



Letter

In terms of Section 32(19) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mrs Penny Culverwell
Bonhams South Africa
P.O Box 651535
Benmore
2010

Artist: Irma Stern (South African, 1894-1966) Title: Black lilies Size: 69 x 64cm (27 3/16 x 25 3/16in)
Medium: oil on canvas Inscription: signed and dated 'Irma Stern / 1941' (lower left); further signed, titled and inscribed 'Irma Stern Black Lilies, 75G / The Firs Chapel Road, Rosebank Cape Town' (verso)
Date: 1941

Outcome of Permit Application to export "Black Lilies" by Irma Stern

The South African Heritage Resources Agency's Permit Committee regrets to inform you that after careful deliberation, it was decided not to approve your application for a permit to export "Black Lilies" by Irma Stern.

The reasons for declining the permit are as follows:

(a) The artwork is of outstanding significance by reasons of:

There are many fine flower still lifes by Irma Stern, and these are highly sought-after on the art market and they fetch very high prices. Many of these works feature flowers which are not indigenous to Africa, such as dahlias and magnolias. Calla Lilies or Arum Lilies, however, are indigenous to Southern Africa, and are commonly known as white. A well-known still life by Stern, featuring an African stool and white Arum Lilies is in the collection of the South African National Gallery. This painting, however, features the most unusual black variety. The calla lily, or zantedeschia, is a genus of twenty-eight different species all native to the southern parts of Africa from South Africa up to the latitude of northern Madagascar.

The genus was named by the famous Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus but as it became apparent that the genus needed to be split up, the German botanist Karl Koch named the new genus after his fellow botanist Giovanni Zantedeschi from Italy.

Calla lilies became popular in Europe as a wedding flower, although they also have significant associations with death and funerals. Their inclusion in this fine still life by Stern therefore makes them seem redolent of the memento mori - symbols and reminders of mortality - that we encounter in Dutch flower paintings and still lifes, for example. The unusual inclusion of these lilies and the fine formal qualities of this painting make this a startling work in aesthetic terms.



Export of 'Black lilies', Irma Stern

Our Ref: Irma Stern "Black Lilies"

Enquiries: Azola Mkosana
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Email: amkosana@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 1335

Date: Thursday February 28, 2013

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(b) Its export would therefore be a loss to the national estate.

You are now at liberty to exercise any right available to you in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999, including the right to appeal against this decision should you choose to do so. Please see appeal procedures attached.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Azola Mkosana
Heritage Officer: Heritage Objects Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Regina Isaacs
Manager: Heritage Objects Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



The South African Heritage Resources Agency

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