



tyrone selmon

This unpretentious Joburg gallerist is the name on the lips of local art collectors both veteran and beginner

TEXT MILA CREWE-BROWN PORTRAIT GRAEME WYLLIE PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

Entering Tyrone Selmon's Art Eye Investment Art Gallery is like visiting a close friend's stylish home. The space, put together with a designer's eye, has a receiving feel – and if you're not met by the charming Tyrone himself, you'll be greeted by one of his bright protégés. It's with this same ardour that he approaches his business.

One of Johannesburg's most underrated investment art gallerists – the roster of top-drawer artists gracing the gallery walls speaks for itself – Tyrone also takes pride in fostering rising talent.

'I want to make art accessible,' he says of a passion that captured his heart as a boy. And the gallery's most active platform, its Facebook page, proves with its 27 000-plus followers that accessibility is exactly what he's mastering. **Art Eye Investment Art Gallery, 011-465-7695, f Art Eye Gallery, @ArteyeSa arteye.co.za**

What art would you buy with R5 000? An oil by Percy Manyonga, Welcome Danca or Kobus Walker. **R10 000?** A Michele Silk sculpture or painting, Lionel Murcott, print by Rhona Gorvy, or something from Jenny Reyneke or Margo Shöpf. **R50 000?** A Grace da Costa sculpture or oil, Carol Hamman sculpture, Terri Broll oil, Ben Tuge bronze or work by Trevor Coleman and Diane Victor. **R500 000?** Work by Robert Hodgins, Peter Clarke or Ezrom Legae. **R1 000 000?** A large Edoardo Villa bronze. **Which one artwork do you regret not buying?** No real regrets but Alexis Preller comes to mind. **What artist's work should our readers buy right now?** It depends on what you are after. Investment wise, Terri Broll. **New artists you've got your eye on?** Michele Silk, Jenny Reyneke and Lionel Murcott. **Who is currently seriously big on the local art scene?** Diane Victor and Norman Catherine. **Which local artists are doing well on the international market at the moment?** Ben Tuge, Terri Broll, Michele

Silk and Carl Roberts. **What's your favourite piece of art in your own home?** A work titled *No Regrets* by Margo Shöpf. **Is there a dominant theme in current local art?** In South Africa it's intelligent, bold, fun, brave, well-executed art. **Your favourite contemporary local artist?** Terri Broll. **And great South African master?** Ezrom Legae. **Your all-time favourite artist?** Trevor Coleman, when he has painted for as long, as honestly, and as passionately it is impossible not to fall in love with the work, the man, the history and the story. ☐

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Tyrone Selmon; 'Happy Everafter' by Michele Silk; 'Untitled gouache on paper' by Peter Clarke; 'Abstraction' by Lionel Murcott; 'The Map of Life' by Michele Silk.

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