

were life-sized cow dung/mud figures of ancestors sitting on cow dung/mud chairs. Everything was richly decorated with patterns and warm earth colours. Younger people visiting her (rightly) crouched down before her out of respect. The feeling of modelling an amorphous mass into desired shapes must be the most rewarding and holy of all. Her yard, a potter's yard, truly reflected that.

It is what I have also always felt, and what I think unites all of us potters. It is also what I hope many a new potter here in Botswana will feel when creating a pot, and will follow his calling to look at the extraordinary beauty of sensuous pots, old and new, and then just know from the soul what has to happen to it or be decorated onto it.

I would like to urge all Batswana to look at their beautiful tradition of creation, spiritualism and the wonderful philosophy of Botho/respect for everyone, to embrace it and grow from its roots into a new era of three-dimensional and other creations, taking on, and in, anything enriching on the way.

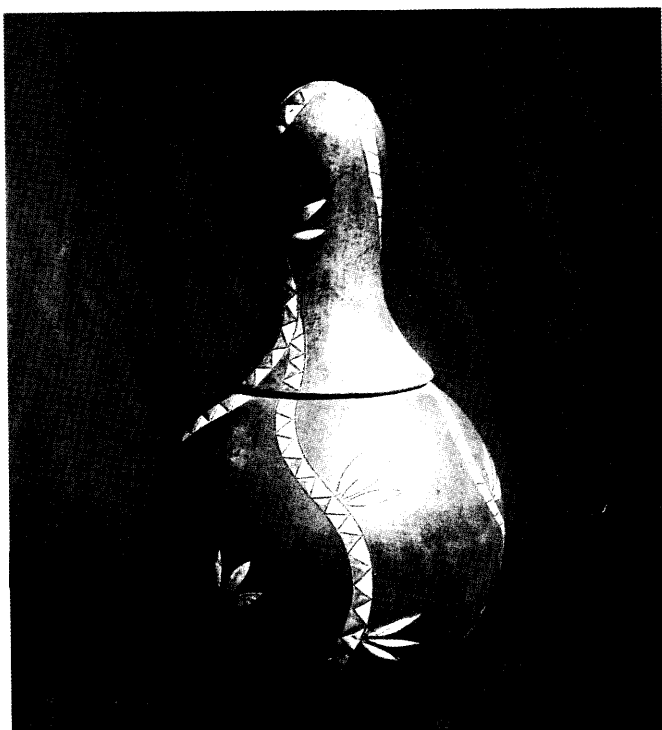
I personally believe it is very important for an artist to feel free and inspired to reflect his or her environment with ALL its aspects. As artists, we have a responsibility to speak out within our artistic language, soul to soul, showing pain, reaching hearts and spreading love and tolerance through messages of aesthetic beauty.

Where words can hurt, art can talk gently.

This, of course, can only happen in an environment of openness, solidarity, tolerance and fairness equally available to all artistic personalities, regardless of background or nationality. Through this, inspiration, mutual help and support are generated without which no artistic community could thrive.

It is with all this in mind that I am most happy to have heard the wonderful news about the P10 million provided by Government to start work on the art school for us all in Gaborone.

Thank you!  
PULA, everyone! PULA!



You are invited to the Opening of an Exhibition  
on Tuesday 6th March at 6pm

# LOOKING AT AFRICA

Paintings by  
Petra Röhr-Rouendaal

Ceramics by  
Rika von Schwerin-Franken  
Wendy Keopetse Phatsima

At Botswana Craft, Western Bypass, Wednesday 7th to Tuesday 20th March 07