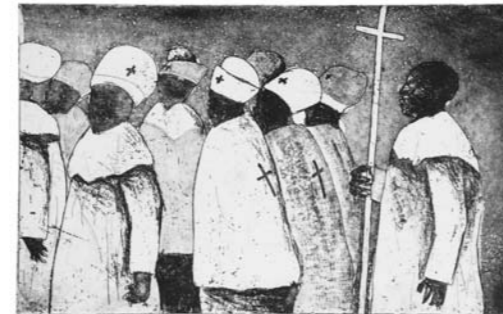


Sam Nhlengethwa



TOWNSHIPS RE-VISITED

Townships were under-developed urban residential areas created for non-whites by the apartheid government. For many years artists have been inspired by scenes around townships. By virtue of their origin, townships wrote their own stories and many artists found it easier to paint scenes around their own surroundings. These scenes were of interest to people of other races who were barred from entering townships, as they gave them a glimpse of township life. Townships around the country still inspire me. Instead of portraying a one-dimensional view of townships by painting



my own, I decided to cover several and bring together the results in a form of an exhibition. As Autumn set in 2005, I embarked on the townships project. As part of my research, I visited different townships in six provinces (Western Cape, Mpumalanga, KZN, Free State, North West and Gauteng). I discovered during my research that each of the townships I covered has its own character depending on where it is. Townships that are situated in metropolitan cities are different from those placed next to smaller towns. The former have a lot of cross-cultural interactiv-



ity and as a result come up with their own culture. The latter tend to remain consistent in a particular culture adopted from nearby rural areas. The infra-structure and architecture are relatively the same. Life-style is casual and vibrant as portrayed by the different characters in the artworks. I am pleased to have completed this project whose culmination is "Townships Re-visited". I see it as having a dual benefit. It gives me self-fulfillment and, hopefully, gives the art lovers a glimpse of life in the different townships.

Map - South Africa

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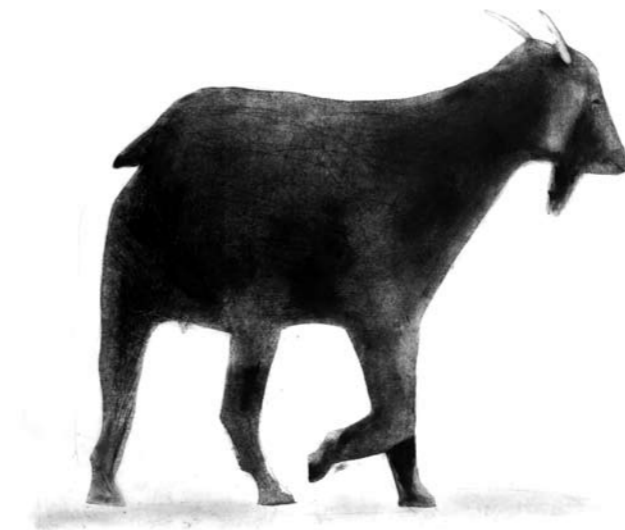
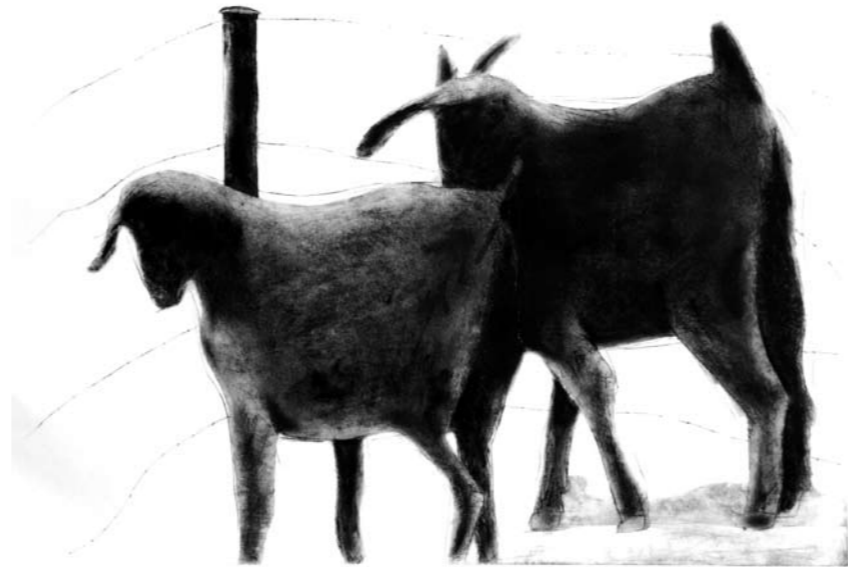
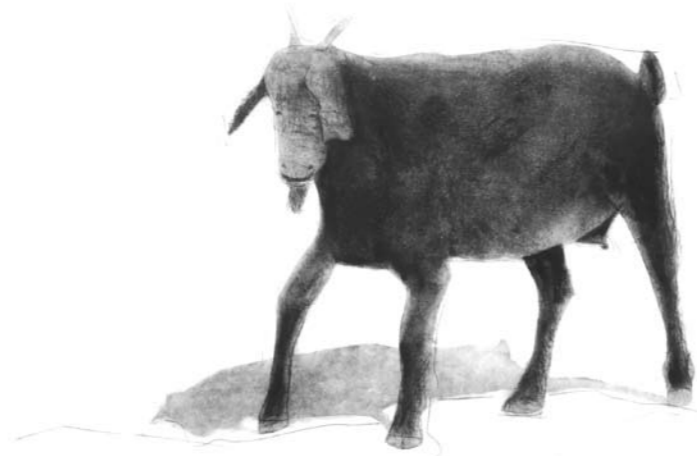
Artist: Sam Nhlengethwa

Concept: Harrie Siertsema

Co-ordination: Abrie Fourie

Text: Sam Nhlengethwa

Images: (from left to right)
Night Vigil(Natalspruit), Shebeen(Tembisa),
"Boneha L.P.S." "Rhtanda"
Medium: Dry point and aquatint on paper



GOATS

I am fascinated by goats in general. It is just a coincidence that my star sign is Capricorn! Goats have been a source of life from time immemorial. They are bred for many reasons including dairy, meat and fibre production. In addition to the above uses, the most important in African culture is the "liturgical" function that the goats have. Their slaughtering is believed to create a link between the living and their ancestors. Goats are often used as offerings for a variety of reasons. White ones are normally used in thanksgiving ceremonies. The black ones are used when asking for forgiveness: the elders who perform the ritual would usually ask the ancestors to intercede for forgiveness from God. To me, black goats represent boldness and strength.

Images: (from left to right)
Grazing #3, Loneliness #4, Grounded, Loneliness #3
Medium: Dry point, aquatint and oil paint on paper