

Press Release

Leading contemporary artist at Winchester Mansions' Grapes, Gourmet and Gallery evening

One of South Africa's leading and sought-after contemporary artists, Richard Scott, will be opening his exhibition entitled "La Bella Vista" at the Grapes, Gourmet and Gallery evening at Winchester Mansions Hotel in Sea Point on Wednesday, 16 May.

The exhibition will showcase a selection of colourful works that speak of passion, woman, fast cars, glamour and fashion. His witty and iconoclastic approach has put this acclaimed artist at the forefront of his profession. Known for his provocative artworks, which are pleasing to the eye and highly collectable, his paintings consist of white subjects surrounded with thick black lines with the addition of solid vibrant colours.

"The white represents the pureness of the subject - the secret world within the subject. The secrets we, as humans, only bare to those very close to us. The world that we know so little about. Society has conditioned us to ignore this and focus on the outer shell - the colourful outer shell. We only expose the pureness when we break down our lines and can no longer cope with the situation society has presented us with. We choose to see the colourful side of subjects", explains Richard of his art.

He mostly uses impasto and acrylic on canvas but also make use of many other mediums such as oil and watercolours. Despite his lack of formal art training, Richard has always had a deep passion for art. He first explored other directions in order to make a living such as the IT and marketing industry, but could not hide his great passion and decided to start painting full-time in January 2002.

"I wanted to show the world, through my art, that I disliked society's conditioning. I wanted to be unique and take the lead. I wanted to produce my thoughts through objects in the most simple, colourful and pure way." He always had the urge to create, and through his art, he has found a way to marry his hatred of conditioning with his love of art, his true calling.

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Situated in Melkbosstrand, Richard has reached the stage in his career where he cannot keep up with the high demand for his work, and has needed to employ assistants to help him. The exhibition at Winchester Mansions will be the first exhibition, which showcases the beginning of his so-called "Mass Production" phase. In 2004, Richard donated artworks for auction, and raised more than R100 000 for charity. He is also planning to set up a foundation to manage his donations and channel more into the arts. Art is now not just his big passion but his business as well.

The art exhibition will complement a selection of prestigious wines from Grangehurst Winery matched perfectly with a 5-course gourmet meal at Harveys, the signature restaurant at this leading beachfront boutique hotel.

Grangehurst is a smallholding situated on the slopes of the Helderberg Mountain between the False Bay coastline and Stellenbosch. On the evening, owner and winemaker, Jeremy Walker will be presenting some of his personal favourites from the winery. Delectable dishes will be created to match each of the selected wines, ensuring a night of utter indulgence.

The Grapes, Gourmet and Gallery evening starts at 19h00 and costs R250 per person, inclusive of a glass of wine per course. The art exhibition will run from 16 May to end June. For more information on the artist contact Patrice at Patrice Boussekey's Eclectic Gallery on 021 426 1748. To book your table contact 021 434 2351 or send an e-mail to harveys@winchester.co.za

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