No super boring Barker

Yolande Nel

Anything but super boring is the exhibition of the same title by Cape Town-based artist Wayne Barker currently on at Polokwane Art Museum.

On entering the spacious gallery that is filled to the brim with his work one is accosted by installations and pieces on display that reflect an arresting signature Barker style. The exhibition, originally a curatorial collaboration between Barker, Andrew Lamprecht and SMAC Art Gallery in Stellenbosch, was brought to Polokwane before travelling to the Standard Bank Gallery in Johannesburg early next year as a retrospective exhibition curated by SMAC Art Gallery and sponsored by Standard Bank.

In an interview on the opening night last Wednesday, Barker raised the opinion that people were often afraid of contemporary art. Standard Bank, according to him, has been bold enough to cross the threshold.

He reflected on the exhibition being retrospective moments from 1987 to 2010. The theme was kick-started when a fellow-participant in an exhibition in Venice labeled him as boring, he explained.

Find among the bright neon signage and mixed media he works in snippets from apartheid days and new work that proves more cheerful.

"Making art is like a visual diary. My work is often quoting history and about identity," This, he said.

Artist Wayne Barker at the opening of his exhibition, titled Super Boring, at Polokwane Art Museum last Wednesday evening.

Photos: Yolande Nel

was derived from trying to work out his own identity as an African.

Barker is not a newcomer to Polokwane and his work has found hanging space among the collections of local art lovers.

A lot of appreciation was expressed and mostly his collectors came from the Afrikaans community, he said. "There is a sense of value and pride in what poets, artists and musicians do," he reckoned and continued stating that Polokwane was his spiritual home.

The exhibition is on until 30 October.

Museum hours are weekdays from 09:00 to 16:00 and Saturdays from 10:00 until 12:00.

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Right: Ms Clara and Mr Simphiwe Mdlayose. Photo: Supplied

Executive Mayor Freddy Greaver, Messrs Francois Nel (left) of Standard Bank and Baylon Sandri of SMAC Art Gallery.

Artist Wayne Barker (right) with Messrs Francois Nel (left) of Standard Bank and Baylon Sandri of SMAC Art Gallery.