

## The transitional period of Lucas SITHOLE

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*From the Vlakfontein Technical College in 1948 (learning carpentry, cabinet making, chiselling, welding and building) to the Polly Street Art Centre (studying painting in 1959/60) whilst working for a traditional arts & crafts shop in Johannesburg's city centre, to the established gallery scene in early 1960 – an astonishing transition*

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**The following are some of the arts and crafts items produced by Lucas SITHOLE before he entered the established gallery scene in Johannesburg.**

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*This shawl of a scene painted on chiffon was commissioned from Lucas Sithole during the late 50s by the present owner's mother – **it is properly signed**. It probably was made by the artist after he stopped working for a curio shop, but before he entered the gallery world.*

*In a Private Collection, Johannesburg – 2010*

**Plates for the tourist trade**



*In private collection, Pretoria – painted on wooden plate – Ø 31 cm*



*In private collection, Salt Lake City, Utah USA*



*Sold on auction at Bernardi Auctioneers, Pretoria – 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 – Lots 711 + 712 as Transitional Art*

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***A list showing items ATTRIBUTED to Lucas SITHOLE, of a doubtful nature or actual fakes can be seen on:***

***[http://www.sithole.com/PDFs/SITHOLE\\_Fakes-or-Doubtful\\_F01.pdf](http://www.sithole.com/PDFs/SITHOLE_Fakes-or-Doubtful_F01.pdf)***

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## Additional items from the Transitional Period

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### Early sculptures with adornments



*In private coll., Pretoria – 60 cm high – Provenance: Josh Heller’s Leather & Fancy Goods, Springs, pre-1960.*

*This item was put on auction by Bernardi’s Auctioneers, Pretoria, on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2009 as Transitional Art but did not sell.*

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Lucas SITHOLE LS5605 “HEAD OF A WOMAN”, 1956 – Painted indigenous wood – 040x023x004cm



*Bottom view of LS5605 showing signature*

Provenance:

Private Collection, Johannesburg  
Gainsborough Galleries, Johannesburg – *about 1960*  
*Images: Strauss & Co., Johannesburg – February 2009*

*This work was not put up on auction as originally intended as Transitional Period*

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**Early sculptures without any adornments, but still of the Transitional Period**



*Originally In private coll., West Sussex UK – 45x19x12 cm; Provenance: Gainsborough Galleries, Johannesburg, abt. 1960 – auctioned by Bonhams, New Bond Street, London – The South African Sale – 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013 – Lot 65 – as a work from the transitional period - realised £8'125 / CHF11'882 incl. premium*

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**Early PAINTINGS from his student or early days**



*"Old Woman" abt. 1955/56 - 32x26.5 cm / "Old Man" abt. 1955/56 - 33x26.5 cm*

Provenance:

*The current owner's father was Manager of the Epic Oil Soap Factory (?), Johannesburg, at the time when Lucas Sithole worked there in the early 1950s. Sometimes after Lucas had left, he acquired from Lucas the "Old Man" and commissioned him to do a painting of an "Old Woman".*

*We date these two paintings to the period 1955/1956. They are possibly works done while he was attending painting courses with Alpheus Kubeka from the Chiawela Art Centre, before joining the Polly Street Centre during 1958. They were never framed by owners or shown publicly before.*



*"Maggie" pre-1959 – Oil on canvas textured paper from „Le Franc Bourgeois“ – 32x12.5 cm*

Provenance:

*The current owner's grandfather was Alexis P Nason, a geologist and miner; he lived in Springs with his family and moved to the USA in 1964.*

*In the same collection is the following sculpture, rather battered, but properly signed at back*



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*These pages will be updated from time to time!  
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Refer to:

<http://www.sithole.com/Transition.htm>  
[http://www.sithole.com/Sithole\\_Mini\\_Master\\_Registry.htm](http://www.sithole.com/Sithole_Mini_Master_Registry.htm)  
<http://www.sithole.com/>