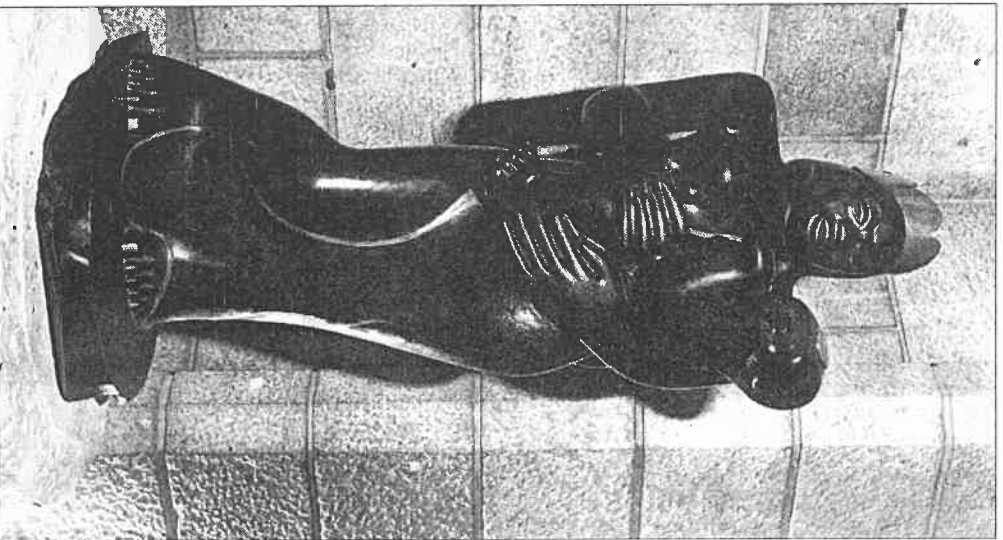


When the sculpture **African Madonna** by British sculptor Leon Underwood (1890-1973) arrived at Rosettenville Secondary School for its Chapel, people were surprised by the simple shapes and forms that were so different from the kind of church art they were used to. For weeks the letter columns of the daily newspapers printed complaints about the sculpture by Johannesburg readers.



Leon Underwood
(1890-1973)
African Madonna
1934 - 1935
lignum vitae and silver
107,5x40x53
St George's Cathedral
Cape Town

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Travels of the Bantu Madonna

When the Anglican Sisters left Grace Dieu and divided into two groups to continue their mission work, one group went to Johannesburg and the other group went to Manzini in Swaziland. The group that went to Swaziland took Mancoba's **Bantu Madonna** with them and placed it in the chapel at the convent there.

In 1994 the Sisters at Manzini agreed to let the Johannesburg Art Gallery purchase the **Bantu Madonna**.



St Mary's Chapel at Grace Dieu College where the **Bantu Madonna** was installed

Discuss

- Should we change the names of works of art if some words included in them are offensive, or should we keep them as a record of history? Do you think the name **Bantu Madonna** should be changed? What would you call it instead?
- Think of words that have gone in and out of fashion.

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