

***For Immediate Release***

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***SOUTH AFRICAN CERAMIC ART BURSTS INTO LIFE  
AT CHRISTIE'S IN JANUARY***



***An Elephant teapot***  
*By Raphael Njoko, painted by Angel Gabela*  
*Estimate: £250-300*



***A Zebra bowl***  
*By Sondelani Ntshalintshali, painted by Nelson Khuzwayo*  
*Estimate: £250-300*

***Ardmore Ceramic Art***  
***Sunday 18 January 2004 at 1pm***

**South Kensington** – Christie's is delighted to announce the first ever auction devoted to the work of artists from South Africa's award-winning Ardmore Ceramics Studios on 18 January 2004. This follows the hugely successful sell-out exhibition hosted by Christie's earlier this year. Featuring over 250 lots by many different artists, individual estimates will range from £80 to £3,000.

Ardmore is probably the largest ceramic studio in South Africa comprising approximately 50 Zulu women and men. Founded by artist Fee Halsted-Berning in the foothills of KwaZulu-Natal's Drakensberg Mountains in 1985, the

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studio has won an ever-growing band of admirers over two decades with many of works being exhibited throughout the galleries of Europe, the East and the United States.

Each of the stunning and vibrant sculpted works to be offered for sale at Christie's have been created by a collective of unschooled Zulu artists based on a dynamic fusion of colourful African imagery and Western artistic traditions. The majority of the pieces depict the birds, animals and flowers of Africa in their many shapes and forms as well as legends and myths, combined with rich colours and exuberant decoration. From all aspects of design or sculpture, the viewer is provided with a wonderful sense of delight and mystery as fish leap off jugs to become handles while warthogs and elephants become tureens and teapots.

*The pieces range from candlesticks, tureens, teapots, bowls and chargers to vases and urns in a variety of shapes and sizes featuring a menagerie of animals such as crocodiles, chameleons, fish, hoopoe, lizards, cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, rhinos, rabbits, snakes and zebras.*

Highlights include: a Zebra bowl by Sondelani Ntshalintshali, painted by Nelson Khuzwago (estimate: £250-300); a large Chameleon bowl by Beatrice Nyembi and painted by Punch Shabalala (estimate: £1,500-2,000); *Aids can be prevented but not cured* dish, by Elias Lulanga, painted by Andrew Sokhela (estimate: £250-300); a Tortoise jug by Octavia Mazibuko painted by Otilia Nxumalo (estimate: £250-300); a Hoopoe dish cheese dish and cover by Elias Lulanga, painted by Nelly Ntshalintshali (£1,000-1,200) and an Elephant teapot by Raphael Njoko, painted by Angel Gabela (estimate: £250-300).

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*Images available by email*

**Ardmore Ceramics:**

*Ardmore is an organic ceramic style, characterised by a combination of both pictorial and sculptural traditions. Functional ware being transformed into the exotic as local fauna and flora are interpreted into a mystical wonderland of design enhanced by explosive colour. Each artist is encouraged to express an individuality of design, the overall aim being to combine good form with inspired surface design, thus creating a beautiful yet functional object.*

*For further information please visit*

[www.ardmoreceramics.co.za](http://www.ardmoreceramics.co.za)

[www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com)

