding design.

In 1994 Ernst de Jong's Retrospective Exhibition, comprising 236 paintings and graphics spanning 40 years of work, was opened at the Pretoria Art Museum. He held two exhibitions from 1994 to 1998 in Oslo, Norway and was included in museum shows in Norway. In 2000 the Pretoria Art Museum mounted a solo exhibition of his work after his Norwegian sojourn. In 2001 he established the Academy of Fine Art in Pretoria. He continues painting in his unique Abstract Suprematist style.





ABSTRACT SUPREMATIST

Wassily Kandinsky, the Russian Suprematist, said in 1910 that "...the more frightening the world becomes... the more art becomes abstract."

This completely reduces the need for storytelling pictures – a world without objects. Today in 2013, this concept is more important than ever. Painters now need to look afresh and create new forms, colours, lines and patinas. The new design age has long since started and the structures and visual dynamics moulded with new modern mediums such as fast drying paints and marvellous modelling pastes are ideal for heavy luscious palette knife and brushwork on an unlimited range of wonderful papers, canvasses and other surfaces. This is not to even mention the use of the computer and the impact of digital images in fine art. The combination of photography, digital and handwork is a new look.

The art made by Ernst de Jong in the 60's, which was 50 years ahead of its time, is still incredible and now he has translated and manipulated the images into new fascinating configurations: Fine Art for today – 2013.

Art today has also been divided into many more categories than formally existed.

1. Pure art for art's sake. Elegance and pure beauty.
2. Art for advertising, communication and entertainment.
3. Art for propaganda. Designed to sell and provide messages for politics.
4. Art for sensationalism, to shock and draw attention. Art which uses huge and often banal statements to grab the viewer and hope that he will remember the name.
5. Design art. Probably the most important aspect of all great art is that it is well designed. One only has to look at great artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Ben Nicholson, Roy Lichtenstein, Juan Miro, Paul Klee, Piet Mondrian, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frank Stella, James Rosenquist, Robert Rauschenberg, Kasimer Malevich, Paul Gauguin, Eduardo Paolozzi, Edward Hopper, Robert Motherwell, Charles Demuth, Ad Reinhardt and Jasper Johns. They all opened the doors for artists to see and find what can be done with abstract modern thinking – art without stories and illustrations. There are also great artists who used illustrations beautifully, such as Andrew Wyeth.

Design is an aspect of art that can be taught i.e. How to think? What is elegance? What is beauty? There are no ugly paintings in the great art museums of the world. Beauty, originality, design, variety and intellect are what make a great work of art.

Regardless of these categories, "...art is anything done essentially to achieve beauty."

Written in 1960, for today - 2013, by Ernst de Jong.

Images: (page 2) NIGHT'S PASSAGE I • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH
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(page 4) NIGHT'S PASSAGE III • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH
(page 5) NIGHT'S PASSAGE IV • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH
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(page 9) NIGHT'S PASSAGE VI • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH
(page 10) NIGHT'S PASSAGE VII • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH
(page 11) NIGHT'S PASSAGE VIII • 1976 • PLATE LITHOGRAPH

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Map - South Africa
PO Box 39
Groenkloof
0027, South Africa

info@map-southafrica.org
www.map-southafrica.org



Cullinan



Dullstroom



Graskop



Pretoria - Tshwane



Richmond