

## **SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY**

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To: Art Panel Members  
From: Azola Mkosana (Heritage Objects Unit)  
Date: 28 February 2012

### ARCHAEOLOGY, PALAEOLOGY, METEORITE, HERITAGE OBJECTS PERMIT COMMITTEE & SPECIALIST ADVISORS.

The South African Heritage Resources Agency has received 9 Permit Applications from Bonhams SA to export 12 artworks by various artists to Bonhams Auction House, 101 New Bond St, London W1S, ISR, for sale. The owners of the privately owned artworks have approached Bonhams SA to export and sell these objects on their behalf. The Heritage Objects Unit has scheduled an Art Panel Meeting to take place on 17 February 2012.

The purpose of the meeting is to assess the significance of each artwork and make recommendations to the Permit Committee to enable them to make informed decisions. The Permit Applications are as follows:

**1. Permit no: 80/12/02/017/70 File no: 3/3/8/1/4/330**

**Artwork Owner:** Mr. & Mrs. P. Goetsch

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Artist:                  | Jacob Hendrik Pierneef   |
| ■ Title:                   | “A View of Chuniespoort” |
| ■ Size (in frame):         | 61,5 x 76,5 cm           |
| ■ Materials and Technique: | Oil on canvas            |
| ■ Year:                    | Signed and dated 1945    |



J. H. Pierneef “A View of Chuniespoort”

**Provenance:** This was purchased by Mr. Goetsch’s from an itinerant art dealer, circa 1960.

**Recommendations: Permit Issued :** At the Art Panel Meeting it was suggested that further investigation should be done on this work of art in light of the fact that it represents Black settlements in a South African context and this, as well as other factors, may contribute to it being considered an article of special historical significance given that the ‘received notion’ of J.H. Pierneef is that he excluded Blacks from his work and that this may be unusual historically and iconographically, hence there was a need for further investigation.

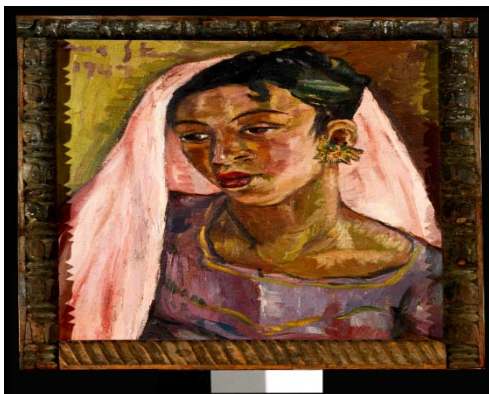
According to the Professor who did the investigation:

This work, a detail of which has been selected for the cover of the Bonhams catalogue is an artistically fine painting by Pierneef. It shows a settlement built in an African vernacular style of architecture in Chuniespoort (now Chuenespoort) in what is now Limpopo Province (in Pierneef’s time known as the northern Transvaal). Chuenespoort is a gorge through the foothills of the Strydpoort Mountains, approx. 35 km south of Polokwane on the main road to Lydenburg. This area is of historical significance having being originally known locally as Tshwêne (from which the current corrupted name comes, and which in North Sotho means ‘baboon’) and was recorded Voortrekker leader Louis Trichardt’s diary as the ‘Klijn Poort’. The local name referred to the leader of a neighboring Sotho tribe. However, *A View of Chuniespoort*, fine as it is, is not particularly unusual in Pierneef’s *oeuvre*. Pierneef did indeed paint African settlements as part of his landscapes, so a permit can be issued.

**2. Permit no: 80/12/02/016/70 File no: 3/3/8/1/4/331**

**Artworks Owner:** Ms S.E. Jaffe

- Artist: Irma Stern
- Title: “Portrait of a Young Indian Woman”
- Size (in frame): 67 x 49cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on canvas
- Year: Signed and dated 1947



Irma Stern “Portrait of a Young Indian Woman”

**Provenance:** The artwork was purchased by the owner’s father from the artist in 1961 and subsequently given to the owner for her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, this work of art does not meet the criteria of National Heritage significance, so a permit can be issued.

3. Permit no: 80/12/02/017/70

File No: 3/3/8/1/4/322

**Artwork Owner:** Mr. Matthew McElligot

**3 Artworks**

- Artist: Jacob Hendrick
- Title: "South West African Mountains"
- Size (in frame): 46 x 61.5 cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on canvas
- Year: Dated 1944



J.H Pierneef "South West African Mountains"

**Provenance:** The work was purchased at Sotheby's in Johannesburg on 30 January 1982.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, this work of art is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

- Artist: Jacob Hendrik Pierneef
- Title: "Transvaal Scene with a Dam in the foreground"
- Size (in frame): 53 x 51cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on canvas
- Year: Signed and dated 1944

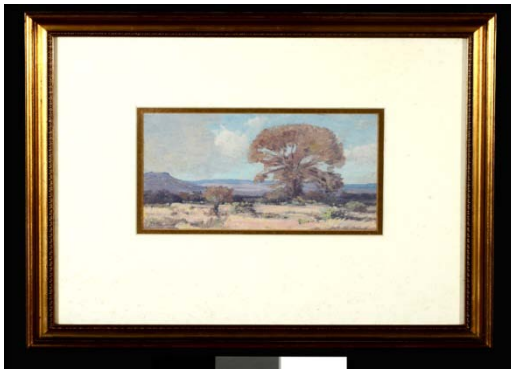


J.H. Pierneef "Transvaal Scene with a Dam in the Foreground"

**Provenance:** The artwork was purchased at Sotheby's in Johannesburg on 11 October 1986.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, this work of art does not meet the criteria of National Heritage significance, so a permit can be issued.

- Artist: Jacob Hendrik Pierneef
- Title: "Landscape with Trees"
- Size (in frame): 414 x 24cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on board
- Year: Signed



J.H Pierneef "Landscape with Trees"

**Provenance:** It was purchased at an auction in Pretoria, probably at Volks, circa 1985.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, this work of art does not meet the criteria of National Heritage significance, so a permit can be issued.

**4. Permit no: 80/12/02/018/70 File no: 3/3/8/1/4/333**

**Artwork Owner:** Mr. H.P de Jager

## **2 Artworks**

- Artist: Jacob Hendrik Pierneef
- Title: "Okahandjeberge"
- Size (in frame): 29 x 45cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on board
- Year: NA



J.H. Pierneef "Okahandjeberge"

**Provenance:** This work of Art was purchased from an itinerant art dealer, circa 1970.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, this work of art is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

- Artist: Jacob Hendrik Pierneef
- Title: “Mountain Landscape”
- Size (in frame): 40.5 x 55.5cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on board
- Year: Signed and dated 1924



J.H Pierneef “Mountain Landscape”

**Provenance:** This work of Art was purchased from an itinerant art dealer, circa 1970.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, the painting is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

**5. Permit no: 80/12/02/019/70 File no: 3/3/8/1/4/334**

**Artwork Owner:** Mr. Aaron Stanger

- Artist: Jacob Hendrik Pierneef
- Title: “Elim K.P Naby Bredasdorp”
- Size (in frame): 46.5 x 60cm
- Materials and Technique: Oil on board
- Year: Signed and dated 1950



J.H Pierneef “Naby Bredasdorp”

**Provenance:** The artwork was purchased at Stephen Weltz & Co in Johannesburg on April 2007.

**Recommendations: Permit Declined.** At the Art Panel Meeting, the members felt that there is a need to investigate further on this artwork. Further investigation revealed that: This work is of mediocre quality, having something of a ‘colouring book’ feel but shows the exceptionally historically important town of Elim in the Cape Province (the titling may have been to distinguish it from Elim, near Makhado, in Limpopo Province). Elim was founded in 1824, during the waning years of slavery in the Cape by the Moravian missionaries who named it after the Biblical land mentioned in Exodus 15:27 where the Israelites set up after having crossed the Red Sea from their enslavement in Egypt.

It was specifically established as a settlement for former slaves and the Moravians chose the site for its proximity to water, the likelihood that grapes for communion wine could be grown there and as a place where former slaves could be trained in practical skills for employment. It has always been, and remains demographically almost 100% ‘Coloured’ in population. It is the oldest settlement in the Bredasdorp area and is historically noted for its roof-thatching industry and high standards of local education. There are photographs of the town contemporaneous with this painting. (See, for example, that reproduced in *SESA*, vol. 4, p. 291.) The artwork should not leave the shores of South Africa.

**6. Permit no: 80/12/02/020/70    File no: 3/3/8/1/4/335**

**Artwork Owner:** Mrs. Ruth Bernstein

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ Artist:                  | Irma Stern            |
| ■ Title:                   | “Books on a Table”    |
| ■ Size (in frame):         | 45 x 58.5cm           |
| ■ Materials and Technique: | Oil on canvas         |
| ■ Year:                    | Signed and dated 1930 |



Irma Stern “Books on Table”

**Provenance:** This was purchased by the owner’s father directly from the artist.

**Recommendations: Permit Declined.** At the meeting, it was suggested that further investigation should be done. The findings of further investigation are as follows:

While not a major work in Irma Stern’s oeuvre, her *Still Life with Books* is important both because the subject-matter is very rare for this artist and because the strength of composition and execution is an unusually clear reminder of her German Expressionist background: in fact, few works of this date, by any artist in South Africa, are as strong as this painting. Moreover, the unusual subject-matter, which probably draws from the artist’s collection of special volumes, may be taken also as a rare indication of Irma Stern’s intellectual pursuits, and her movement in university circles, at this time.

**7. Permit no: 80/12/02/021/70    File no: 3/3/8/1/4/336**

**Artwork Owner:** Mrs. Brendalyn Stempel

- |                            |                                   |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Artist:                  | Maria Magdalena (Maggie) Laubser  |
| ■ Title:                   | “Farmstead with Mountains Beyond” |
| ■ Size (in frame):         | 41 x 52cm                         |
| ■ Materials and Technique: | Oil on canvasboard                |
| ■ Year:                    | NA                                |



Maggie Laubser “Farmstead with Mountains Beyond”

Maggie Laubser “Farmstead with Mountains Beyond”

**Provenance:** The artwork was purchased from Grahams Fine Art Gallery in Johannesburg.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, the painting is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

**8. Permit no: 80/12/02/022/70 File no: 3/3/8/1/4/337**

**Artwork Owner:** Professor M.A Gillman

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ■ Artist:                  | Maria Magdalena (Maggie) Laubser                  |
| ■ Title:                   | “Portrait of a Lady Wearing a Blue Dress and Hat” |
| ■ Size (in frame):         | 43.5 x 34cm                                       |
| ■ Materials and Technique: | Oil on Canvasboard                                |
| ■ Year:                    | Signed and dated 1953                             |



Maggie Laubser “Portrait of a lady wearing a blue dress and hat”

Maggie Laubser “Portrait of a lady wearing a blue dress and hat”

**Provenance:** The painting was purchased from Fifth Avenue Auctioneers in Johannesburg in the late 1990s.



**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, the painting is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

**9. Permit no: 80/12/02/023/70    File no: 3/3/8/1/4/338**

**Artwork Owner:** Mrs P.M. Nel

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ Artist:                  | Pieter Hugo Naude             |
| ■ Title:                   | “Coastal Scene near Hermanus” |
| ■ Size (in frame):         | 25.5 x 35.5cm                 |
| ■ Materials and Technique: | Oil on board                  |
| ■ Year:                    | NA                            |



P.H Naude “Coastal Scene near Hermanus”

**Provenance:** This work of art was inherited from grandmother, who was the wife of Wynand Louw, architect in Paarl.

**Recommendations: Permit Approved:** According to experts, the painting is not of heritage value, so a permit can be issued.

If you have any objections or concerns, please respond by 01 March 2012. If no objections are received, permits will be issued as soon possible.