



Adriaan Boshoff

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When asked to nominate his favourite work, he used to say, 'I haven't made it yet. It may be the next one, or the one after that.'



Adriaan Boshoff (1935 – 2007)



Sitting on the beach

Born in Pretoria in 1935, Adriaan Boshoff was a self-taught painter of landscape, still lifes and figures. He worked predominantly in oils and has been described as South Africa's greatest impressionist. Boshoff was adamant that if a painting did not measure up to his standards he would destroy it.

Raised in Pretoria by his grand-Mother, he left school at age 14 to be apprenticed as an electrician. Boshoff had painted recreationally since childhood, but only decided to pursue it as a profession in 1960. Over the course of his career, he held more than twenty-five solo exhibitions. He was very receptive to the beauty of the South African landscape.

Boshoff worked in a studio built for him at his daughter's rural home near Hartbeespoort Dam. He was a man who embraced Christianity and his faith helped him discover the inner peace that had eluded him in his early years. It is this peace that the art lover sees in the grace and serenity of his work. His most memorable works are landscapes depicting the veld with cattle grazing.

Boshoff was unreservedly a romantic impressionist. For some time he toured then Rhodesia on a motorcycle, noting and sketching an astonishing variety of subjects – from the bleak actuality of a parched stretch of veld to the lush softness of a mother dressing her daughter.

Adriaan Boshoff was a true impressionist, a man who may have made hundreds of sketches before embarking on his paintings. It was this dedication to perfection, coupled with a rare talent and creative ability that catapulted Boshoff into the forefront of South African artists. If Boshoff could be said to have a trademark, it would be that singular ability to express the passing moment in such a wide variety of work. He backed this up with a technical ability that is first-rate and an understanding of colour and harmony that is unique.

Adriaan Boshoff was one of the great impressionists of our time. He was a reclusive man, an artist who was only really happy in his studio, surrounded by paint and canvas.

<http://henrytaylorgallery.co.za/artists/14-adriaan-boshoff.html>

Adriaan Boshoff was an expert on colour, being able to create two hundred different colours from three basic colours and he developed a perceptive eye to observe colours which most others fail to see.



After qualifying as an electrician, he decided to enrol to study at an art school, but was told that there was nothing they could teach him and in his early twenties he decided to become a fulltime artist.

'I love my country, its people- especially its children, and its natural beauty. In my work I endeavour to portray things in a way which people are able to understand. I enjoy capturing scenes and images I see and experience around me, as I perceive it- as it impresses itself on me.' [Adriaan Boshoff]





Adriaan Boshoff carefully planned his paintings and sketches and it was of great importance to harmonize the composition, lines and background.



He often **revisit painted scenes** to ascertain whether his interpretation was correct.

