



Lucas Sithole
1931 – 1994
Highlights 1966 – 1993

Published by Fernand F. Haenggi, Basel, Switzerland. 2014.
Laminated hardcover, 204 pages.

This book illustrates and sets out the exhibition record of one hundred of this artist's sculptures produced between 1966 and 1993. In this sense the book feels like a *catalogue raisonné*, however it mainly covers works that passed through the hands of the author, Fernand Haenggi, when he ran Gallery 101 during the mid-1960s. This gallery, located in the Rand Central building in Jeppe Street, was begun by his mother in 1961. It expanded rapidly, and by 1970 had branches at Hyde Park Corner, and in Hollard Street in Johannesburg. The galleries were sold in 1973.

Lucas Sithole is certainly one of South Africa's leading sculptors, and the author is one of his most ardent admirers. It is therefore surprising that the book offers little by way of analysis of the huge part that this artist, as an African modernist, played in the development of South African art in the twentieth century. It is also difficult to imagine

the trajectory of the artist's career because the entries are so confusingly laid out. There are two 'introductions', and although the works are listed in date-order, the reader is referred to a website, 'for details'. This reviewer tried this arduous process, but found no further details. The relevant webpage is simply a facsimile of the page in the monograph. I was also puzzled by the retro design – I can live with five different fonts on a page, but why must everything be centred and boxed?

The strength of this publication lies in the extensive and comprehensive list of each work's provenance; when and if the work was put to auction; where and when it was exhibited; and lastly, bibliographic details. Alternate titles are also given, and, where applicable, the works illustrated are accompanied by notes made by the sculptor – a laudable research effort.

In all, this is a reference book and it will be of inestimable value to archivists, scholars and researchers wishing to study Lucas Sithole's mature oeuvre.

Gavin Younge
Emeritus Professor, UCT

Draft of Book Review:

Lucas SITHOLE 1931-1994 published in

De Arte, Volume 51, Issue 1, Jan 2016, p. 136 - ISSN : 0004-3389