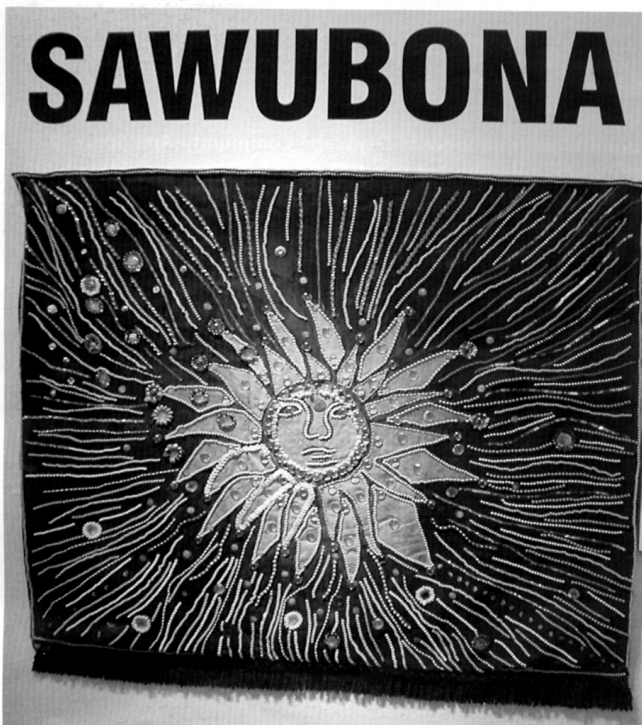


Sawubona:



One man's junk is another man's treasure – a statement no truer than for the young artists at Ningizumi School in Durban, South Africa. Predominantly Zulu, this special school provides a creative outlet for children with physical and mental handicaps. Through donations and special collections of discarded materials from the Durban region, the children create striking tapestries, baskets, rugs, handbags, banners and specialty items; a testament to the fact that, if given the opportunity, these individuals can produce works of great beauty and quality. For example, the students turned a donated old satellite dish into a chandelier with beadwork hanging from it. The glittering colours, intricate beadwork and archetypal images in their work are mystical.

Last February, facilitated by Lynda Eustace of Vancouver International College, Seymour Art Gallery showcased some rich and varied works of the Ningizumi students in an exhibit entitled *Sawubona* (Zulu for "Good morning!", "Good afternoon!" "Good evening!" or simply "Hello"). This year, *Sawubona* returns to the gallery, again with Lynda Eustace

acting as liaison, featuring student work in the form of a traditional South African Wedding Dress made from the plastic labels peeled from pop bottles. Students weave the ends into knots in a unique way to create their pieces. Paired with the exhibit will be the work of two North Vancouver artists, Connie Sabo and Jocelyn Robinson, who will create a western traditional wedding dress out of recycled materials.

Umcebo Trust, the umbrella organization for the Ningizumi School Art Department, promotes collaboration, inclusion, recycling, self-expression and participation. The work of the Ningizumi School, particularly their stunning and vibrant banners, has become internationally renowned. *Sawubona*, is an exhibition designed to promote awareness of the difficulties the students face in their lives, celebrate their triumphs in overcoming some of those hardships and raise funds to further their art programs.

Sawubona is on view February 8 – 27 at Seymour Art Gallery, Deep Cove. Opening reception: February 8, 7 -9 pm