

MYLCHREEST, Ronald

Born 1920 in Johannesburg

Mylchreest was trained mainly as a commercial artist in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Although originally known as a painter, he now concentrates to an increasing degree on sculpture and wooden constructions. He has already taken part in a great number of important group exhibitions in South Africa, and his work has also been exhibited overseas. His work is to be found in many private and public collections in South Africa, Europe, Japan, America and New Zealand.

In his art he takes certain typically African themes as his point of departure: the totem pole of the primitive aborigine as well as the textures and forms of rock formations and vegetation influence his work with equal strength.

He has also executed panels for decoration of buildings.

ICARUS

height 81 cm.

Wood construction

Icarus, a character from Greek mythology, attempted to fly with wings made of wax and plunged into the sea when the sun melted them. This story has inspired many artists, such as for example, the Flemish painter Brueghel.

The medium chosen by Mylchreest for his sculpture is wood battens, glued together to form a solid, profiled slab, which is then carved by the artist. The difference in size of the wings is striking: is Mylchreest perhaps mocking the Greeks in their eternal search for perfect form or is he trying to show up Icarus' amateur attempt?

Other works in the Museum collection are

Africa - wood, 155 cm.

Africa-facade II - wood, 47 x 109 cm.