

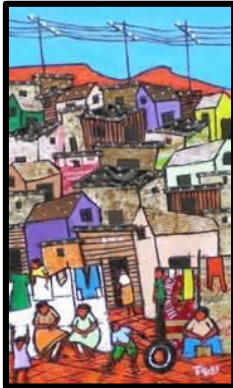
# Frank Ross



'While I was lying awake at night thinking about the losses, I thought I have a talent! They can take my business but this they cannot take away from me. I can paint!'



## Frank Ross (1953 - )



Frank Ross was born in Wellington, Western Cape, South Africa in 1953.

Pressured by financial difficulties in the home, he had to leave school and work to supplement the family income. He completed the studies for his junior certificate by studying part time classes.

He worked as a casual labourer at a factory making fish tins

He has had almost no formal tuition, but has learnt much by mixing in the company of other township artists and observing their work in the galleries. His work is original, as he is unaware of the traditional conventions used to portray the human figure and landscape.

Two distinct approaches to art making become apparent in Frank's work. One is a spontaneous, emotive painterly approach: "I sketch the figure roughly and then I paint. As I work it comes together and then I can see what is happening" he explains. "Normally I see someone walking. I don't know where he is coming from, or how far. Most people have to walk a distance. If they want to do something, they do it. That's what gives me inspiration. They had nothing but they go on." Generally his figures face away from the viewer. His portraits reflect the deep-seated anguish he has experienced in life. These are generally of people and situations he knows intimately.

Frank's approach to painting is uncomplicated and direct. In his work the expressive use of line and strong brushwork amplify his experience. "Colour is important to me." Frank says "Red symbolises the unhappiness I associate with the land. There is always trouble. People have so many problems with land. Then there is the political trouble".

**Frank's use of colour in producing Township Art is bold, direct and deliberate. The colour red is deeply symbolic to him. *'I always paint the land in red. The red symbolises the unhappiness from our land.'***



**Frank Ross is one of the most collectible township artists of the genre and his bright, colourful landscapes in mixed media can be found in collections all over the world.**

**His work is mixed media on wood, using upcycled rubber, plastic and tin.**

### About Township Art

Township Art was, and is, the art of defiance. Black South African artists resident in the poor slums created by Apartheid would foil the attempts by the government to instil hopelessness, helplessness and zero opportunity by producing bright, boisterous and quite beautiful works of art that spoke of joy, happiness and the power to overcome.



Frank Ross is a renowned artist whose paintings have been exhibited in prestigious galleries all over South Africa and abroad. His use of colour is pleasing to the eye, yet the work reflects the hardships experienced in many townships.

When displayed in corporate offices and homes, it should remind us how fortunate we are, as it portrays the people's will to endure and overcome struggles and hardships.

Occasionally the iconic Table Mountain is silhouetted in the background as one is drawn into the energy and vibrancy of South African Township life as captured by Frank's rough and honest artworks.

[http://www.capegallery.co.za/frank\\_ross\\_cv.htm](http://www.capegallery.co.za/frank_ross_cv.htm)

