

**MAYOR OBED MLABA & MINISTER ARTS, CULTURE TOURISM NAREND SINGH
OPEN KZN'S LARGEST ART GALLERY EVER: KIZO**

[12 December 2005, Durban] The launch of the Kizo Art Gallery on Monday 12th December will hail the dawn of a new era for Kwa-Zulu Natal's Arts and Culture. This phenomenal 700 square meter gallery, located in Durban's premium retail setting, the Gateway Theatre of Shopping, will provide the public with a stunning venue in which to enjoy and purchase a wide range of art and sculpture. Directors Craig Mark and Natalie Bradfield have made what is thought to be the **largest private investment** into the arts in KZN, and to celebrate and endorse their efforts, not one but two of KZN's most respected figureheads will open the gallery today at a private function.

Kizo affords local artists the opportunity to exhibit their art in an exclusive environment designed to enhance their work through state of the art display and lighting facilities. The Kizo Gallery has chosen to feature one of South Africa's hottest, most controversial pop artists, Richard Scott, for the opening exhibition which will run from 13th December to 13th January 2006. Scott is fast becoming recognised for his distinctive naïve pop art style which, when coupled with his cheeky, sometimes naughty sense of humour is causing quite a stir in the art world both locally and abroad. Richard reached the finalist exhibition of the 2003 and 2004 Brett Kebble Awards. "Richard Scott is one of those artists whose name seems to be hyphenated – Richard – Controversial – Scott. In my book, controversial is good – the word has been used about me a few times." Brett Kebble.

The synergy between Kizo and Richard Scott is certainly apparent; both brands are evocative, innovative and definite leaders in art and culture in Southern Africa. The Kizo Gallery will certainly make a significant impact on the province and there is no doubt that artists, collectors and art lovers alike will enjoy and benefit from this magnificent space.

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Press Release

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KIZO GALLERY - THE 'RED HOT' LAUNCH OF THE CENTURY.

[21 November 2005, Durban] KwaZulu Natal is braced to welcome an astounding new art gallery into the provinces cultural hall of fame. The Kizo Gallery is being launched at the Gateway Theatre of Shopping on 12 December 2005, where all the who's who in Durban will rub shoulders with government officials and other select VIP guests at a 'Red Hot' themed launch event. The exclusive launch of this phenomenal 700 sq metre gallery will surely present Durban as a town serious about the development of arts and culture.

Never before has there been a private investment of this magnitude into the development of the arts in KwaZulu Natal. Kizo, which when translated means abundance, is truly living up to its name. The gallery will house original artworks from some of South Africa's most prestigious artists. In fact, the featured artist for the launch event is Richard Scott, who has been voted one of the top ten investment artists in the country in a recent Style Survey.

The vision of Kizo is to provide local talents with a superb platform from which to showcase their work to both a local and international clientele. The gallery owners, Craig Mark, of The Mark Galleries, and Natalie Bradfield, envision the gallery as playing an integral role in the development of arts and culture in the KZN province. It is no wonder that they have received such fantastic support from the Minister of Arts and Culture as well as the Durban Mayors office.

"We are hoping that the investment we have made towards improving the arts in KZN will motivate other members of the private sector to get involved financially and back this and other cultural developments. Our country has many talented artists that struggle to find a platform from which to display their work, and subsequently fall short of reaching their full potential due to the lack of general funding in the arts. This is unacceptable, the country as a whole is suffering through this loss", says Craig Mark, who is determined to successfully promote and develop up and coming local artists.

The layout of the gallery consists of triple volume ceilings, both upstairs and downstairs, where the vast open space lends itself well to the display of contemporary art, as well as fine art, ceramics and grand sculptures of significant stature. The upstairs gallery will display one featured artist each month while downstairs customers can enjoy a coffee shop vibe with an eclectic surround of original pieces. What sets the Kizo gallery apart from other galleries is its commitment to showcasing original art, which caters directly to interior designers and the discerning art enthusiast. The booming property market in KZN has fuelled an increasing demand from architects, designers and art collectors for original art. The gallery aptly fulfils this need and provides an added service to clients by offering expert advice on investing, sourcing and the private commissioning of art.

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Despite the enormity of the gallery, Craig and Natalie are not in the least bit concerned about lining the walls with original artworks. In fact, they have already planned their 2006 calendar which will feature, as part of their commitment to arts and culture, a monthly exhibition launch event to celebrate and welcome new artists to the gallery. Natalie Bradfield comments, "We want to keep the gallery fresh by constantly updating the art and featuring a new artist each and every month. The gallery must remain a phenomenon in the minds of the public, a sanctuary where one can lose themselves in a stunning contemporary setting while sipping a good cup of coffee and sitting back to enjoy the immense talent our country has to offer".

It came as no surprise when the Kizo gallery invited one of South Africa's hottest, most controversial pop artists to showcase his provocative 'Red Hot' exhibition at the gallery launch. Scott has just returned from an extremely successful show in Belgium where he affirmed his strong position as a serious contender in the international art scene and is fast becoming recognised for his powerful, yet simple, pop artworks which have created quite a stir. Scott's 'Red Hot' exhibition will be on display in the gallery until the end of January 2006.

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